

Emerald Ash Borer

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There's been all sorts of green beetles flying around now and it causes a lot of concern for homeowners. The big ones flying around right now are green June beetles. Not a problem unless you have peaches or blackberries. Japanese beetles are also flying around - they are the size of your little fingernail and have a coppery colored back. They may be a problem on roses. What everyone is concerned about is the emerald ash borer though. Emerald ash borers are narrow and much smaller than either of the two I've mentioned. You'll probably not see them in fact. They also are likely not here yet. They've only been confirmed as far west as eastern Shawnee county. You may hear of places, like K-State cutting down all of their ash trees. This is not because they are present, this is just a common measure that's taken. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Spray Out Bermuda Grass Now for Reseeding

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you have bermudagrass in your yard and want to get rid of it then you need to start now. The only way to kill it is with something like glyphosate. Make sure it's growing good, spray it with glyphosate, wait two weeks, water it and look for any green and then spray those green spots. If you are just spraying spots in your yard, assume that it goes a foot beyond where you think it does. Then till your soil up or mow the dead grass really low and use a power seeder to plant back into it in early September. Wouldn't hurt to soil test first as well to make sure soil phosphorus levels are adequate. For tall fescue I don't normally worry too much about pH. Now the word of warning. If you kill out your bermudagrass but your neighbor also has it, it will crawl back into your yard. Call me for tricks on slowing it down. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

I'm Tired of Bagworms

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you think you are tired of bagworms, how'd you like to be in my shoes? I'm talking to people 2, 3, 4 times a day about bagworms. Yes they are bad. Yes they seem to have had a delayed hatch this year, not surprising given the weather. Yes, that is them hanging off trees with silken threads. Yes, they are feeding on almost anything that is green and has chlorophyll. Yes, I would still spray them on small trees or any evergreen that they are on. On larger deciduous trees the cost is prohibitive and of questionable value. They can kill an evergreen, especially junipers, cedars or spruces. My pesticide of preference is spinosad. Whatever you use, apply it with a hose end sprayer or high volume sprayer that will apply a lot of material so that plants are well soaked and dripping. And they'll feed on into mid August. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Hummingbirds??

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've had several people talking to me about a lack of hummingbirds at their feeders this summer. This is not unexpected and can be due to many things not the least of which would be last year's drought which always disrupts wildlife populations. At my feeders in Junction City I've had more hummingbird activity this summer than I did last year. Hummer activity at feeders in June and the first half of July is all about breeding birds in your neighborhood. No hummers means no nests in your immediate area OR more and better feeders closer to the nest. However, southbound migration got started about 10 days ago so get those feeders refreshed and action should start to pick up. After 6 weeks of no male hummingbirds, they started showing up recently so enjoy the next two months! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Mosquitoes

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A couple of weeks ago I talked about an abundance of mosquitoes, and it's gotten worse. Trapping in the area is turning up increasing numbers of the mosquito species that are more prone to carrying West Nile Virus and other pathogens. Trying to control adult mosquitoes is actually quite ineffective for many reasons. Controlling breeding sites will yield better results but many of the smaller breeding sites have since dried up and the one's remaining are mostly out of our control. When we get rains that will cause water to collect and last for a week or longer, you may want to initiate measures to control larval mosquitoes in those sites. Ultimately it comes down to personal protection with clothing, repellents or just avoiding being outside at certain times. For more information, please contact me. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.