

## Gardening with Chuck Programs for August 1 - 7, 2022

### More Fall Garden Planting

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In August we can wrap up the planting period for some fall garden crops and we begin the planting season for other shorter season crops. For the first week to ten days or so we can still plant beets, snap beans (if we don't have an early frost) carrots, broccoli and cauliflower and just maybe cabbage if you hurry. Remember to keep these new transplants or newly seeded crops watered until they get up and going. Now, later in August, as in the last half, and on into the first half of September, we can plant lettuce, radishes, spinach and turnips. These are all cold hardy crops that can get up and get going and can produce even past the first light frosts, and with some floating row covers, even into November in some years. Again, pay attention to watering, watch the weeds and scout daily for insect pests! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Tired Looking Leaves

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Once we hit August, I tend to notice tired looking trees, well actually it's just the leaves that look tired.

Driving down the valleys those verdant green hillsides of May and June are now taking on a bit of an off color look to them; maybe grayish green or yellowish green or just not nearly as healthy of a green shade! If you go out and look at the under sides of those tree leaves you will see that they are often loaded with small sap sucking insects. Their feeding on the leaves can cause leaves to discolor or sometimes just a small spot of leaf tissue dies giving the leaf an off look from a distance. What's important to know is that there is absolutely nothing you need to worry about. This is common. It literally happens every year. The leaves are still carrying on photosynthesis and most trees have a full tank now! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Fall Webworm

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Fall webworms will soon show up. These are the fuzzy caterpillars that eat tree leaves and make those big webby messy masses at the ends of tree branches. In reality we are moving into the second generation of fall webworm, but the first generation is so minimal that nobody every notices it. But the second generation is hatching and they will gather in large groups on the ends of tree branches with lots of leaves, enclose those leaves in webbing so they can safely feed on those leaves. The damage they do to trees is minimal and doesn't affect the tree health. Their big impact is all aesthetic as those webby masses will stick around well into winter. Spraying insecticides is tough because of the webbing so please ignore them. However, people cutting these webs out of trees do more harm than the insects do! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Cicada Killers

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's the time of year when the giant fierce looking wasps known as cicada killers begin to be seen. Cicada killers are very large wasps, 1.5 inches long with a black body and yellow marks on the thorax and abdomen and the wings are reddish orange. They are a solitary species. The female finds cicadas and paralyzes them then struggles to get them back to her nest, a hole in the ground, where she places it in a brood chamber and lays one egg on every two cicadas as food for the young. Females rarely sting, but males will often swarm around where there are females to mate with. They will fly around you and chase other males. While they are big and look threatening, the males have no stinger. They are all bluff. Once females are through laying eggs they will feed on nectar and pollen until they die. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.

## Lilac Leaf Issues

This is Gardening with Chuck. I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It isn't uncommon for lilacs to be looking pretty tough right now from obvious powdery mildew or with just a lot of partially brown leaves or few leaves. Much of this is from *Cercospora* leaf spot. I've seen some stems in some bushes that are devoid of leaves. Like all plant disease issues this one only shows up if we have the right weather conditions which is wet and humid. The infection period was weeks ago so spraying now wouldn't do any good. Sanitation this fall would help in getting all the inoculum loaded dead leaves out from around the shrubs. You could also spray with a myclobutanil fungicide, there's several, on a regular basis next spring and early summer. But it may be a waste of time since if we don't have the right weather conditions we won't have the disease anyway! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Gardening with Chuck.