

Grass Sandburs

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Grass sandbur is that annoying weed that looks like a grass plant but then develops a seed that is covered in sharp spines and gets caught in your pant legs, socks and shoe laces. If you've had problems with these in the past and you've taken now steps to deal with them earlier in the summer, you will start finding them, in all their prickly glory, any day now! If you encounter grass sandburs, with their seeds intact the best approach, if you only have a few plants is to put on a pair of heavy leather gloves and carefully pull them up and put in the trash, being careful to not knock off the seeds. Then find yourself one of the post emerge crabgrass killers that I've talked about recently and thoroughly spray the area where the sandburs have been growing. These products stop the growth very quickly although it may not seem like it. Wait about 2 weeks and treat the area again. Ultimately, getting a nice thick tall stand of grass is your best deterrent to having sandburs. If you have what I would call a solid stand of sandburs, then you have a real issue because you are going to have a very heavy seed load. If this is the case glyphosate, to kill everything, may be the only approach. After everything is dead go in with a shovel and scrape all the plants off at ground level and carefully remove as much as is possible. I've even seen folks take shop vacs to these areas and vacuum up as many of the left over seeds and vegetation as they can. Not a bad idea in the least. Then get the ground worked up, including additional glyphosate to deal with new seedlings and replant September 1st! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Grasshoppers

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Normally when we have a wet spell, grasshopper numbers go down. There is a naturally occurring fungus that starts to kill grasshoppers when it is wet, which also helps explain why their numbers seem to soar in dry weather. Anyway, it apparently wasn't wet enough back in June to get the fungus going and now we are starting to see a lot of grasshoppers. The challenge with grasshoppers is that smaller grasshoppers are much easier to kill than larger grasshoppers. So by the time we get to the latter part of July, the grasshoppers are getting bigger, they are eating more, and they are harder to kill. The problem that most home gardeners have is that they treat just the garden for grasshoppers. Unfortunately, once the hoppers get to the garden, it's probably too late. You need to be hitting them before they get to the garden. Start by keeping weeds and grass mowed down around vegetable and fruit gardens. Grasshoppers love to hide and feed in tall rank vegetation. Secondly spray the perimeter areas around gardens. You want to have them getting hit with pesticides before they get into the garden itself. Probably the best thing to use are the synthetic pyrethroids like permethrin, cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, etc. A hose end sprayer makes it easier to cover a lot of area in a hurry but spray units can work pretty well too. The biological control nozema can work, but really needs to be applied to a large area and given time to work. One trick that can help is bait jars which are two quart mason jars half filled with one part molasses in ten parts water. Hey, it's worth a try!

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Bagworms, last call!

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 have bagworm issues, I hope you are noticing them by now. Maybe I've been in this business way too long, or maybe I just need to pay more attention driving down the road, but I'm seeing a LOT of bagworm damage on junipers and cedars. The good news is that in another few weeks, they will be through feeding for this year. The bad news is that if you don't treat your bagworm infested cedars now, the bagworms may very well kill your junipers by the time they stop feeding. If you have bagworms on your evergreens, AND you want to keep those evergreens, even if they are looking pretty bad right now, then get out there and start spraying. Some people ask if they can just pick the bags off their plants. Yes you can, but you need to seal the little rascals up into a plastic trash bag or they'll all start crawling up out of your garbage can in short order. Even if you do pull a bunch of them off, I would still spray. As I've said in the past, use a hose end sprayer to apply a thorough soaking spray. Several products are available in their own hose end sprayer so you don't even have to mix anything up. But I can't emphasize enough the importance of applying the insecticide with lots of carrier. A through soaking is necessary. A 1 or 2 or 3 gallon pump up sprayer isn't going to cut it unless you have a very small plant. A 15 to 20 gallon sprayer can probably do it but you still need to apply to the point of literally dripping off the plant. One last item, the product spinosad seems to be the most effective on larger bagworms, but use what you've got - just get those plants sprayed! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of

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