

### Irrigate Correctly

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The end of June the weather finally turned to what I consider typical summer weather: hot and dry. It didn't take too long before I saw lawns and gardens being watered and often times improperly. We use sprinklers on lawns to most effectively cover the area. They should be applying ½ inch of water per application and should run about twice per week, not every day. Irrigation systems should be run from 3 a.m. to 9 a.m. so that lawns can dry off quickly in the morning. Running sprinklers in the mid day and evening wastes water and sets up your lawn for disease issues. In vegetable gardens, sprinklers should not be used because of potential foliar disease issues. Use drip hoses or drip irrigation or good old fashioned watering down the row in a furrow. Water infrequently but deeply to promote root growth. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Brown Patch in Fescue

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As I mentioned yesterday, excessive lawn watering, or rainfall, or watering at the wrong time of the day is a recipe for problems in your lawn, especially your tall fescue lawns. Brown patch is a disease of lawn grasses especially tall fescue. Brown patch is favored by long periods of wet foliage and night time temperatures that stay above 70 degrees. Brown patch can show up quickly as in just 2 or 3 days. Once it gets started you're going to have it until conditions improve. Fungicides are only moderately effective at controlling it. While it can create large brown spots in your yard it rarely kills the plants outright. Once we start getting cooler night time temperatures new foliage will develop and the brown patches will disappear. Best thing to do is water infrequently and only early in the morning. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Tomato Leaf Spots

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I haven't had any calls yet, but I'm bracing for them. Leaf spots on tomatoes comes down to two different diseases and create more questions and concerns about tomatoes - even more than blossom end rot. These leaf spots overwinter on old tomato plant leaves in the ground. When we have rain or sprinkler irrigation the spores will splash from the soil up to the lowest leaves. The spores can infect the upper or lower leaf surfaces. From there the disease just works it's way up the plant from leaf to leaf killing the leaves as it goes. First step is to keep the tomato leaves as dry as possible that means no sprinklers and plenty of space between tomatoes so wind can keep the leaves dry. Then, starting now, spray once a week treating top and bottom of all leaves. You can harvest the same day you spray. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Japanese Beetles

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Japanese beetles are emerging now and coming to a favorite rose bush near you soon. Japanese beetles are small, roughly the size of your little fingernail, with a green head and coppery colored wing covers with a series of white dots on the back of their abdomen. There is one generation per year. Adults are emerging now and will gather in large groups to feed on roses and other favorite plants. They'll be around for 4 to 6 weeks. The females will lay eggs in the soil and the grubs will feed on roots until next summer. If you only find a few go out early in the morning knock them into a pail of soapy water. If you see a lot, spray with a garden insecticide containing cyfluthrin or cyhalothrin. These will give 2 to 3 weeks of control. Sevin can be used but it is not as long lasting, usually only giving 1 to 2 weeks of control. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Walnut Caterpillars

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are now far enough into the summer that we are going to see both fall webworms and walnut caterpillars feeding on tree leaves. Walnut caterpillars will have two generations per year and tend to feed as a mass stripping leaves off of walnut and several other species of trees. The caterpillars will gather on the lower part of trees to molt and will leave ugly patches of empty hairy skins behind. If you find walnut caterpillars you can spray them with just about any garden insecticide including spinosad if your sprayer can reach high enough in the tree. Given the time of year I'd probably only worry about spraying smaller trees. Large trees are unlikely to be damaged. One trick is to check daily for them molting on the tree trunk and spray them then when they're all together and within easy reach! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.