

### Next Round of Garden Planting

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Amazingly we are headed into the last half of April. We are past the AVERAGE last frost date but still a ways away from the frost free date which is about May 10<sup>th</sup>. BUT we still have more items coming on gardeners planting list that we can be getting in the ground. Many of our ornamental bedding plants can be getting planted now including things like petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia. I would hold off on tropical ornamentals like elephant ears until May however. Over in the vegetable garden we have several things coming on the calendar and several that need to go off. All those things you were planting in late March and early April, like radishes, potatoes, peas and those cole crops - if you didn't get them in the ground you probably just need to forget it for now. Several of those can be planted in mid to late summer for a fall harvest though. A lot of our warmer weather foliage crops like collards, chard, and lettuce can still be planted. Onions you'd better hurry on but can probably still make it, turnips are getting a bit late but beets and carrots and parsnips are good until the end of the month. Melons and probably cucumbers can be planted now and even an early bit of sweet corn. But those crops that are really sensitive to frost, things like peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, pumpkins, okra and beans need to wait until about the second week of May. Same for zucchini and other summer squash as well. And hold off on sweet potatoes until the last half of May, they are very frost sensitive. Winter squash, wait until June so they don't mature too early! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

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## Low end drip irrigation

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## Pine issues

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Pines aren't native to Kansas. None, zero, zilch. We are the only state out of all 50 that has no native pine tree. That should tell you something. But people still plant them. April is a time when there are several insect or diseases pests that could start to show up. If you have Austrian or Red pines that are more than about 20 years old then you should probably be treating them for tip blight. Tip blight is a fungus disease that attacks the new growth as it is coming out. There are several good fungicides and with the new growth starting to really elongate they need to be treated now. Call me for specific fungicides to use for this - there are several but immunox is not one of them! There is another pest called Nantucket Pine Tip moth that is more of an issue in Christmas tree lots. I see some every year, most commonly on Mugo pines but also on Scotch (which are about all killed now by pine wilt) and Ponderosa. If you have Mugo pines a spray for those would be in order now. The last issue is pine sawfly. Pine sawfly is another pest on shorter needled pines like mugo and Scots. These will be hatching out soon if they aren't already active. Look for a mass of small very dark green worms on the ends of the branches. They have this interesting reaction that if the branch is bumped, they all start to move in unison to make it look like they are a single much larger organism. They can eat a lot of needles so when you see them, spray with about any lawn and garden insecticide. There is one generation per year so once you get them controlled, you're done! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.