

Planting Easter Lilies outside

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Gardeners often hate to throw out Easter Lilies after they finish blooming and often wonder if they can grow outside here in northern Kansas. Though Easter Lilies are not reliably hardy in Kansas, many gardeners have success if they follow a few simple rules. After the flowers have faded, remove the flower stalk so that energy does not go into making seed. Keep the plant inside until the danger of frost is past. Keep soil moist but never waterlogged. Continue to fertilize. The pot can be moved outside when frost is no longer a concern. Sinking the pot into the soil up to the brim and placing in dappled shade will help reduce watering. Continue to water and fertilize until the top growth dies down. Choose a sunny, well-drained spot for planting. Good drainage is vital for lilies and so the addition of organic matter is usually necessary for most soils. Till or dig the soil 6 inches deep and add 3 inches of peat moss. Mix the soil and peat moss together. This will form a berm that should drain very well. Plant the bulbs 6 inches deep and 12 to 18 inches apart and water in well. Mulch to conserve moisture. New growth may appear later in the summer or the plant may stay dormant until the following spring. Cover the plants in the fall after the foliage has died down with straw, pine needles, wood chips or other types of mulch to help protect the plant over winter. Use 4 inches of straw or 3 inches of any of the other materials. Uncover the plants in the spring to allow new growth to appear and fertilize according to soil test. Or, you can do what many of us do. There's a whole business that thrives on selling us these plants so toss them out and buy new

next year! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Proper Timing of Crabgrass Preventers

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. One of the biggest challenges is timing your applications of crabgrass preventers. The problem is that these herbicides break down at varying rates in the soil. Some products last a long time and others break down fairly quickly. If you are using a preventer that contains Dimension or Barricade you can apply a little earlier in the season and not worry about it running out before the end of the summer. If you are using one of the older products like pendimethalin or balan, you need to be very cautious when you apply and then follow the directions for when to retreat or you will have a breakout later in the summer. Crabgrass seed doesn't germinate until the soil warms up quite a bit more than it is right now. In most years that's around May 1st and as cool as it has been I don't expect it to be much different this year. So a good target date for most preventers would be to have them applied by April 15th. Barricade and Dimension can be applied anytime from about mid-March on because of their longer activity. We need to be careful in our use of crabgrass preventers and new seedings as they products don't really know the difference between a crabgrass seedling and a new tall fescue seedling. If you planted a new lawn last year I would be very cautious about your products and lean heavily towards Dimension which is safer on grass seedings that may have only been mowed once or twice. If you are applying new seed this spring, do NOT use a crabgrass preventer. If you applied a crabgrass preventer and wanted to reseed, you'll have to wait until fall now! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Spring Treatment of blooming weeds

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I walked outside the other morning and my nose was assaulted by the smell of a herbicide containing 2,4-D. I have no idea how far away it had been used, and it wasn't really all that windy, but it was a fairly strong odor, granted I do have a big sensitive nose! We've got a lot of things blooming in our yards that we may not prefer to have blooming. So what you do right now is take the calendar off the wall, flip to about October 25, 2013 (which is a Friday) and write on your calendar, treat for lawn weeds this weekend. By late October, all those things that are blooming in your yard now, will have germinated and although they will be small weeds that you may easily overlook, they will be easily controlled by the broadleaf weed killers or the weed and feed products. Applying these in September can be a waste of time as many of the seeds don't germinate until early October. You can kill these blooming weeds now, but it's tougher to do, they are still going to produce weed seed as they die and we are now getting sensitive young foliage coming out on plants that can be injured by the vapors or physical drift that comes off of these weed killers. My rule of thumb is, especially in the summer time, if you can smell the vapors, they are strong enough to curl the leaves of sensitive plants. Follow label directions when using any herbicide. Don't apply when it is very windy at all. Do not spray these weed killers when the temperature is or will be over 80 degrees. Between 60 and 70 degrees with calm winds would be preferable and mix according to directions. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.