

Gardening with Chuck Programs for September 7 - 13, 2020

No Program, Labor Day

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

I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Sweet Autumn Clematis

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There is a vining plant called Sweet Autumn Clematis. Right now it is just covered with little fragrant white flowers that have four petals like a cross or a plus sign. Pollinators love it, it really does smell sweet but it has a dark side. It freezes back to the ground every year and we have to cut it off at the ground. It can be aggressive and really overwhelm fences or anywhere it is growing. I honestly don't recommend planting it. But more importantly the sap of the plant has some very irritating characteristics. Depending on your sensitivity the sap can be annoying to the skin or even cause a blistering rash. Go out with a line trimmer or mower and it can cause burning of your eyes and mucus membranes. It can really hurt. Best thing to do is leave it alone until it freezes before trimming it back. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Forest Service Seedling Sales

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The Kansas Forest Service sells seedling trees for various purposes including windbreaks, wildlife habitat and conservation. There is a spring and a fall sales season - springtime is bare root trees which are cheaper and in the fall they are containerized seedlings which are a little more expensive.

Note that these are seedlings meaning that they are going to be 10 to 24 inches tall depending on the species. AND you have to order 25 of one species - there's no mix and match here to get up to 25. There's a great selection of deciduous trees and shrubs and a few evergreen trees as well.

The cost for the trees is \$55 for 25 seedlings. If you are wanting to plant a lot of trees and are patient, this is a great way to go. If you need some advice in how to lay out a windbreak or a conservation planting, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Ash Tree Leaf Diseases

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Once again it's September and once again many of our green ash trees have leaves drying up and falling off well before they should. This is that leaf disease we've had about every year for the past five years with a name too long for me to remember or pronounce. The leaves become infected much earlier in the year and now we see the results of that. We could spray with fungicides several times earlier in the year to prevent this but the question becomes of whether it's worth it. Let me suggest a radical plan. Emerald ash borers are coming and when they get here most ash trees will die. If your ash trees aren't huge, cut them down now and replace them with one of the red oaks or caddo sugar maple like Autumn Splendor Maple. The sooner you replace those ash, the sooner you'll have shade! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Vivipary and Remontant

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Pictures of two different unusual conditions came to my attention this past week. Neither is that rare but many people may not encounter them. The first was a tomato fruit that had seeds germinating from inside the fruit. This is a condition known as vivipary and it happens when normal seed dormancy factors in developing seeds don't kick in and the seeds just start growing. Nothing to worry about, just something that happens. The other item is when plants that normally just bloom in the spring, like lilac or flowering crab, up and bloom in the fall. This is known as remontant. Flower buds for next spring are formed in July and August. Sometimes the buds forget to stay dormant and break dormancy early. It doesn't mean the plant is dying, it just happens, some every year so just enjoy the blooms! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.