

### Brown Honeylocust Trees

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've been receiving a lot of phone calls and questions about honeylocust trees dying. Okay, the honeylocust trees are not dying. Every year we have at least some mimosa webworm that feed on mimosa trees and honeylocust. This year we have a LOT of mimosa webworms. These caterpillars spin webbing around a bunch of leaves, like fall webworms, and then feed inside the safety of the webbing. While ugly and I've seen some trees with virtually no green leaves left, the damage isn't anything to worry about because we are so late in the season. Spraying for them now is a waste of time and money. If you have smaller trees or are concerned about the appearance of your trees then plan next year to spray in early to mid August before, or just as, you start seeing the webbing on your trees. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Planting Bulbs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm sure many gardeners have been seeing spring flowering bulbs for sale in a variety of stores that have garden supplies. Fall is the time to plant spring flowering bulbs. While bulbs are often found in stores already in August, I prefer to wait until October to plant them. You want to get them in the ground early enough so that they will get a root system started, but not so early that they develop a lot of above ground growth. Make sure that you plant them as deep as recommended. Planting too shallow causes the bulbs to multiply quickly forcing digging, separating and resetting. If you don't have directions use the rule of thumb that bulbs should be planted 2 to 3 times as deep as their width. It's also helpful to get a bulb fertilizer or a 5-10-5 and work that into the soil around your bulbs ahead of or at planting time. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Finish Up Lawn Seeding

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We are rapidly closing in on the end of the cool season turf grass seeding season. We can go back in later this fall with dormant seeding, but we need to get active seeding done by early October. While small grass plants are fairly cold hardy, small late planted grass plants don't have a good enough root system to keep from being heaved out of the soil by frost heaving. This then leads to desiccation of the crowns and the small plants die. If it is dry in the fall, keep watering to encourage the small plants to keep growing. The most common failure of new seedings is that the planting dries out and small plants don't have a lot of resiliency. You basically have about three weeks left to get your seeding done. Most years we feel that October 15<sup>th</sup> is the cut off date. After that, wait and do a dormant seeding. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Euonymus Scale

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Euonymous shrubs are a broadleaf evergreen family that are widely used in landscaping because they add green color to a bleak winter landscape. Unfortunately euonymus are subject to attack by an insect called euonymus scale. Scale insects quite honestly look like little hard specks on the leaves or twigs. This particular scale insect looks like white or gray flecks on the leaf surface. Scale insects basically don't move, they establish a hard shell over themselves and just sit there and suck sap out of the leaves. They can be treated in May and June with a variety of pesticides to control them. At this time of year the best thing to do is simply prune out heavily infested branches and immediately burn the pruned out branches or get them in the trash and hauled away from your yard. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Heading Grasses

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As I drive around town right now I see a lot of lawns that have all sorts of seed heads sticking up. With some of the drier weather that we had in recent weeks unirrigated lawns really slowed down on their growth, except for certain species of grasses that have been shooting up seed heads like crazy. These aren't seedheads from bluegrass or fescue. These are either weedy summer annual grasses or undesirable perennial grasses. Crabgrass, foxtail, goosegrass and barnyard grass have all been generating a lot of seed heads right now. There's not much you can do about them now as they'll die with the first good freezes. Perennial grasses are going to be things like windmill grass and tumblegrass. These will need a different approach. First though, let's identify what you have and go from there with a plan. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.