

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for November 9 - 15, 2020

### Horseradish

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Horseradish is a plant in the mustard family just like wasabi by the way. Horseradish is native to Europe and probably came over here on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> ship after the Mayflower. It's a perennial that we harvest larger roots from and then grind them to produce the potent and pungent topping for food. We'll talk more about that tomorrow. But fall is a good time to plant horseradish. It is a perennial so you need to put it off to the side of your garden or near asparagus or rhubarb. Garden centers may have roots or crowns of horseradish - if not find someone who does have horseradish and ask for a couple of plants. All you need is a couple of root pieces about 5 inches long and as big around as a pencil. Plant these in the ground with the top of the root close to the surface and then prepare to clear your sinuses! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Processing Horseradish

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. After a hard freeze in the late fall is when you need to process horseradish. Large sized roots are dug for processing. Smaller pencil sized roots are replanted for future crops or to give away to others. Once the roots are washed and peeled, cut them into sections small enough to go into a blender or food processor along with a small amount of water and a couple of ice cubes. After running the processor to the desired fineness, vinegar or lemon juice is added to stop the process that makes horseradish strong. The sooner you add it the milder the horseradish will be. Use 2 to 3 T of vinegar per cup of horseradish sauce along with  $\frac{1}{2}$ t of salt. Since the kick of horseradish is odor based it is advisable that you do this outside with a little bit of breeze and when you open the lid keep your face turned away. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Prepare Now for the Early Garden

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The gardening season is just about gone for this year. Just a few more things that we can do out in that vegetable garden. But by late February or early March there's going to be a lot of gardeners with the gardening itch really really bad! One of the ways that we deal with early season gardening fever is to plant some peas. Forget potatoes, I'll try to have at least one row of peas in the ground by March 15<sup>th</sup>. But to get garden seed in the ground that early requires advance preparation, as in now! You need to till up your garden now and have it all leveled off so that even if we do get rain and snow over the winter, once that surface get's a little dried out come March, you can get in there and plant. If you wait until spring to till, and we have any kind of winter moisture, it will take a while to get dried down to till. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Knotweed Control

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Knotweed is a little plant that everyone probably knows by sight but not the name of. It's the weed that loves to grow in compacted soil along gravel driveways and dirt walk ways. It starts growing early in the year and is very green and soft but in the heat of summer becomes hard and stiff. You can use post-emerge sprays next spring and summer like Trimec or Weed-B-Gon. A better approach though is to use a pre-emerge weed control like the crabgrass preventers. However, most people are applying crabgrass preventers after the knotweed is already up and growing. If you want to use pre-emerge products, apply them now and water them in so they are active and ready to stop the knotweed when it germinates in late February. You'll still need to go back in at normal time to apply crabgrass control products. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Not All Hoes Are the Same

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Many people, even quite a few gardeners don't think much about the hoe they use in their garden. To many of them a hoe is a hoe is a hoe. Well, they are wrong! I recently searched a garden tools web site and came up with over three dozen different hoes. Beet hoes, cotton hoe, onion hoe, stirrup hoe scuffle hoe, the list is endless and even includes your basic garden hoe. If you haven't seen or used a scuffle hoe you need to look into that and I'm bringing all of this up because Christmas is coming and your gardener may need something, like a new hoe. Additionally, right here in Kansas, Munden, Kansas up near Belleville there is the Prohoe company that has an exquisite line of hoes that they make in Munden. These are quality hoes and are worth looking into. Go to [prohoe.com](http://prohoe.com) to look at their products! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.