

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for April 12 - 18, 2020

### Time to Get Crabgrass Preventers Applied

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Okay lawnaholics, it's crunch time. If you have not applied your crabgrass preventer you need to get it done NOW. Then follow it up with irrigation IF rain doesn't fall within a week, to get the herbicide activated. Crabgrass will be germinating soon and you need to get your preventer activated ahead of germination for top efficacy. If you are using any preventer other than prodiamine or dithiopyr consult the label to see how soon you need to make a second application for season long control. Now, if you get delayed in applying your preventer I would suggest using dithiopyr, common name, Dimension. Dithiopyr has the unique ability to kill crabgrass that is up to the 2 to 3 leaf stage. Most crabgrass preventers are going to be ineffective once the crabgrass germinates and starts growing. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Henbit and Chickweed

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We're seeing a lot of plants in bloom in lawns, where I'm sure the homeowners would just as soon not have plants blooming. This time of year we generally are going to have 4 colors of blossoms. Yellow of course is dandelions. White is chickweed, blue is speedwell and purple is henbit. Henbit is usually the most highly visible one as the speedwell and chickweed blossoms are usually quite small. The inclination is to get right out there and spray these weeds but here's the thing to remember. These are all plants that started growing last fall and even if you spray and kill them now, they are already making seed that will sprout and grow next fall. You honestly might as well save your time and money and then wait until late October, not September, and apply your broadleaf herbicides then. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Fertilizing Fruit Trees

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When we plant fruit trees, well any tree really, we want them to grow fast and we are inclined to just pour the fertilizer to it. Yeah, well, please don't do that. The year that we plant a tree I really don't want to use any fertilizer. Fertilizers are generally salt based and salts can burn roots. The first year just don't do anything other than get the tree planted and established. After that you certainly can start to fertilize. Most of what the tree needs is nitrogen so you can use something like nitrate of soda, or calcium nitrate or ammonium sulfate. Years 1 and 2 after planting, just about at bloom time, use a half cup of these per tree, years 3 and 4 use a full cup and after that use 2 to 4 cups per tree. Evenly apply this around the tree under the drip line and either water in immediately or do so within a week if it doesn't rain. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Controlling Grass Around Peonies and Iris

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Peonies, iris and other broadleaf landscape plants that we have in our yards can sometimes be over run with grass. We do have two different chemicals, fluazifop and sethoxydim, that are selective for grass and harmless to broadleaf plants. They are very effective on annual warm season grasses like foxtail or crabgrass and can do a pretty good job on brome grass and bluegrass. They will knock back bermudagrass but rarely kill it outright. Brome grass and bluegrass are the biggest issue I have in my peonies because these are both spreading grasses. Both chemicals are ineffective against mature tall fescue but tall fescue is a bunchgrass and generally isn't a rapid invader of landscape beds. It may take a couple of applications to knock these back. Read and follow the label directions for best results! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Insects WILL Eat Toilet Paper

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Hopefully you weren't one of the people out there laying in a 6 to 12 month supply of toilet paper in recent weeks. But if you did, you need to be aware of something. There are insects that will feed on paper and in fact, one in particular is quite fond of toilet paper and that's the silverfish. Silverfish are odd looking little insects that readily feed on paper especially where there's high humidity. So for starters keep your toilet paper in it's original packaging and in a dry location. You don't want to store it on a floor against a wall and especially not in the basement. Higher humidity levels favor silverfish. If you did, umm, stock up a bit, you may want to go out and buy some tight sealing large plastic containers. You can even use plastic garbage containers and toss some mothballs in the bottom. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.