

Gardening with Chuck Programs for July 15 - 21, 2019

Green June Beetles

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've seen them starting to fly around so if you have peaches you need to start getting ready to spray for them - and that is the Green June Beetle. These are the big and I mean really big green beetle that is sometimes mistaken for a bumblebee because it flies, slowly and clumsily and makes a lot of noise. You can watch them fly into buildings and people - it's actually quite comical. The larvae is a big grub that is in the soil. This time of year the adults come out to mate and lay eggs and in the meantime they love to feed on ripening peaches. IF they start to show up I would suggest spraying with a permethrin product labeled for peaches. You may have to spray every couple of days and you need to get the spray ON the green menace but you can spray up to 7 days before harvest. Call me if you have questions. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Bagworms, still...

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yes, bagworms are out there and they are starting to grow really fast. Not only are they out there, they are feeding on everything in sight that has leaves. Focus your first treatments on junipers, spruces and arborvitae as they are the most easily hurt. Spray fruit trees if you see them. Treat shrubs and small trees next. Remember, deciduous trees can tolerate heavy bagworm feeding pressure as they can generate new leaves easily. Big trees are honestly not worth treating due to expense and difficulty of getting sprays and adequate coverage that high in a tree. From here on out about the only product I'd be using is spinosad as it is very active on even large bagworms. You've got about another three weeks and then they'll be through feeding and it won't do any good to treat them then. Do it now! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Blister Beetles

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Blister beetles are a common summer insect that can be anywhere from an annoyance to a real problem. They get their name from a chemical in their body fluids that will blister your skin. It is very caustic. We have several species and some are very gregarious. They will fly in to a garden and totally strip plants like tomatoes of foliage and then be gone in a day or two. These beetles are long, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long, and narrow. They may be striped, black or ash gray. If you see a mass of these on your tomatoes then move quickly and treat with permethrin or cyfluthrin for rapid knockdown. This is an insect that sevin powder might control, but honestly, the liquid sprays are far more effective AND permethrin and cyfluthrin have no waiting period after application until tomatoes can be harvested. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Odd Pollination

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Every once in a while someone will bring in a funky looking squash or cucumber or melon or one that just tastes funny. Sometimes it'll be a bell pepper that they claim was cross pollinated by a jalapeno and now it's hot. Okay, just stop it! With the exception of some sweet corn types, the pollen source that caused the fruit in question to be produced, will not impact that appearance or flavor of that pepper or squash or cucumber or melon. The genetics in the pollen that created the seed won't come into play until that seed is planted. If you have an odd looking squash or any fruit, then the two most common culprits are poor field isolation when that seed was produced last year or it was simply mislabeled. This is a more common problem with heirloom cultivars and seed sharing groups than with hybrids. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

County Fair Week

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Next week is the Geary County Free Fair. It's a busy time for 4-Hers, 4-H Parents, 4-H Leaders, Volunteers and County Extension Agents. I'll be spending long days at the Fairgrounds. Don't call the Extension Office because your call will go immediately to voice mail. You can leave a message but you won't hear back from me until after July 29th. Do not bring your weed or bug or sick garden plant out to the fairgrounds. Everyone from the Extension Office is going to be busy and you may think it's only going to take a second, but it rarely does. Just wait and bring it to the Extension office on the 29th. I'm not trying to be rude, it's just that County Fair week is intense and focused on the fair and the many activities happening there that we are all involved in. It isn't that I'm not willing to help you, just not next week! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.