

Poison Hemlock Control

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In the past couple of decades the plant known as poison hemlock has gone from being an interesting novelty to a real nuisance. Poison hemlock is poisonous if it is eaten. All parts, including the seeds are poisonous, but the roots are the most poisonous. It has a very fern or carrot like foliage and in recent years I have been seeing it show up almost anywhere including gardens, yards and landscape beds. It is a biennial meaning that it starts growing one year and then the second year it sends up a seed stalk. The rosette form of the plant can get quite large in the fall of the year, being a couple feet across and standing over a foot high. When it sends up the flower and seed stalk the second year, the seed stalk can be as tall as 10 feet. Another key diagnostic feature is that the seed stalk or stem has purple spotting. It has white flowers and once it starts to bloom it has a very distinctive strong musky odor. Once the seed stalk starts to shoot up it is going to be very hard to kill and will die shortly after flowering anyway. If you have a few individual plants in your yard or garden you can dig them up. Get a trowel or tile spade and get the taproot as deep as you can! Chemical control is going to be best for large patches. Triclopyr and 2,4-D will selectively take it out of grassy areas but use caution around ornamentals. Glyphosate will work also, but only use it in pure stands as it will kill everything. Triclopyr can often be found in herbicides labeled for poison ivy or chickweed, clover or oxalis killers. Late fall is often the best time to treat this weed, especially if you have a lot of it. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

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Poison Ivy Control

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. With the early warm weather and now all the rain many plants are going to be growing very well and that includes poison ivy. Poison ivy is extremely common, extremely adaptable, extremely variable in appearance and if you're one of the 2 out of every 3 people that is sensitive to it, an extreme pain! Poison ivy is leafing out and growing rapidly right now. It can be a vine growing up a tree, it can be a low growing groundcover sprawling out into the grass and it can be a free standing shrub just like a wild plum or dogwood thicket. The leaves can be big or small. They can have smooth edges or they can have toothed edges. They can be light green or very dark green and they can have a glossy surface or a dull matte surface. But even with all this variability, I find poison ivy to be very easy to identify if you look for a few things that don't change. Look for three leaflets - just remember the old saying, leaves of three, let it be. 5 leaflets is Virginia Creeper, 3 is poison ivy. There are a few other plants that have three, but just err on the side of caution. If you see a vine growing up a tree trunk and it looks like a fuzzy rope, it's poison ivy. And if it's late in the season and you see white berries, it's probably poison ivy. You need to be cautious with control products because herbicides that kill poison ivy will kill other plants as well. Look for something that is labeled poison ivy killer or herbicides with glyphosate or triclopyr. If foliage is away from desirable plants spray the foliage. If it's a vine climbing a tree, cut out a section of the vine and treat the cut surface! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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Rainy Weather Issues

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I for one was quite pleased to see the rain but with it comes issues that will be showing up in your yard soon. Speaking of yards, homeowners with sprinkler systems, please learn how to turn them off for short periods of time after we've had good rains. We had over 4½ inches of rain in 12 days. Do you realize how foolish it looks for your sprinklers to be running the morning after we've had an inch or more of rain? 12 days of rainy weather in late April is a guarantee that we will have leaf spots on tree leaves. The list of species that will be affected is about as long as the list of trees that grow in Kansas. I've already seen leaf spots on elms, ash will have several different issues, sycamores will start defoliating soon from anthracnose, and I expect maples to have some issues as well not to mention rust and scab on susceptible apple and flowering crabapple varieties. What you need to keep in mind about all of these is that the tree leaves will turn ugly and fall off and then new leaves will come out, generally uninfected. Don't waste time and money spraying fungicides on these trees, except for the apples and crabs, as the fungicide would have needed to have been applied BEFORE the infection period. Peaches and plums that weren't sprayed in the dormant season with fungicides will be showing symptoms of peach leaf curl and plum pocket soon as well. Again, there's nothing you can do now as the infection occurred weeks ago. Oh, and one other thing, mushrooms. You'll probably be seeing lots of mushrooms in your yards very soon from all the rain! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.