

## Sandburs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There are several plants that have sharp pointy seeds that are called sandburs. But the true sandbur looks like a grass plant, which it is, and puts out those burs with lots of sharp points. Sandburs thrive in sunny dry, and sandy locations but will do fine in clay soils too. They don't like competition so they are often on the edge of turf areas next to sidewalks, walking paths and driveways.

Crabgrass preventers will help reduce the number but won't usually get them all. I recommend monthly treatments with one of the crabgrass killers to control the seedlings that get through the preventers. I'd spray early June, July and August then in the fall focus on getting thin spots reseeded. thickened up with fertilization, tall mowing and overseeding. Break the cycle for a couple years and you should be good. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Puncturevine

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday we talked about grass sandburs. The other common weed with sharp pointy seeds is puncture vine. This is the one that grows flat on the ground, has little yellow flowers and has that hard seed that breaks into four parts and each part has a long spine that will get stuck in the bottom of the sole of your shoe or flatten your bicycle or lawn mower tire. Puncture vine likes the edge of dirt roads or right along the edge of driveways or walkways. Crabgrass preventers aren't going to be too successful against this one so you need to remember where they grew last year and spray those areas about every 3 to 4 weeks with a dandelion killer type of product. Straight 2,4-D likely won't get it, try one of the combo products. In late summer this thing can produce seed quickly so stay on track into September. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Deadheading

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In gardening circles when we talk about deadheading we are not talking about hanging out with a bunch of fans of the band the Grateful Dead. No, we are talking about removing flowers after they are past their prime. We do this to some extent on perennial flowers, like peonies, so the plants don't waste energy making seed. But on annual flowers, we often deadhead to keep them blooming. A plant wants to produce seed. If a blossom sets seed it isn't going to be too concerned about making a lot more blossoms, it's going to focus next on making seed. If you keep clipping these blossoms off after they are past prime, you trick the plant into continuing to make more flowers so that it can make seed. A little fertilizer every 3 to 4 weeks can help. Not all flowers need to be deadheaded, but it doesn't hurt to do it. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Squash Bugs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The bane of everyone who has tried to grow summer squash or pumpkins is squash bugs. These gray shield shaped true bugs have a piercing sucking mouthpart and can drain the life out of most squash cultivars. Adults overwinter in debris and then locate squash plants in June and start laying eggs. The biggest mistake that most gardeners make is not starting soon enough. Control needs to begin in late June just as the first generation gets started because if they aren't controlled, and the second generation gets started, you don't have a chance. Place shingles around plants as a mid day hiding place and treat them there. Spinosad is very effective against juveniles but not adults. Permethrin is also good on juveniles but not adults. Adults need to be treated with cyhalothrin or cyfluthrin. But get them before then. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Start Spraying Bagworms

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. About two weeks ago the bagworms started hatching and with the accelerated heat last week most of them should be hatched out by now. Which means that it's time to go ahead and start spraying. With the way the bagworms have been the last few years, essentially being found on everything, how much you spray this year depends on how much you want to spend. Focus first on cedars/ junipers, spruces and arborvitae. Pines aren't at much risk of being fed on at all. Deciduous trees and shrubs will be fed on but not damaged, but these plants can serve as reservoirs for reinfestation of susceptible plants or egg sources next year. In reality most of us can't afford to treat every single tree on our property. So we'll continue to treat and check the susceptible ones for now. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.