

### Short Day vs Long Day Onions

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Onions bulb in response to daylength and are classified as short-day, intermediate-day and long-day plants.

Onions classified as short-day are triggered to bulb earlier than intermediate-day plants and intermediate-day plants are triggered to bulb earlier than long-day varieties. Intermediate-day onions are best adapted to Kansas conditions if you are looking for large onions. If you want to grow large onions some recommended intermediate-day length varieties include Candy, Red Candy Apple or Super Star. Most gardeners will buy plants as sets are usually unnamed and produce smaller bulbs. Given how early in the season it is you could start your own from seed but get started on it soon as onions take a long time to grow from seed to transplant size, so you need to start in the next couple of weeks. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Forcing Paperwhites

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. By the time we get to the end of this month, there's a whole lot of us that are going to be ready for some fresh blooms, but we'll be 4 to 6 weeks away from the first early blooms showing up. Forcing bulbs is one way to bring some spring like blooms into the home, but with most bulbs, you'll need about 16 weeks to accomplish this - too late for that! But paperwhites are a form of daffodil that do not need the traditional long chilling period of other bulbs. Once you get paperwhites you simply need a container about a 3 to 4 inches wide, about as deep and semi clear, place some washed gravel, marbles, glass beads or stones in the bottom. Then pack the bulbs in and fill around with the rest of the media, keep water up to the bottom of the bulbs and the process has started. In 4 to 8 weeks you'll have fresh blooms. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Caddo Sugar Maples

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Because fall color of many of our native trees is less than spectacular, sugar maples are often planted for some brilliant red or orange leaves. Unfortunately traditional sugar maples, along with even trickier to grow red maples, do not get along well with our Kansas weather. However there is a type of sugar maple known as a Caddo maple that is native to Caddo County Oklahoma which is southwest of Oklahoma City. These maples are very tolerant to hot and dry winds just like we get around here. They don't thrive in heavy clay soils but will survive very well in most of the rest of our soils. If you go to the nursery and ask for a Caddo maple you'll likely get a blank look. So ask the nursery for Autumn Splendor maple or John Pair maple. John Pair is a more compact tree, better for smaller yards. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

It's all about the light

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It doesn't matter if you're trying to grow houseplants year round, bedding plants to move out to the garden or just getting plants to survive through the winter before you move them outside. The trick for these plants to thrive is light. Unless you have an actual greenhouse, you will need artificial light. Even a seemingly sunny window of your home just isn't enough. For these plants, especially bedding plants, to thrive and not grow all tall and spindly, you need fluorescent light fixtures placed just an inch or two off the tallest leaves and left on 14 to 16 hours a day. You can use a couple of 4 foot fluorescent light fixtures in a frame with adjustable chains to move the fixtures as the plants grow. The plans are pretty simple and I can provide them to you if you want. But please don't try to grow bedding plants without them! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Controlling Peach Leaf Curl

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Peach leaf curl is a disease of peach leaves that causes the leaves to curl up, distort and turn odd reds and yellows. The leaves fall off and energy that the tree should be using to make peaches, goes into making new leaves. While not fatal to the tree, it can really impact the fruit growth. The disease infects the leaves just as the buds start to break open in late winter or early spring. To prevent it, you need to spray your trees over the next 4 to 6 weeks before the buds start to swell. You need to use the fungicide Chlorothalonil that is found in many fungicide products. Pick a day with the temperature above 40 degrees, mix this up and thoroughly spray your dormant peach tree. Because few of us can do a really thorough spraying I recommend waiting a couple weeks and spraying again just to be sure! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.