

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for January 25 - 31, 2021

### AAS - Echalion Creme Brulee

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Last week I was talking about the All American Selections for new vegetables and flowers so let's start this week off with a couple of the vegetable winners. Today it is Echalion Creme Brulee. This is a type of shallot, sometimes called a banana shallot, and it's the first time that a shallot has been named an all American selection. It has a mild sweet flavor without an overpowering after taste. It has a bright coppery pink outer skin and a rosy purple interior. The only way to get this shallot is by seed but it should be fairly easy to grow for most gardeners. Shallots are normally considered to be a more northerly crop but in general I feel that Kansas is on the southern edge of the shallot production area and we're north enough that I think it'll be fine. I planted my first shallots last fall and will try this one next year! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## AAS Pepper Pot-a-peno

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Today's all America selection is a jalapeno pepper that has a very compact habit making it ideal for pots or hanging baskets and what I really like about this one is its name - Pot-a-peno. It's an F1 hybrid that is very prolific producing a lot of fruit. The fruit is smaller than traditional jalapenos but the heat is right up there with what you'd expect. As I said it has a compact habit with a dense foliage canopy. The fruit tends to hang down beneath the plant which makes it easy to harvest the fruit without damaging the canopy and thereby the appearance of it. If you want to be the first one to have home jalapeno poppers or salsa, this could do the trick for you as it is earlier than most traditional jalapenos to start blooming and setting fruit. Even if you don't eat that many jalapenos, this is an attractive plant! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Pawpaw Trees

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When we think of fruit trees we often think of things like apples, pears, peaches and cherries, none of which are native to North America. One fruit species that is native to North America, in fact Kansas and even Geary County is the pawpaw. While often made fun of because of its name, it does have a small but devoted following but sadly far too few people have ever tried to eat one! The banana like fragrance and custard like texture is likely to be an acquired taste for many. Even if you don't care for the fruit, the small tree has fascinating flowers and would fit well in many landscapes, even in urban settings. Seedlings can be purchased from the Kansas Forest Service but if you are interested in them for fruit, you would be better off to order a named variety from a nursery that carries them. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## DED Resistant American Elms

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I can remember when mature stately American Elms graced the streets of many Great Plains communities. But then Dutch Elm Disease moved in and block by block they were wiped out. While a few stately American Elms remain in our area, they are sadly missed. Fortunately arborists across the country spent decades scouring for American elms that seemed to have survived and put them into testing programs to see if they were in fact resistant to Dutch Elm disease. Four true American Elms emerged from this testing. Three of them have shown 100% survival and the fourth is at 80%. The three varieties are named Valley Forge, Princeton, and New Harmony. The fourth with slightly lower survival, but still impressive goes by Lewis and Clark. Consider planting one of these stately trees! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Peaches, Apricots and Kansas

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I grew up on a farm that had a good sized orchard so totally understand the desire to grow your own fresh fruit. But what homeowners have to remember is that we are totally at the mercy of the weather as early warm spells followed by cold weather can wipe out a fruit crop in any given year. Some of the riskiest fruits to grow are sweet cherries, apricots and peaches. All of these are prone to breaking dormancy early and then getting hammered by cold weather. With that said I will make a bold prediction that over the next 15 to 20 years, this could change with warming climates. Time will tell. But if you do want to try growing any of these precocious fruits you need to take great care in variety selection, there are differences in cold hardiness, as well as site selection for planting, Contact me for details! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.