

### Cedar Apple Rust Season

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Over the past week I've had numerous people bring me in odd looking orangish jellyfish looking things that are on their cedars and junipers. Most of the time they are being careful not to actually touch this thing. This is cedar apple gall season. It is a disease that has been on the cedar tree for about 18 months and is now mature. When we have rain in late April and May the corky brownish red little growths rapidly develop orange telial horns which do look like jellyfish tentacles. These horns release spores that will land on susceptible apple tree leaves. The disease will infect the leaves, causing spots to develop and likely knock the leaves off the trees. Then in the fall spores will come out of these spots to infect cedar trees and it starts all over. The disease, is tough on apple trees, won't hurt your cedars. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Cedar Apple Rust, Part II

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I talked about the weird cedar apple rust disease that is now on cedar trees. If you have a susceptible apple tree, fruit apple or flowering crabapple, you need to be spraying your trees now because they are already infected but you can limit the damage. Immunox and chlorothalonil are both effective against rust diseases but you need to be spraying about every 7 to 10 days through early June. If you aren't sure if your apple trees are susceptible, just wait a few weeks and you will know! It won't kill your apple tree but it will sure defoliate it! Now, as to your cedar tree - don't do a thing. Even if your cedar tree is more orange than green right now, it will survive, don't do anything! A few leaf tips may die but that's it. Once the orange horns appear, the gall will soon dry up and fall off! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Seeds vs Leaves

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've received some calls from concerned homeowners in recent weeks because part or all of certain shade trees have been very slow in leafing out or have very few leaves. In most cases these trees were elms or maples. Have you noticed that the elms and maples are really loaded with seeds this year? Bingo! A tree has a limited amount of energy that it can expend. When it is early in the season and the tree has an incredibly heavy seed load it is normally going to put its energy into developing mature seeds. It's just what plants do. But the seeds are starting to mature, dry up and fall off the trees. As this happens the tree will then be able to start putting energy into making those long awaited leaves. And as those seeds fall off they will land in your gutters, flower beds, lawns and vegetable gardens. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Early May Vegetable Garden Planting

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The ground is warming up and there are many things we can start getting planted in the vegetable garden including TOMATOES. I say this knowing full well that many gardeners already have had them in the ground - which is a bit of a shame as they will have suffered from cold shock. Anyway, now is the time to plant the rest of those tomato relatives - peppers and eggplant. For the next month you can plant both snap beans and lima beans. Actually you can plant snap beans clear through to the end of July if you want. Melons of all kinds can go in the ground now as well as cucumbers and summer squash, but not winter squash - listen to tomorrow's program. You can also plant okra and sweet corn, but to be honest I discourage planting sweet corn unless you have enough room for a big plot. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Winter Squash and Pumpkins

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While we're hitting that time of year when many vegetable garden crops can be planted, there are still a few crops that are best to just delay for another 5 weeks or so. The planting of winter squash, that includes the likes of acorn, butternut, Hubbard, etc. as well most pumpkins is best delayed until about June 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are going for the super large pumpkins, then yes, they do need to be in the ground longer. But the regular pumpkins and winter squash do just fine, in fact better with a late June planting. These are short season crops - they don't need all summer long to get to desired maturity. But probably the better reason for delayed planting though is squash bugs. By waiting until late June you will miss the first generation of squash bugs completely. Second generation will still need to be treated for though. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.