

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for December 30, 2019 - January 5, 2020

### A Lawnaholic's New Year's Resolutions

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I have good friends that really spend a lot of time on their lawns - I call them lawnaholics, all in good fun. With the end of the year in sight here's some resolutions for all my lawnaholic friends. Resolve to only water twice a week and then only IF it is dry. Resolve to only water early in the morning so that the grass dries quickly to reduce disease risk. Resolve to always mow 3 to 3½ inches high, even that first mow in spring and that last mow in fall. Resolve to spray for weeds only IF there are weeds. Also resolve to not apply preventative grub treatments as most lawns will never have a grub problem. Resolve to sharpen your lawn mower blades once a month and never use a line trimmer as a lawn mower. Lastly, resolve to soil test once every other year and only apply the nutrients that your lawn needs. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## A Gardeners New Year's Resolutions

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I picked on the lawn fanatics, today, my suggested new year's resolutions for gardeners. Again, remembering, it's all in fun, mostly. Gardeners, resolve to make a plan, don't buy more than is on the plan and stay with that plan! Resolve to have that plan approved by your spouse, your significant other or the family before you start buying plants and seeds. (I'm sorry but they are not as fond of zucchini as you are!) Resolve to only use insecticides IF a pest appears. No pest, no spray! (Well, an exception with squash bugs maybe.) Resolve that if you get tired of anything in your garden you will pull the plant out rather than torment neighbors or strangers trying to give the produce away! Lastly, resolve to be wholly responsible for caring for the garden. After all, this is your garden, not the family's! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

NO PROGRAM - NEW YEAR'S DAY

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## Wildlife Plantings

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I get a lot of questions from homeowners who want to be able to attract more birds to their bird feeders. They start talking to me about the bird feeders they have and the feed they are putting in them. I listen and then ask what their landscaping looks like. Yes, having birdfeeders will help attract birds, but to really make the yard bird friendly you have to have landscaping so that the birds have access and escape routes where they feel safe. Birds like to work their way down to feeders so that they can survey the area and see if there are hawks or cats. The Kansas Forest Service sells seedling trees and shrubs and have some nice pollinator bundles that while aimed at insects will also provide some food and cover for many bird species. You get 25 or 30 plants. You can order online for spring delivery. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Plan Before You Plant

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. You can't spell plant without plan, and there's an important lesson there. Too many gardeners go through the winter all cooped up like a caged animal. By the time plants start showing up in greenhouses they become like a kid with a five dollar bill in a candy shop; zero restraint. Which is just the opposite of how it should be. Good landscaping and gardening begins with making a plan showing how much space you have, then an inventory of how much space you have, and then you make a list of where something needs to be planted. This allows you to be far more deliberate about picking the right plant for the right place instead of trying to figure out where you are going to put all those plants you just bought. Same thing goes for the garden, figure space available, and what it'll take to fill that space! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.