

Apple Tree Care

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. By now you should have a pretty good idea of whether you have apples on your apple tree. So far I'm cautiously excited about the set on my apple tree. But this is also a crucial time to start treating your apple trees. We basically are going to be concerned about one disease and one insect pest for the next couple of months. If you have an apple cultivar that is susceptible to scab, you need to be using a fungicide to control that. The bigger concern for many though is the codling moth. This is the most common insect pest we find in our apples. Most of our fruit tree sprays or even good old malathion are very effective at controlling codling moth. You should start spraying anytime now and then spray about every two weeks. If it isn't raining you can probably do that every three weeks until near harvest. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Peach Tree Care

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you have peach trees in your yard or garden, you probably had no blooms or if you did, you could count them on one hand this spring. The February cold snap did them in right quickly. BUT, there is still work to do on your peach trees during the season. If you notice leaf deformation and puckering then that is peach leaf curl and you either didn't treat or you didn't get good coverage. Make a note to treat next winter. You don't have to worry about spraying for insect or disease issues on the fruit but you always need to worry about peach tree borers. Borers can just severe the life out of young peach tree trunks. Get a permethrin insecticide product with borers on the label (ask me for options) then apply two treatments about three weeks apart with the first one going on in early July. Mix up the spray and thoroughly spray the trunk from the ground up to the first branches to the point of runoff. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Moving Houseplants Outdoors

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Many of us move houseplants outside in the summer so they can take advantage of the extra warmth and brighter light conditions. These are usually tropical foliage plants so they can handle the heat but you need to keep in mind that most of these plants are not full sunlight plants when they are outside. They are often on the forest floor so they received diffused light. Look for a location that is protected from our blast furnace southwest summer winds and has dappled shade. If you can sink the pots in the ground it will reduce water loss. If you can't do this, keep in mind that they may likely need to be watered daily through hot spells. Take them off their saucers and just let the water run straight through. This is also a good time of year to repot and divide these plants and also give them a good shot of fertilizer. Follow the label directions on whatever fertilizer product you use and just water it in. 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. Few garden insect pests frustrate gardeners more than squash bugs. Part of the problem is that too many gardeners ignore the one or two early season squash bugs and then a few weeks later their plants are dying because they've been overwhelmed. Squash bugs overwinter as adults and are getting ready to move into fields soon and eggs will start being laid in mid to late June. If you see very many adult bugs around your squash now, treat with cyhalothrin or cyfluthrin which are available in many garden insect control products. You can also start looking at the undersides of leaves for egg clusters which are pretty distinctive. You won't get all the egg clusters but the more you can remove the better off you will be. In late June start alternating between spinosad and a synthetic pyrethroid on about an every 7 day basis using a thorough spray. Spinosad is good on juveniles and the pyrethroid on the adults. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

Little Barley

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Few lawn weeds have increased more rapidly in recent years, and caused more consternation for pet owners, than the weedy grass known as little barley. In mowed lawns this rascal is busy shooting seed heads from just a couple inches up and those mature seeds get into the pads of pets paws causing a world of hurt and misery. Sadly, there is little you can do right now as there are no selective control products and they plants will die in a few more weeks anyway. In the weeks ahead though do what you can to get your lawn thicker as little barley only sprouts and grows where sunlight can get to bare soil. In the late summer you have the choice of trying to get a thicker stand of lawn re-seeded OR controlling the little barley. There are a couple of the crabgrass preventers labeled for little barley but you have to apply it in early to mid August and then water it in to activate and then don't seed in the fall! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.