

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for December 23 - 29, 2019

### Deicers

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The day before that snow last weekend I saw someone out applying deicer to their driveway. I drove by the next day about halfway through that snow and you couldn't tell a bit of difference between their driveway and everyone else's driveway. There is a time and place for deicers and this wasn't one of them. Deicers are all salts. It doesn't matter if it's fertilizer, it's still a salt. Too much applied too often can damage the concrete and can damage the soil on either side of the hard surface. Deicers should be used sparingly and then given plenty of time to work. Don't wait until the last minute and then coat the driveway or sidewalk. Scrape off as much snow as you can prior to it getting packed down. Packed snow and ice will be melted with deicers. Apply sparingly and uniformly and then just wait! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Merry Christmas One and All

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'll be busy cooking today getting ready for a small gathering tonight and a bigger one tomorrow. Holidays too often turn into a tornado of activity when they should be an opportunity for everything and everyone to just wind down and relax, maybe slip in a little nap, and just enjoy the friends and family that have gathered together. For me, I'm a firm believer that the best way to show people that you love them is to cook them good food. I'm going to be doling out a whole lot of love tomorrow! So as today goes along and the roller coaster of excitement builds up speed, feel free to step off that and just take your time to enjoy the people, the season and of course the food. The New Year will be here soon enough, work and school will return. So relax now and I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

NO PROGRAM - CHRISTMAS DAY

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## Don't Toss the Christmas Tree

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Now that Christmas is over, many of you will be taking down your real Christmas tree in the coming days. Real Christmas trees offer you a great opportunity to recycle. The worst thing you can do is throw it to the curb for the trash to haul it away. If you have bird feeders, put it out near the feeders for shelter and cover. Cut the limbs off it and put them over tender perennials for a winter blanket. I'm sure Geary County Fish and Game will be collecting them someplace to use as wildlife habitat. If you have a chipper shredder, run the tree through that for some of the best smelling mulch you'll ever have. You can even cut off the larger branches and split the trunk up so that it dries down quickly and you can use it for great kindling for the fireplace or firepit. Just please, don't trash that tree! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## They'll Be Coming Any Day Now

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you haven't already received one in the mail, they'll be here soon enough. The dreaded seed catalogs will be hitting like a tsunami almost any time. This is a dangerous time for gardeners. We've had enough winter, cold temperatures, snow and ice, that gardeners become very susceptible to those pretty slick pictures in those catalogs. They start to become like the siren's song and before long the gardener is crashing on the rocks of too many plants and not enough space. As those catalogs arrive just set them aside for a few weeks. Consider it a mandatory waiting period. Then sit down and map out your garden, your yard, whatever and start to determine how much space you have then order plants or seeds to fit in that space. Be reasonable and use proper spacing. Beats tilling up the whole front yard for tomatoes! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.