

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for April 18 - 24, 2022

### Fruit Tree Spraying

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. So far my fruit trees have been dodging some of these frosty mornings. And of course we've got a few more weeks of risk yet. BUT, before long they'll be in full bloom and after the blooms drop, it'll be time to start spraying them...maybe. Because fruit trees are at a fairly low density across much of Kansas, we don't have a lot of insect or diseases on fruit trees we need to worry about. We have peach leaf curl and that treatment period was two weeks ago. Unless we have a problem develop for a couple years in a row, I honestly wouldn't worry about spraying anything except apple trees. We can have cedar apple rust and apple scab on susceptible trees and we will have some codling moth every year. So if you have apple trees start spraying once all the petals have dropped. Spray every two weeks with a fruit tree spray. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Fruit Tree Sprays and Rain

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When you spray your apple trees or any fruit tree or any fungicide or insecticide for that matter there is always a concern among home owners that it's going to rain the next day and wash everything away.

Well, it's a legitimate concern in both horticultural pursuits and agriculture! When spraying plants around the yard and garden, and especially fruit trees, I always like to use a spreader sticker to make sure we achieve good coverage and give a little bit of rain repellency. Once the sprays have had time to thoroughly dry, usually 6 to 12 hours, weather dependent, we expect that rains of less than an inch won't make much impact. Rains of 1 to 2 inches will reduce efficacy in half so shorten your re-treatment time by half. Also keep in mind that hard driving rains will wash off more so adjust as needed! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Ash/Lilac Borers

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Ash trees and lilac bushes share in a pest called the ash/lilac borer. This is nothing new and should not be confused with the devastating emerald ash borer that has not been detected in the Geary County area yet. Ash lilac borer is a moth that looks like a wasp. The adults lay eggs on large branches or trunks of ash trees and at the base of lilac stems. The borer hatches out, crawls a little ways and then burrows into the wood and feeds just below the bark severing vessels. This can cause lilac stems to suddenly die in late summer or even small ash trees to break off several feet up. The adults will be getting active soon. When spirea is in full bloom start treating your lilacs and ash trees with pyrethrin, something like Hi-Yield 38+. Spray the bases of the plants thoroughly from all sides and again 4 weeks later. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Moles

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Like it or not, moles are getting active. Moles eat insects and other soft bodied creatures in the soil. They don't eat plant roots but their tunneling leaves air voids that can cause plants to die as the roots need to be in soil! Grub controls may reduce their food supply but won't necessarily cause them to leave your lawn. Repellents and noise makers DO NOT WORK. There are only two options, put up with them, routinely stomping down their tunnels to eliminate air voids, or trapping them. There are several styles of traps from harpoon to chokers to scissor jaw traps. They will all work but have to be put in an active tunnel. Stomp down the tunnels and wait to see which ones they keep reopening. When you find that tunnel, stomp it shut and set the trap following the trap's instructions. Personally, I ignore them. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Wild Violets in the Lawn

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I love wild violets! I have nice stands of them in areas of my yard especially very shady areas. While they will grow in the sun, they seem to prefer at least some shade, in my experience. Depending on the year they can be in bloom anytime from March thru June. They are a perennial and they are native. They are tough survivors and I feel that they add some nice diversity to my yard. But some homeowners despise having those lovely little blossoms and the mounds of dark green leaves in their lawns. IF you are one of these people here's what you need to be aware of. Standard broadleaf control products like weed-b-gon and trimec aren't going to work. You've got to hit them hard with a lawn herbicide that controls triclopyr. There are several products out there, just read the labels! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.