

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for April 4 - 10, 2022

### Delayed Damage for the Wind Storm

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's been several months since we had that big wind storm. Most of that initial damage has been cleaned up and taken care of. But what you need to be alert for now, is the appearance of delayed damage. That storm came through when leaves had fallen off most of the trees so they had minimal weight and minimal wind resistance area. As the leaves start to develop on our trees in the coming weeks those limbs, branches and trees that appear to be fine will suddenly be exposed to new stresses in the weight of the trees and the wind effect on those leaves. Damage that was invisible, in the form of stress cracks or just structural damage may suddenly show up when the trees have the added stress of all that leaf weight. Suddenly on perfectly calm and clear mornings, a limb may come crashing down, so be alert! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Start Getting Crabgrass Preventers Applied

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you have a crabgrass preventer that contains dimension - dithiopyr, or barricade - prodiamine, you need to be applying these now. These products have true season long activity so you can apply them somewhat earlier and not have to worry about reapplying them in a couple of months. But they also take a little bit longer to become fully activated after application. All of our preventers, whether applied as a liquid or a granule, needs to be activated with rainfall or irrigation before it will work. We generally feel like somewhere between a quarter of an inch and a half inch of rain or irrigation will accomplish that. And a reminder as always, IF you are planning to do any reseeding this spring do NOT use a crabgrass preventer as the herbicide doesn't know the difference between crabgrass or fescue. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Tree Planting Rules, Part 1

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The failure of shade trees to get well established or perform as the owner expects often comes down to errors made at planting time. Today and tomorrow I'll address some of those common problems. Start by choosing the right tree for the right location. Sun and wind have an immense impact on how a tree performs. Start by understanding your site and then find a tree to fit it. Just before planting make sure you remove all wires, burlap, labels, cords, just anything that is around that tree. I've seen far too many trees strangled by these devices. If the tree comes out of a pot look for roots circling around the pot and then slice or cut down through those roots so you don't wind up with encircling roots that cause the tree to essentially strangle itself. Tomorrow, common mistakes made involving the planting hole itself. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Tree Planting Rules, Part 2

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The amount of bad information you can find on the internet about planting a tree is astounding. Dig the hole only as deep as the tree is in the pot or ball and burlap. BUT, dig the hole three times wider than the root ball. Don't dig it deeper and put fill dirt in. Plant it on solid ground. Don't add organic matter or peat moss to the fill soil. While it can help, it rarely is mixed properly and leads to issues. Use the soil you dug out as the fill soil. Also make sure that the soil is moist but not muddy when you plant. You want to be able to crumble up the fill soil when you put it back in the hole. If you want to know why you don't use something else to backfill, call me. Don't cut back branches unless they are damaged or rubbing on each other. Then water the tree thoroughly and once a week if it doesn't rain. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Watch for Redbud Blooms

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A couple of days ago I talked about it being time to apply crabgrass preventers IF you were using Dimension or Barricade. (Read the fine print on your product label to know for sure). If you are using a crabgrass preventer other than either of those then first of all don't apply them until the redbuds are in full bloom. Redbuds seem to be a good indicator of when we are getting close enough to crabgrass germination that it's time to get them applied. But just like Dimension or Barricade, any of these products need to be activated with rainfall or irrigation, quarter to a half inch. Once you have your preventer applied, and before you throw that bag away, take a few minutes to sit down and read the label. Virtually all of these older products will need a second application in six to eight weeks. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.