

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for May 31 - June 6, 2021

Memorial Day No Program

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent.

I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Get Ready to Spray Bagworms

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. For the past four years bagworms have been a real problem. I don't know what to expect this year other than knowing that the cold in February didn't phase them at all. If you've had junipers, cedars, arborvitae or spruce trees with bagworm in the past, you need to be on high alert. The eggs have started to hatch and will continue over the next several weeks. Eggs in bags on south side of trees will hatch sooner than those on the north sides of trees. I'm a firm believer in a two spray approach if you are doing it yourself. First spray goes down on June 10<sup>th</sup> and the second one on June 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are hiring a commercial firm, wait until late June to make sure all eggs have hatched. My favorite product is spinosad BUT any lawn and garden insecticide is going to work but it needs to be applied with a hose end sprayer so that you can apply a lot of product to the point that it is dripping off the foliage! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Controlling Sandburs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you have sandburs, the ones that look like grass and get in your pant's cuffs, socks and shoelaces you probably know where these things have been in the past. Most likely on the edges of walking paths or driveways where it's hot, sunny, compacted or sandy with little competition. While crabgrass preventers can help, it is really a benefit to follow up with a post emerge crabgrass control killer or MSMA/DSMA. These products are going to work on small seedlings, usually just a couple of leaves large. Read the label as some may need to be applied on sunny hot days for best control options. Then, since sandburs can sprout late in the season and quickly grow to a big enough size to set seed you probably need to treat about once a month as in now, early July and early August. If you are going to seed or overseed an area do not apply another treatment after the early August applications. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Controlling Puncture Vine

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I talked about sandbur control. The other pointy seeded lawn nuisance I am questioned regarding is called puncturevine. Puncturevine grows very low to the ground with prostrate stems that can extend out for feet from a central taproot. This is the one that has angular hard seeds with one or two sharp thorns that stick in the soles of your shoes or flattens the tires of your lawn mower or bicycle. Crabgrass preventers are pretty weak on this one so we need to manage it with post emerge weed killers. It's going to be like sandburs in that it grows on the margins with hard soil and little competition. Where it has been before it will be again. You also need to treat about once a month because it can go from germination to seed producing in 3 or 4 weeks. Any of our dandelion killers will work fine on this one. To avoid damage to sensitive plants only spray when it's calm and below 85 degrees. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Fertilize Warm Season Lawns

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While most people have cool season lawns like fescue or bluegrass, there are a few that have warm season grass lawns like zoysiagrass, Bermuda grass or buffalograss. We treat these lawns quite differently than our cool season grass lawns. Very soon our cool season lawns will be slowing down and want to take it easy through the summer and our warm season lawns are just now gearing up. All three of our warm season grasses need to be fertilized now with the always safe 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. For buffalograss that'll be the only fertilization you give it. For Bermuda and zoysia you can also fertilize again in early July and for a healthy Bermuda grass lawn also give it another fertilization in early August. With these grasses going into their active growth period now, that nitrogen is crucial to get them to fill in any winter damage and thicken up for the heat of summer. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.