

Gardening with Chuck Programs for October 18 - 24, 2021

Weed and Feed Time

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are past the middle of October. We had some pretty good conditions in early September to get lots of little broadleaf weeds started growing. As the soil is cooling off it is unlikely we'll get very many more sprouting and growing. Which means anytime in the next month is a good time to apply weed and feed products OR a broadleaf weed control product. At this time either the granular weed and feed or liquid herbicide treatments are going to work great. Cooler temperatures will cause them to work slower, but they'll work well none the less. As we move on into November the liquid treatments may be preferred. Be sure to apply the liquids when temperatures are above 50 degrees and will be for a couple of hours. For the weed and feed granular products please read and follow all label directions. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Fall Planting of Trees and Shrubs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While we're in the last third of October, there is still time to plant fruit trees as well as most trees and woody shrubs. Many woody species roots are still actively growing so by getting them planted yet this fall the roots can really get settled in and going. Then, when those tree roots start getting active in late winter, often as early as late February, the plant is already in place, the roots are growing out into the new location and you have far less transplant shock than even planting in early April. Most fruit trees and woody shrubs transplant fine in the fall. There are a few species of shade trees that you need to wait until spring to transplant. This includes beech, birch, redbud, magnolia, tulip poplar, willow oak, scarlet oak, black oak, all willow species and dogwood. These should be planted in spring. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Controlling Bush Honeysuckle

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you notice shrubs on the periphery of your yard or timber that still have lots of green leaves and little red berries, then you are likely looking at Asian bush honeysuckle and now would be a good time to get that invasive pest out of your yard. Bush honeysuckle is very invasive and can get so thick in the understory of our native woodlands that it crowds out any other native seedlings trying to get started. If you have a lot of these then you can spray them with glyphosate right now and get effective control. While this works good out in the timber, I wouldn't try this in your yard. For bush honeysuckle growing in your yard, cut it off at ground level this fall and treat the freshly cut surface with concentrated glyphosate that is at least 30% active ingredient. Apply directly on the entire cut surface. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Ornamental Grasses in Winter

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I don't know about you, but my ornamental grass, a.k.a. pampas grass, went nuts this year. Full and tall and lots of seed heads. It really is quite amazing. If these clumps of ornamental grasses are well away from the house or buildings you can just leave them alone for the winter and let them serve as shelter for some little critters. However, if grasses are next to your house or a building it would be advisable to reduce them greatly in size as they can be a real fire hazard. If you've ever burned a clump of this stuff off in the spring you know what I mean. As the grasses go dormant you can trim them back to greatly reduce the risk of fire. Ultimately, this fall, I wouldn't want to trim those clumps back any lower than 6 inches. Take care when doing this as those grass blades are sharp and the dust very itchy! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Get Those Bird Feeders Filled

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are almost to the end of October and many of our winter time backyard birds are starting to filter into the area, birds like Juncos and Harris's Sparrows and of course not a migrant but the indomitable goldfinches. It's time to start getting the feeders filled. I'm not a big fan of the seed mixes and if you have any kind of hanging or elevated feeder, use black oil sunflower. IF you have a ground feeder then go ahead and use seed mixes. Bird species that feed on the ground readily use the seeds that are in the seed mixes. Now, one word of warning, activity at the backyard feeders often starts off slow in the fall because there is so much natural food supplies out there, think weed seeds. Some years it may not pick up until January, unless we have an early snow. But just be patient, the birds are coming! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.