

Gardening With Chuck for July 29 - August 4, 2013

Last Call for Bagworms

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Sure, now people are starting to notice the bagworms. Probably because they are getting really big and all of a sudden, as you drive down the road at 30 mph you can see that there is something wrong with that juniper or cedar or arborvitae. Contrary to what some homeowners may think, those big old bagworms didn't just show up overnight. They've been there all summer long it's just that they have been small and if you didn't take the time to really look at your shrubs and trees, you just didn't notice them. The good news is that even if the damage seems to be really bad, there is probably a good chance we can pull the plant through and it will survive. But there's several steps you need to take. First of all you need to treat the infested plants as soon as possible. I should add that if the infested plant is a deciduous, like a rose, I wouldn't be too concerned. Concerns are greatest over junipers and other evergreens. You need to treat with a hose end sprayer so you can really soak it down. I would also recommend that you use a product that contains spinosad, s-p-i-n-o-s-a-d. You can find this in fertilome bagworm spray. Like I said, apply with lots of water, wait a week and retreat. Next, sometime this fall or winter, put on some leather gloves and pick off all the bags you can find and put in the trash. Then next year, mark your calendar to spray on June 1(Jh and again on the 25th. Even if you think you got them all, I can almost guarantee that you missed a couple of them and then the problem will start all over again! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Green June Beetles

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I had two people out at the fairgrounds last week asking me about the swarms of large green beetles in their yards. While they often make a loud buzzing noise when they fly, they aren't bumblebees or a giant bee from you know where. They are a green June beetle and yes I know it's July. Their arrival is right on time. They are strong flyers but rather clumsy flyers. They'll fly right into you, or your house or your pets. Like all scarab beetles, yes they are a scarab, the larval form is a grub in the ground, albeit a rather large grub. With most June beetles, or scarabs, the larva or grub does the majority of the damage eating roots off of plants like grass. While the green June beetle will feed on grass they will also feed on decaying tree roots. Unlike other June beetles, the green June beetle grub will sometimes come to the surface and feed on the above ground portions of the turf plant. They can leave mounds of soil 2 to 3 inches across. They may also leave a large thumb sized hole in the ground, especially when the adults emerge in late June and July. Now, unlike other June beetles, the adults of the green June beetle can be quite damaging. They seem to be very fond of feeding on ripening fruit, especially things like peaches. In the south they are often called fig eaters! They seem to be highly attracted to over ripe fruit so be sure to keep windfalls picked up off the ground. If they are attacking developing fruit you can treat with sevin or just about any of the standard

insecticides that are registered for use on fruit, but you need to get the spray directly on them!

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Fall Gardening

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As we move out of July and into August it is time to gear up for fall gardening. Many gardeners don't try fall gardening and I think they are missing

the boat! A lot of things can be planted in late July and early August. If you hurry you can still get potatoes planted but I mean hurry as in right now! Then hope we don't have an early frost!

Other garden crops you can get in the ground still include snap beans, cabbage, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and beets. Later on in August you can also plant lettuce, radish, spinach and turnips.

You are probably noting that many of these are the same as our early season veggie crops. These are the things that thrive in cooler weather which works out just well as we move into the cooler and shortening days of September and early October. Many of these are also fairly frost tolerant and if you want to experiment with floating row covers you can take things like spinach and lettuce clear into November most autumns. A few things to keep in mind with fall gardens. You are planting them in the heat of the summer so the plants will probably come up quick and so will the weeds. Weed control is critical. You are also putting up tender young foliage right into the buggiest time of the summer so be ready to treat for insect pests. While we've had some nice weather of late, warmer days are coming back and soil moisture can go away quickly leaving small plants with limited root systems gasping for water. Keep them well watered during the early stages of development and side dress with fertilizer 2 to 3 weeks after emergence! This has

been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.