

Gardening with Chuck Programs for November 23 - 29, 2020

Dormant Oils, Use and Misuse

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There are several fruit trees that need dormant fungicide treatments in the late winter so homeowners go to the store and look for the word dormant and end up buying a dormant oil product. Dormant oils, sometimes called Volck Oil Spray or Dormant Season Insect Killer are high quality horticultural oils designed to kill insect and mite pests including scale insects. They are very effective at controlling these pests that overwinter on the bark of fruit trees. They have no residual activity for later on in the growing season nor will they control any insect that isn't on the plant being treated at the time of the treatment. If you have certain scale insects then certainly use a dormant oil spray this winter to control them. But if you need to control peach leaf curl then you need a fungicide labeled for that disease! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Real Christmas Trees

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you are one of the 25 to 30 million US households that puts up a real Christmas tree each year, then the next week or so is crunch time for you! We've all had that experience where we get the tree put up and by Christmas time it's shed as many needles as are still on the tree. The best way to avoid that is to buy as fresh a tree as possible and then keep the stand filled with water. There are numerous ways to check the freshness of a precut tree, call me if you need to know them. When you get it home, even if you cut it at a tree farm yourself, cut off a half inch of the bottom of the trunk and immediately get it into the stand and the cut end under water. For the first week or so check the water 2 or 3 times a day. Trees will typically take up a lot of water the first few days. Then continue to check it twice a day. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Have A Happy Thanksgiving

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One year ago, as we were preparing for Thanksgiving, we had no idea what was headed our way. Now we have no idea when we'll be moving out of this and if normal will ever seem normal again. Many of us are forgoing our traditional large Thanksgiving gatherings and staying home with those in our households. While many people may be thinking that this is a very thankless Thanksgiving I feel that it is far from that. If all we do is focus on what isn't happening it'll be very easy to slip into the abyss of negativity. We have plenty to be thankful for and we need to focus on the positivity of it all. We appear to be close to having vaccines available and that alone is something to be thankful for. From now through New Years we need to focus on the positive and be thankful in our hearts for all we have. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Thanksgiving Day - No Program

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent.

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Caring for Poinsettias

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There are roughly 35 million poinsettias that are sold in the US every holiday season. Many of them are badly mishandled and mismanaged once they leave the store. Poinsettias are sensitive to cold so have the car warmed up and if the outside temperature is below 50 degrees make sure the poinsettia plant is wrapped. Once you get it home place it somewhere that won't get cold drafts from doors or windows or hot drafts from a furnace vent. Check the potting soil daily and water when dry to the touch. If it wilts even a little it will likely drop all its leaves which will leave naked stems and the brightly colored bracts at the top. If the pot is wrapped in shiny foil make sure you punch holes in the foil and put the pot on a tray. Failure to drain off water will cause rot root and shorten the life of the plant. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.