

Gardening with Chuck Programs for January 28 - February 3, 2019

Winter Bird Feeding Program

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Taking a quick break from announcing the All-America plant selections this morning to announce a program I'll be presenting on Saturday. Winter bird feeding is a popular pastime for many of us and one that is continuing to grow in popularity both locally and across the country. By popular request I'm presenting a program on winter backyard bird feeding this Saturday, February 2nd 10 a.m., in the dining room of the 4-H/Sr.Citizens Building on Spring Valley Road at the Geary County Fairgrounds. I'll talk about some bird feeding basics, what types of feed you should use to attract specific bird species and how to deal with problems at the bird feeders, including those pesky squirrels. The program is free, you don't have to pre-register and it will last about an hour. Come on out and join in the fun! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Viking XL Red on Chocolate Begonia

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. For years we have always thought of begonias as being a shade plant. But there are many new cultivars that can take full sun as long as there isn't excessive wind. Viking XL Red on Chocolate is a larger begonia cultivar. It has traditional red blossoms but the leaves are in intriguing chocolate brown. It's a larger begonia cultivar, although not as large as the Whopper begonias. In fact one of its positives is that it doesn't get too rangy and seems to have better leaf disease resistance than many other large leaved begonia cultivars. It's going to get about 30 inches tall and light fertilizing every 2 to 3 weeks will encourage it to keep blooming. Outside of fertilizing and watering it's not a very needy plant. You don't have to deadhead it to keep it productive and is well suited to container growing. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Big Duck Gold Marigold

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The next AAS winner has to be the most memorable name out there: Big Duck Gold marigold. Big Duck Gold has a bright yellow flower. It's a larger marigold, about 15 inches tall. In test gardens blooms have gotten as large as 3 inches. It's another tidy flower that doesn't require dead heading, always a plus in my book. But keep in mind that regular clipping of flowers on the fade may be desirable. The flowers and the plants as well are long lived. As always, routine fertilization will help keep this plant cranking out flowers. Anytime you are fertilizing flowers be sure to use a balanced fertilizer that has no greater percentage of nitrogen than phosphorus. It has been my experience with marigolds that while they are often quite hardy, spider mites can be a problem so keep an eye for this pest. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Baby Rose Nasturtium

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Far too few gardeners grow nasturtiums. Baby Rose nasturtium is the first nasturtium to be an AAS winner since the 1930s. This nasturtium has good tolerance and growth habit that will provide great color from early summer through frost. At 12 inches high this will make a nice low edger for a flower bed. It can take partial to full sun. It has attractive dark green foliage and rose colored flowers, as you would expect from its name, Baby Rose. Unlike the two previous flowers this week, nasturtiums do require dead heading to keep them from setting seed pods and to keep them blooming. Being a compact plant it will also do well in small flower gardens and in containers. Its compact nature also reduces the flopping nature we see in some species. It maintains its mounded form all summer long. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Carmine Velour Wave Petunia

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The Wave petunia line has been very popular in recent years so let's end the week with Carmine Velour Wave petunia. It's large 2 to 2½" blossoms are described as a carmine rose color. I'd call it a deep reddish pink. The blossoms certainly have a velour look to them. It's listed at partial to full sun, but I can guarantee that the more sun you give it the happier it will be. It's only listed as getting 8 inches tall but it will spread and sprawl out to 3 or 4 feet. The Wave petunias have worked well for us in containers or hanging baskets. If you plant them next to a sidewalk know that they will spill out onto the sidewalk. These hybrid Wave petunias rarely need deadheading but keep them well fertilized through the year. Though you may never have thought of petunias this way, these Wave's make good groundcover! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening

with Chuck.