

### Plan now for garlic production

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I went running through the office the other day yelling, "the new garlic catalog is here, the new garlic catalog is here!" (PAUSE) Yeah, that's pretty much the response I got in the office too. I like garlic. I enjoy using it in a lot of recipes - I really enjoy the flavors that it brings to the food I cook. Now, I'm not one of those who will sit down and eat whole roasted cloves of garlic, but I do cook with it. But more importantly, I really enjoy growing garlic. I'm not sure why but I suspect it has something to do with the fact that many gardeners have tried it once, without success and have quit. Garlic is like winter wheat. It needs to go in the ground in the fall, get some chilling weather so that it knows that it needs to produce daughter bulbs, the cloves that we cook with. Some types need more cold weather than other types and some will do better in heat than others. But from what I can tell, and I'm still learning by the way, we have a pretty good climate for growing garlic. When I say you need to plant it in the fall, I mean late October. Last year I planted mine on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and with the way the winter was I could have gone into early November easily. I've had several people show interest in growing garlic so on September 28<sup>th</sup>, and I'll keep reminding you of this, I'm holding an evening Garlic class called Garlic in Your Garden. It'll be at 7 at the 4-H Building. I am asking you to pre-register as I'm charging \$25 for the class but that includes a copy of the book, Growing Great Garlic. That'll still give you time to order your garlic and get it planted this fall!

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

## Trees and wind and ice

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As I travel around the country it is interesting to look at the trees and imagine how they would or wouldn't survive back here in Kansas. We put a lot of stress on trees in the form of constant and at times extreme wind and then at other times with heavy ice loads. Quite simply it is why some trees are recommended for our climate and some aren't. When people think of ice and wind damage to trees they usually only think about the short term immediate limb damage. Do they have a bunch of limbs that they have to clean up off the lawn or not? That's the extent of what they think about. But the more long lasting and severe damage will often come years on down the road. Remember the big ice storm in December of 2007? Yeah, that one was ten years ago. We are seeing damage today still from that storm. When limbs, even small limbs, are ripped off a tree through storms, vehicle collisions, even poor pruning, decay organisms can enter and slowly start to do their damage. When you see a limb come down during a wind storm and the middle of that limb is all brown and rotten, it's likely the result of damage of some form that allowed problems to start. Proper pruning by a certified arborist can minimize these issues. Topping a tree is the **WORST** thing you can do. Unfortunately, even though a tree can still be alive, it is often much better in the long run to just remove it and plant a new tree. But before you plant that new tree, come down and talk to me about a good choice. Trees have different characteristics and some are simply better choices than others! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Rabbits

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Have you noticed a lot of rabbits around over the past 12 to 18 months? Yeah, I have too. They are everywhere and I have somewhere between three and six that seem to be regulars in my yard. I planted several different types of sunflowers along my backyard fence earlier this summer and the half stand I wound up with can likely be contributed to them. Then to make matters worse I have periodically found a little divet in the ground that is lined with hair where a female has obviously been planning on having a brood. Rabbit cycles come and go often in opposite directions with predator populations. While rabbits can be cute to watch, they can be equally destructive to landscape plants, flower beds and especially vegetable gardens. Now, if I lived out in the country, I would deal with this problem through various de-population techniques. But I live in town, as do many others folks so what does that leave us? Essentially it comes down to taste and scent deterrents. Toss the noise maker devices, including the ultrasound devices, out the window. They simply aren't practical because they don't work. A dog in the backyard can sometimes help, but not always. Look for things that are based on chile oils or sometimes other really foul tasting products. Read the labels closely to see if they can be used on food producing plants. Others' may be based on scent and may include dried blood meal or putrified egg solids. Just remember that some of these things can smell as bad to you as to the rabbits. It often comes down to trial and error and waiting for the predators. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Grubs

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Grubs in lawns are one of those things that every homeowner hears about, many of them worry about, a lot of them treat for and most times there aren't high enough populations to be of concern. Granted - grubs can be a big time issue. I've seen them a few times in lawns where they were killing small areas of the lawn - I even saw them kill a 60 acre bromegrass field one time, but these are the exceptions not the rules. Grubs are the fat white disgusting worm like critters that we sometimes dig up in our flower beds or vegetable gardens. As a grub these rascals crawl through the ground eating those roots off of your grass plants as they grow. Grubs are the larval or immature form of what we often call May or June bugs. All of these are in the large family of scarab beetles. We have several different species of June beetles. Some have one year life cycles, some have multi-year life cycles. When the adults emerge, they fly around for a while and eventually mate and the females start laying eggs. They usually lay eggs in the nicest greenest lawns. Now, some folks do want to treat their yard for grubs so the moles don't have as much to eat and maybe they won't stick around. It can help, but no guarantees. Basically mid July to mid August is the best time to treat for grubs. It's best to treat when the soil is damp so the grubs are close to the surface. Then once the treatment is applied it needs to be watered again to wash the insecticide in to the soil. Typically a half inch of rain or irrigation is what's needed to get the treatment activated and down to the grub zone in the lawn. This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Ground Beetles

This is Gardening with Chuck on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We have about 15,000 species of insects in Kansas. We have over 100 species of grasshoppers, over 100 species of ants, several dozen species of mosquitoes and contrary to what some people may believe, I do not know every single one of them. Many of these insect species have no common name, only a scientific name, often one that no one can pronounce unless they majored in Latin in college! We have a group of beetles that we call ground beetles. Most of these are medium size beetles that are often black or dark colored and otherwise non-descript. Many of these ground beetles feed on other insects so they are inherently beneficial. There is a medium sized black ground beetle that has orangish legs that is exceedingly common and apparently even more so this year. I see these rascals every year but many other folks have been commenting on them also. Anything that is good growing conditions for insects, like wet weather, is often going to also produce a lot of things that feed on insects like ground beetles. When it gets mid summer and things turn off hotter and often drier, these ground beetles will start congregating around houses and occasionally wander inside our homes. This is nothing to panic about. They aren't like a cockroach or a termite - they are merely an annoyance. You can spray the outside of your home with a lawn and garden spray labeled for nuisance insects and then use a premixed ready to use home pest product to treat the doorsills coming into your house and the baseboard area right around those. This will help reduce the problem! This has been Gardening with Chuck on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.