

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for November 1 - 7, 2021

### Still Time to Plant Spring Flowering Bulbs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Several years ago I found a great deal on tulips or daffodils, maybe both. But this was just before Christmas. I bought them up and between Christmas and New Year's I planted them. It was a warm December for sure. The next spring the bulbs came up and bloomed just fine, but maybe a little later than normal. I tell you this story to make the point that there is still time to plant those spring flowering bulbs. I still need to get some bought and get them in the ground. Later planted bulbs will come up later the first year but after that they'll cycle around and be right on time. After recent precipitation we'll need to likely wait for the soil to dry out a bit but then get them planted. Make sure it's the proper depth, mix a little bone meal into the soil at the bottom of the planting hole, and then wait for spring! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Leaf Management in the Lawn

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Most homeowners love the brilliant fall foliage colors. Most homeowners hate having to deal with the leaves that fall off their trees. Which brings up the question we invariably talk about more than once during the fall - do I have to rake the leaves off my yard. Well, no you don't and of course I'll throw a few exceptions in there. Leaves, even fairly heavy leaf layers can be tolerated. If you need to apply a weed control product or a fertilization, it is probably best if you would rake or at least mow and shred up, or bag up, those leaves so that the products can reach their intended target, especially liquid products. If you shred the leaves in place they will break down and add nutrients back to the soil. If you want to see your green grass then rake them up and put them on the garden or in the compost pile. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Late Season Fertilization

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Most of our lawn grasses are cool season grasses like fescue and bluegrass. They do the majority of their growth in the cooler times of the year, spring and fall. One of the mistakes that many homeowners make is to fertilize heavily in the spring of the year. What this accomplishes is to encourage lots of leaf growth which translates to lots of mowing. So if we back off of that spring fertilization and focus more on fertilizing in the fall the grass plants respond by growing a better root and crown system which results in better and earlier spring color without the excessive mowing of heavy spring fertilization. As long as the grass is still growing in the fall, you can fertilize and have a positive impact. Which means that in most years you can fertilize well into early December. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Fall Leaf Color

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. So far we've had pretty good fall leaf color this fall. Many people want to have some of this great foliage in their yards, so here's my abbreviated version of what to plant or not plant. While ash trees can have nice fall color, we have too many looming threats to their longevity. Red maples have gorgeous fall color but are hard to grow in our area. They are very subject to winter bark sunscald which causes trunk damage on small trees. The Caddo sugar maples like Legacy and Autumn Splendor are far better suited to our climate and also have good fall color. Ginkgo and sweet gum have nice fall color as well. I feel we need to be planting more red oak species which includes northern red, scarlet or Shumard oak. While fall color can be variable based on weather, these species are well suited to our climate. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Don't Push Those Outdoor Plants Too Far

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you have plants outdoors that you normally bring in, and you haven't yet, you probably really need to get them inside. It's cooling down and while many of our indoor/outdoor plants can handle some cool weather, pushing them too far into fall can result in frost damage or even more subtle, root rot caused by cold wet conditions. Mistakes that folks make when bringing in plants are many. Clean them up and wash them off before bringing them in to avoid bring in unwanted visitors! Once you bring them in put them in a bright light location. Remember that even a bright window is far less light than being outside. Lastly, avoid the urge to fertilize them when you bring them in. The drop in light intensity and the stimulation of fertilization can really throw a lot of house plants into additional stress. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.