

## Honeydew

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Honeydew is a type of a melon, but it's also what we call a sticky substance that many leaf feeding insects deposit as they feed. If you've parked your car under a tree in the past and find all sorts of sticky droplets on your car the next day, then you've been exposed to honeydew. Aphids, leafhoppers and many other insects that suck the sap out of leaves are notorious for depositing honeydew. Different species of insects feed on different trees different times during the year causing concern. Anything under the tree can get covered with honeydew that often frequently starts growing mildew like fungi on it turning everything black. Some ant species even tend herds of these insects and collect the honeydew as a food source. Fortunately, while it's a mess, most of these insects do no damage to the trees. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Bagworms

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Bagworms are getting very active now and simply by the change in the color of the foliage of junipers I can see that there are a lot of them out there. Remember you are looking for very small bags, maybe only 1/4 inch long right now so you'll have to look very close and patiently to see them, but honestly, the color change in the foliage of junipers is very noticeable right now. While I don't worry about them on deciduous trees and shrubs, if you see the tiny bags there I'd spray them as well so that they don't move over to junipers after spraying. Virtually any lawn and garden insecticide will control them but the trick is to use a hose end sprayer to apply a lot of material so that you can soak the plants down to the point of the spray dripping off the foliage. You can find many different products that come in a hose end sprayer that require no mixing. Simply attach to the garden hose and spray! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Squash Bugs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Squash bugs, those gray shield shaped insects that destroy zucchini plants every summer, are getting active and treatment needs to start soon. Even if you aren't seeing any squash bugs you need to start treating as immatures are much easier to kill than the adults when they get that hard shell developed. Quite often gardeners wait until they see the swarming all over everything and by then it's too late. Right now we are in the first generation that has a fairly small population. But once those become adults they will mate and females will lay as many as 250 eggs over the period of several weeks meaning the second generation can be 200 times bigger. The real challenge is that sprays need to be directed to the undersides of the leaves which is where the immature squash bugs usually feed. I would also get out first thing in the morning to spray as they crawl under debris in the heat of the day to stay cool. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Sedge Control

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We often find grass like plants growing in our yard that are obviously something different. IF these grass like plants have a triangular stem, easily detected when rolled in your fingers, then you have something know as a sedge or yellow nutsedge or nutgrass. The term nutsedge or nutgrass comes from the many tiny tubers attached to the plant that stay in the soil to regrow if you pull the mother plant up. Sedges can be controlled with special chemicals but you need to get on that pretty soon. The best control is going to come from products containing the active ingredient halosulfuron. The products Hi-Yield Nutsedge and Horestail Control and a product known as Sedgehammer - love that name - have this active ingredient. Most other products labeled for sedge or nutgrass control will contain sulfentrazone which works but just not as well and retreatment will be likely be needed. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Grub Control

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm a firm believer that there are far more lawns treated for grubs every year than actually have a serious grub problem. Many grub control products are more of a grub preventer. We used to have to time our grub controls for late summer when the newly hatched grubs were still fairly shallow in the lawn soil so we could kill them with the short lived insecticides we had available. These products are still available and we can use them as rescue treatments. New products primarily contain imidacloprid which stays active in the lawn soil much longer and is very good at controlling small grubs before they even get started. In all honesty, many lawns, perhaps most lawns, don't need a grub treatment until we know there is a problem. If you've had grub issues in the past couple of years then certainly go ahead and treat. But if you've never had a grub problem, it's okay to skip a year. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.