

Pear Leaf Spots

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When we have a lot of rain during spring, when new foliage is coming out on trees, we will have a lot of leaf diseases. The good news is that while unsightly, for the most part, these do not damage the health of the tree. In recent years, and again this year, we've been seeing a lot of rust on the ornamental pears. Rust is a disease that has two hosts. It spends one summer on the pear leaves and then goes back to an alternate host for a year and a half. The leaf spots are rusty orange and on some species of ornamental pears, it was bad. Spraying now will do no good however. Fungicides need to be applied before the infection period. Don't let anyone talk you into spraying now though. If you keep watching those pears you will probably also note that they are putting out new leaves and those new leaves are healthy! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Peach Leaf Curl

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This is the time of the summer when people may be noticing that the leaves on their peach trees are getting distorted - sort of puckered up - and often turning reddish and yellow. If they haven't already, these leaves will be falling off the tree. This is peach leaf curl. The leaves were infected clear back in early spring as the buds broke open and the leaves started to develop. There's nothing you can do now for it. It won't kill the tree. We have it every year. You may lose some peaches due to lack of tree energy and the ones that don't fall off will be smaller. But the tree will live. Next year, find a nice warm February day and spray the tree with the fungicide chlorothalonil. Maybe even spray it twice 10 to 14 days apart. This will then protect those new leaves as they emerge later in the spring. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Garlic Harvesting

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While onions and garlic are related, how you harvest them is vastly different. Garlic needs to be harvested when it still has 4 to 5 green leaves left on it, don't wait for all the leaves to die down. Don't pull it up but dig it up. Carefully knock the loose dirt off the roots and then tie up to ten plants together with heavy string or twine. Hang these in a warm dry place to dry, which will likely take 3 to 6 weeks. You want the neck of the garlic plants to be completely dry to insure good storage life. Trim the tops off to about 1/2 inch in length and after getting the rest of the soil out of the roots trim them to 1/4 inch. Never store in sealed plastic bags. Use mesh bags or less preferable, paper bags. Store in cool or normal room temperatures. Never store garlic in the refrigerator as it greatly shortens storage life. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Do I Need to Spray for Bagworms?

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've had numerous homeowners ask me if they HAVE to spray bagworms this year. They sprayed last year and they can't find any new bags this year. If they did a really good job of spraying last year then it is possible that they did get total control. I tell these folks that they can certainly not spray but be forewarned. If even one female bagworm on that tree wasn't controlled last year, that female laid between 500 and 1,000 eggs. The other thing you need to be aware of is that the bagworms are not very big just yet. They'll only about 3/8 of an inch long. They already have the little bag around them but they are small. Often you can see plants going off-color before the bags even become noticeable. If you don't spray, keep checking for normal plant color and small bags and be ready to spray. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Time to Start Fall Gardens

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In many ways, July starts the next round of the garden season. Crops like snap beans can be planted throughout the month for harvest in late August, September and early October. Potatoes can go in the ground anytime for an October harvest. In about another week you can start in on things like cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower IF you can find the transplants. Carrots and beets can also be planted more so in the latter half of July. Planting of these can go on into the first half of August. Then as we get later into August you can plant lettuce and spinach, radishes and turnips. If it turns off dry you'll need to water these summer plantings religiously and weeds will be wanting to get a jump on things as well so be aggressive in your weeding. Sure, it's a little hot right now but just think of the fresh veggies come fall! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.