

Fall Gardens

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Once we get into July, far too many gardeners are sick and tired of the heat, the dry weather, the weeds, will just basically sick of gardening. But that is really a shame because there are quite a few crops that we can be planting in July and August to harvest in September and October, and even November, depending on the year. Here's the great thing - if you are sick of dealing with the weeds and everything else in part or all of your garden now. You can spray it all with Roundup, wait a few days and then clear everything off, till it up and start on your fall garden. I would add some garden fertilizer as you are tilling the garden as most of the nitrogen has been used by crops, weeds or lost to natural processes. Potatoes are one crop you want to get in the ground really soon as they are probably the most time sensitive. After that we can focus on things like snap beans, most of the cole crops including cabbage broccoli and cauliflower, these are transplants of course, root crops like carrots and beets can also be planted at this time. A few things to keep in mind though. Early watering is crucial to getting these crops up and going. The warm soils will help seeds germinate quickly but you've got to keep that seeding and rooting zone moist to get those plants established. Weeds will also germinate quickly so keep the weeds knocked down. With the exception of the potatoes, everything else can be planted into the first or second week of August. In mid August you can also plant lettuce, radishes, spinach and turnips. It may be warm now, but think of that fresh fall produce! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420

KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Propping up fruit limbs

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 were fortunate to have apples and pears maybe even peaches if you planted a late variety, set on well, the fruit is growing rapidly now and unless you are a faithful and aggressive pruner or fruit thinner, limbs may be starting to sag as the fruit weight increases. First of all, keep the root zone well watered in these trees. If we go a week to ten days with no rain, get the hose going at a slow trickle and soak the root zone down to keep that fruit increasing in size. And of course, if you've been spraying, keep spraying up to about two weeks before harvest. Now back to those limbs. A common and recommended practice to keep a heavy fruit load from breaking branches is to prop up the limbs with boards. It's easy to make branch supports - get some 1 x 4s or 1 x 6s and cut a V in one end of the board. Cut the board long enough so that it lifts up the branch ½ to 2 inches. You don't want to push it a long ways in the air - just far enough to relieve some of the weight and to keep the board from blowing over. If you have long branches you may have to use two boards - one half way out and one more towards the end of the branch. Then next spring, consider a little bit more pruning. You can also use wide belt type material to tie branches up to higher branches. While this can work, it is fraught with potential dangers as it requires you being on a ladder up in the tree and then the rope or twine that you use can easily start to cut into bark in the higher branches being used for support. For that reason, I'm a firm believer in using support boards that are on the ground! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Mushrooms!

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Anytime that we have big rains or a series of rains, in July or August, I can guarantee that we will have an explosion of mushrooms.

Mushrooms are the fruiting body, the seed producer if you will, of a fungus organism that is usually but not always, living underground and feeding on decaying organic matter. In fact the organic matter is decaying because of these organisms. Sometimes you'll have mushrooms coming out the side of a tree or at the base of a tree. This is never a good sign as it indicates that there is serious decay at work in the trunk, on branches or in the roots of the tree. This is a tree heading for problems soon! But often these mushrooms are exploding in our lawns and we don't like it. Most times a homeowner will remember a tree being taken down and these mushrooms are showing up around area where the trunk once was or following along major roots that are a good source of food for these fungal organisms. Because some of these organisms can be a foot or two down in the ground, AND because they are doing us a favor by breaking down organic matter into food for other plants, there really isn't anything we can do about them other than to kick them over and toss them in the compost or the trash. Some of these mushrooms are edible, some are poisonous, some are non poisonous but not edible. Some are big, some are small, some are brown, some are white, some are weird colors and even weirder shapes. They will continue to show up until the food source is gone however, so you might as well just accept it and move on!

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

Fall Webworms

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent.

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

Walnut caterpillars

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent.

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