

Horticulture 2024 Newsletter

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1712 Claflin, 2021 Throckmorton Plant Science Center
Manhattan, KS 66506 (785) 532-6173

Video of the Week: Starting Plants from Seed

<https://kansashealthyyards.org/all-videos/video/growing-plants-from-seed>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 Kansas Turf and Ornamentals Field Day

August 1, 2024 at Rocky Ford Turfgrass Research Center in Manhattan, KS. See the Field Day Program here: <https://www.k-state.edu/turf/events/2024TurfFieldDayProgram.pdf>

GARDEN CALENDAR

Planting

Crop	Type of Planting	Timing
asparagus	crowns	mid-March to mid-April
beets	seed	late-March to early-April
bok choy	seed/transplant	late-March to early-April
broccoli	transplant	late-March to early-April
cabbage	transplant	late-March to early-April
carrots	seed	late-March to early-April
cauliflower	transplant	late-March to early-April
chicories	seed/transplant	late-March to early-April
collards	seed/transplant	late-March to early-April
kale	seed/transplant	mid-March
fennel	seed	mid-March to early-April
kohlrabi	seed	mid-March to early-April
lettuce	seed	mid-March to early-April
leeks	transplant	mid-March
mustard	seed	late-March to early-April
onion	sets/plants	mid-to late-March
parsnips	seed	mid-March to early-April
peas	seed	mid-March
potatoes	seed	mid-March to early-April
radish	seed	mid- to late-March
rhubarb	crowns	March to April
rutabaga	seed	mid- to late-March
spinach	seed	mid- to late-March
Swiss chard	seed/transplant	late-March to early-April
turnip	seed	mid- to late-March

Pruning

- [Ornamental Grasses](#)

- [Blackberries and Raspberries](#)
- [Deciduous trees](#)
- [Summer-Flowering/Non-Flowering Shrubs](#)

Scouting

- [Iris Leaf Spot](#)
- Apply fungicide for [Peach Leaf Curl](#) prior to bud swell
- [Pear Rust](#)

Turfgrass

Cool season grasses:

- [Control broadleaf weeds](#)
- [Aerate lawn now through April](#)

Warm season grasses

- [Control broadleaf weeds](#)

VEGETABLES

Asparagus



Asparagus is a perennial vegetable harvested in the spring. Begin with healthy, disease resistant crowns and plant from mid-March through mid-April. Crowns should be spaced 18 to 24 inches apart with the crown buds seven to eight inches below the soil surface. Once established, asparagus is fairly hardy to stress but it does require full sun and well-drained soil.

During year one, do not harvest asparagus spears. Each year after, harvest regularly before the spears reach 10 inches tall. Snap the spears at about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch above the soil surface. Stop harvesting after 6-7 weeks when the spears only reach the diameter of a pencil or smaller. Store the harvested spears in the refrigerator and use soon after harvest.



Asparagus should be fertilized in early spring and weed regularly to reduce competition.

TURF

Sustainable Lawn Management



Sustainable lawn management begins with understanding proper care. This includes mowing at the proper height and time, fertilizing and watering properly. Watering in the lawn and garden can account for half of outdoor residential water use. However, this amount can be reduced by following some simple practices.

- If you're establishing a new lawn, choose grass that requires less water such as warm-season or native grasses.
- Prepare the soil to allow water to absorb and not runoff.

- Use soil moisture sensors to detect when water is needed.
- Water deeply and infrequently.
- Adjust watering based on the weather.
- Mow tall to improve drought resistance.

Read more about sustainable lawn management through efficient watering by visiting this publication from the turf specialists at K-State Research and Extension.

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2068.pdf>

PERMACULTURE

Hügelkultur



Originating from Germany, hügelkultur, or “hill culture” is a time-tested strategy for growing annuals and perennials. This permaculture practice turns organic landscape waste into a raised bed. If done correctly, the mound will be a low-maintenance, self-composting addition to the garden.

Click below to learn more about establishing a Hügelkultur.

<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/horticulture-resource-center/horticulture-newsletter/documents/2024/march2024/Hugelkultur%20template.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS

Right Plant in the Right Place

If you're starting new plants in your lawn and garden this spring think ahead. Choosing the right plant to fill voids in the landscape is essential success.

Know the water needs of the plant and the water availability of your landscape. Understand the growth characteristics of the plant including height and spread at maturity, rate of growth, thorns/fruiting habit, etc. Determine if those qualities will fit with the space you have available. A small, young tree may look nice planted in front of your home, but as it grows will it block your view out the window? Will this still be a desirable location? Likewise, a thorny bush planted next to a sidewalk may be fine when the shrub is small, but as it grows and approaches the sidewalk it may become a hazard requiring regular pruning to contain it.



As you shop for new additions to the landscape keep these points in mind. Informed decisions early in the landscaping process will save you time and money.

QUESTION of the WEEK



“Why is the bark on one side of my apple trees peeling away from the tree?”

This is likely a result of winter sunscald which affects thin-barked trees and typically shows up during late winter. When we experience warm winter days, the sun heats up the tree, usually on the south or southwest side of the trunk. This causes the cells on that side of the tree to come out of dormancy and become active. If the temperature later drops to freezing, it can damage or kill those plant cells causing the tissue to become sunken. The damaged bark will begin to crack and fall away over time.



The best solution to this problem is prevention. A variety of wraps are available to protect the tree trunk. Trees that show symptoms of damage should be monitored for pests. Provide proper care to prevent further stress.

<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/horticulture-resource-center/common-pest-problems/documents/Sunscald%20on%20Trees.pdf>

COMING UP NEXT WEEK...

Calling all Educators! Next week our school garden feature returns with practical tips for teachers. It's also time to learn from our fellow Kansas gardeners in the garden spotlight. Plus, timely gardening tips. See you next week!

Contributors:

Cynthia Domenghini, Instructor and Horticulture Extension Specialist
Kansas Garden Guide
Kansas Healthy Yards
K-State Turfgrass Blog
Midwest Permaculture

Division of Horticulture
1712 Claflin, 2021 Throckmorton
Manhattan, KS 66506
(785) 532-6173

For questions or further information, contact: cdom@ksu.edu OR cdipman@ksu.edu
This newsletter is also available on the World Wide Web at:
<http://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/newsletters/index.html>

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