

### Spring Flowering Bulbs

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I do know that in some years, by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February, I've had crocus blooming at my house. I know a few weeks ago the crocus were starting to poke their little leaves up through the soil but I haven't checked on them since then. I always receive a few worried homeowner phone calls as we move through late winter and spring when they see lots of tulip, daffodil or other spring flowering bulbs with leaves and even buds up above ground and cold weather being forecasted. Don't worry folks, these bulbs are tough. I've seen daffodils in bloom take nearly single digit temperatures that leave them flat on the ground first thing in the morning. But a little time, sunshine and warmer weather and they are back up and blooming. One thing that has happened over the years is that we do a lot of our spring flowering bulb maintenance at the wrong time. The roots for these spring flowering bulbs pretty much start to die at flowering. So if we wait until then to fertilize them, it doesn't do much good. We need to be fertilizing those areas with spring flowering bulbs NOW and then water the fertilizer in if it doesn't rain. In general we want to use a balanced fertilizer, like 10-10-10 or 13-13-13 at the rate of 2.5 pounds of product per 100 square feet. This works out to be about one rounded teaspoon per square foot. Apply evenly to an area and water in if it doesn't rain in a couple of days. Then remember to leave the leaves intact until they dry down on their own. After that you can clip off the dried up leaves or dig the bulbs for moving or resetting come fall. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

So you got flowers for Valentine's Day

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you received flowers for Valentine's Day it's important to treat those flowers with care to maximize their life. If the flowers came in a vase, check the water at least daily and maybe even twice a day. Add warm water daily and if the water turns cloudy, dump it out and replace with fresh water. If possible when you do this, try to recut the stems by removing one to two inches with a sharp knife and then immediately get those stems back into the water. Try to keep the flowers as cool as possible, 65 to 72 degrees is ideal and keep the flowers away from direct sunlight, heating or cooling vents, don't put the flowers under a ceiling fan that is running or on top of any appliance that generates heat. If you received just a loose bundle of flowers, fill a deep vase with warm water and add any floral preservative that might have arrived with the flowers. Remove any foliage that would be below the waterline then recut the stems an inch or two shorter than they are and place in the water. If you have roses starting to wilt, and you've only had them a day or two, recut the stem under water and submerge the entire rose under water for one to two hours - the rose will usually revive in that time. Some people will even put bouquets in the refrigerator during the day while they are gone. The cold temperatures and dark can extend the life of many cut flowers by days. However, if you have tropical flowers, like anthuriums, ginger flower, protea, etc, remember that these flowers often don't take well to 40 degree or colder temperatures, and don't get the flowers so cold that they freeze! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday, K-State!

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Kansas State University recently started celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday or anniversary - whichever institutions have. K-State is a land grant university. Land grant colleges got started through gifts of land from the federal government to the states, which either gave the states a location to build a college or the opportunity to sell some of the land to raise revenue for a college. Unlike colleges prior to that time, these land grant colleges were to be dedicated to educating the common folk in the ways of agriculture, mechanical and military sciences and other worthwhile pursuits. Prior to that time, colleges were for the wealthy and the clergy. About 25 years later congress passed the Hatch Act which provided funds for agricultural research and then another 25 years after that, the Smith Lever act came along which started the cooperative extension systems across the country. What makes so much of this unique is that these 3 systems still exist as cooperative ventures between federal, state and local government. The three acts have created what we now know as teaching - research and extension. The three of these working together educate our youth, develop new and useful knowledge and then place a cadre of information specialists, county extension agents if you will, in every county to make sure that the information is readily available, usually at no charge, for the citizens of the state to use. Sure, all of this gives me a job, but it gives all of us a future. Sooo, happy birthday KSU. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.