

Gardening with Chuck Programs for May 30 - June 5, 2022

No Program - Memorial Day

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

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

Start Looking for Bagworms

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Bagworm eggs normally hatch in late May and early June. Because of some of that ridiculous heat in early May, okay most of May, we hit the minimum number of growing degree days by May 12th. Which means that you need to be scouting for bagworms now if you've had them in the past! Two things to keep in mind. Old bagworm bags will hang onto a tree for several years even if you spray and kill them. Those two inch long bags from previous years means nothing right now. You need to look for the new bags which are only going to be about a quarter of an inch long. Check on the sunny side of plants first as those eggs will hatch earlier than bags that are in the shade most of the time. Also look for color changes of the plant that can signify a heavy bagworm infestation that you'll need to treat soon! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Keep Planting!

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Even though the calendar says the first of June, you can still be out there in the garden planting. First crop beans can be planted still and then second crop for a later harvest in July. Sweet potatoes can be planted into late June. Summer squash should be planted soon, but winter squash I would hold off until the second half of June for several reasons. If you have a large enough garden for sweet corn, you can relay plant it through about the third week of June. Here's the secret about fall gardens that novices don't realize. Fall garden planting actually starts in the middle of summer. Fall Irish potatoes are planted from late June until late July and many of our other cool season crops we grow in fall gardens need to be planted from late July into August. Pick up the Vegetable Garden Planting guide for details. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Watch for Squash Bugs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you have any squash or pumpkins in the ground and growing, you need to be getting ready to treat for squash bugs. Squash bugs are the grayish flat backed bugs, and they are a true bug, that in late summer can be found swarming all over squash and pumpkin plants sucking the life out of the plant. Often the first generation doesn't get active until late June, but given the warm weather we've had this year, I'd start looking for them now. Once you find your first squash bug, even if it isn't a full adult, and only one, I'd start treating. First generation squash bugs are often overlooked and not treated which then results in a second generation in August that simply becomes overwhelming. Spinosad is effective against nymphs but not adults. For adult control use permethrin, cyfluthrin or cyhalothrin. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Sandburs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Sandburs, or what I like to call grass sandburs to differentiate them from puncturevine, are an annual warm season grass with a growth cycle much like crabgrass or foxtail. The big problem with this grass is it's seeds which are little balls of pain that are covered with nasty spines that manage to snag up in your shoe laces, pants cuffs and pet fur. Crabgrass preventers will reduce the total number but since these often grow on periphery areas and hot spots, you likely need to follow up with a postemerge treatment. Any of the crabgrass killer, most of which contain quinclorac, will control small sandburs. Where you know you've had them before, don't wait until the burs are getting caught in your pant legs. Go out now and spray with the crabgrass killers then do it again July 1 and August 1, for season long control. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.