

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for October 11 - 17, 2021

### Bringing Plants Inside for Winter

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Many of us have plants that we overwinter in our houses. It isn't going to be too long, in fact the time is already upon us, that we need to bring these inside. Before you bring them inside, take some time to try to reduce the risk of bringing insects in with the plant. Insects that may be in the soil can be forced out by immersing the entire pot into a tub of lukewarm water for about 15 minutes. You can also treat the soil with garden insecticides. Insects that may be on the foliage can often be removed with a strong stream of water from the garden hose. Once you move your plants inside place them in a temperature appropriate location that is also the brightest sunlight in the house. Water through the winter when the soil is dry to the touch. And to keep from stressing the plants, don't fertilize until next spring! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Storing Summer Bulbs

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We have many flowering perennials that are not winter hardy or marginally winter hardy. Included in these are elephant ears, cannas, dahlias, glads, tuberose and others. Elephant ears probably need to come in now but the rest of them we need to bring in after a good freeze has knocked down the foliage. Other than the aforementioned elephant ears, which are very cold sensitive, the others we don't have to be in too big of a rush, but we do want them out of the ground before it gets too horribly cold. After you dig them let them finish drying down and carefully remove all that dried up foliage from the corm, bulb, root, crown or whatever. Also knock off any dried dirt. Then pack them away preferably in a box filled with peat moss. Don't let them touch each other so if one rots it won't go to the others. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Get Rid of Those Ornamental Pears

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I started talking about it last year and I'm going to continue to do so. If you have ornamental pear trees, like Bradford pears, cut them down, remove them and replace them with something else. When many of these trees were planted they were fruitless. Over time that has changed. Give me a call and I can explain why that has happened. But these small fruits are eaten by wildlife and when the seeds pass through the critter, they grow like weeds. I can show you locations around our area that are becoming choked with volunteer pear trees and they are nasty. Cutting down these trees is the only solution. We have many very good flowering crabapple trees to use in place of these pears and they do not have the same problem. We have a great bulletin about flowering crabs, but first we have to get rid of the pears! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Don't Prune Spring Flowering Shrubs Now

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Do you know how many times I've seen it. It's a nice fall day, the homeowner needs to be doing something so they prune their lilac, or spirea, or forsythia. Then they are all proud of themselves until next spring when they have few if any blooms on those shrubs. All of those shrubs that bloom first thing in the spring have one thing in common. They developed those tiny little flower buds back in July and August and fall pruning took them right off! As for anything that normally blooms in the spring that has been blooming in recent weeks, like my lilacs, this is a fairly common thing to have happen. The buds were formed back in July and early August, but when we had those nice rains the first of September some of them forgot that they needed to stay dormant, developed and bloomed. No problem just enjoy them! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Planting Garlic and Shallots

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Once we get past the middle of October it is time to plant garlic and shallots. Both of these allium species need to be treated like wheat, plant it in October and harvest in June. Shallots you can basically treat like onions. Separate the bulbs into individual pieces and plant pointy end up about an inch or so deep. Garlic can be planted fairly compactly. I plant rows 12 inches apart and six inches apart in the row. Commercial growers will plant rows as close as 9 inches apart. Plant the garlic two inches deep, bottom of the furrow, with the pointy end up. Cover the rows and if you didn't apply nitrogen fertilizer prior to planting, then do it right after planting and again next spring when growth starts. If the ground is dry when you plant water so that the bulbs will get roots developed this fall. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.