

Gardening with Chuck Programs for July 11 - 17, 2022

Get Started on Fall Gardens

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. What far too many novice gardeners think is that fall gardens are planted, well, in the fall! No! We harvest them in the fall, but we plant them in the summer starting, well, now. During the month of July you can be planting snap beans, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, beets and potatoes - Irish not sweet. Carrots and beets you can plant on into early August as well as the broccoli and cauliflower. The biggest challenge on some of these will be finding plants that have been started - for the cole crops, or possibly seed potatoes. If you want to plant a fall crop of potatoes and can't find seed potatoes, you can always dig up or use some of your spring planted potatoes and use them. But check with area nurseries first as some of them will have cole crop plants started and fresh seed potatoes. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Storing Onions

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There is a great deal of misinformation about storing onions, either home grown or store purchased. As I talked about a couple of weeks ago, onions, and garlic, need to be hung or layed out on screens and dried before putting them into storage. This drying process may take 3 to 5 weeks depending on the type of onions and the weather. You want the neck, that area just above the bulbs, to be totally dry. Clip off the leaves at that time and preferably store them in mesh bags or in a box, not stacked more than a couple rows deep. You must have air movement around them. NEVER store them in sealed plastic bags or the refrigerator. Cool room temperatures work best. Sweet onion types like Candy and Red Candy Apple have short storage lives of only a couple of months, others can last 9 months or more. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Blister Beetles

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. At least a few gardeners every year will go out to the garden some morning and see that swarms, seriously I mean swarms, of slender black, brown or striped beetles have descended into their gardens and are feeding away on plants, especially tomato plants. These are blister beetles and as their name implies, their body fluids can cause chemical burn blisters on your skin - so don't squish them in your fingers. These swarms will appear overnight and may disappear just as quick, but don't waste time waiting to see if they do disappear. They have ravenous appetites and can strip foliage down to stems in short order. Just about any of the garden insecticides will do a good job on them. The pyrethroids will likely give you the fastest knockdown. Be sure to spray the entire area to keep them from just moving! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Falling Leaves

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Few things panic a homeowner more than leaves falling off their trees in mid summer. In all actuality, very rarely are falling leaves an issue. Leaves dying and staying ON the trees is an issue however.

Some springs, when we have lots of rainfall, like this year, trees will put on extra leaves because it's cool and damp. Then the heat of summer comes along, the tree realizes it doesn't really need all those leaves and it may shed over half of them just to reduce water need. Sometimes when we have wet May weather, like this year, the tree leaves that are emerged will become infected with any one of several tree leaf diseases. Most of these diseases have a limited infection period such that by the time you see the leaves falling off, it's too late to do anything. If needed, the trees will put out new leaves to compensate. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Grub Control

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. White grubs, that may cause damage in turf and gardens, are the larval stage of any one of a number of scarab beetles like June bugs or Japanese beetles. Most of these beetles have now emerged, mated and laid eggs for the next generation. While newer grub control products have a much wider range of time for treatment, virtually all products will work best when the grubs are small and newly hatched. Let's face it, small insects are easier to control than large insects. Small grubs are active right now most likely in the top couple inches of soil. Late July and early August are the ideal times for treatment. For grub control products to be effective, they need to be watered in by rain or irrigation. The sooner this rain or irrigation occurs after application, the better. If no rain occurs, irrigate within 72 hours. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.