

# Horticulture 2024 Newsletter

## No. 31 August 5, 2024

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### K-State Garden Hour



#### Establishing a More Environmentally Sustainable Lawn

Wednesday, August 7th 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Whether you are interested in reducing your water bill or supporting pollinators, there are alternatives to growing and maintaining typical turfgrass lawns. Sharon Ashworth, Douglas County Horticulture Agent, will discuss reducing the water, herbicides, and fertilizers used on fescue lawns and replacing fescue turfgrass with low-growing alternatives that support our pollinators.



Register Here!



Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:  
[ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour](https://ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour)



#### VIDEO OF THE WEEK: [When to Harvest Eggplant](#)



Learn about different eggplant varieties and when it's the best time to harvest.

## GARDEN TO-DO

- Plan/Plant fall salad garden.
- Divide iris if needed.
- Do not fertilize the warm-season turfgrasses, buffalograss, zoysiagrass and bermudagrass, past August 15. Doing so may increase the chances for winter damage.
- Check mulch layers and add additional material if needed.

## VEGETABLES

### Still Time for Salad Garden

Radishes, spinach, turnips, mustard, lettuce and other leafy greens can be planted from mid-August to early September extending the harvest into fall. If planting in-ground, plant seeds slightly deeper than recommended for spring. This will give seeds access to slightly cooler soil that retains more moisture. Provide regular water until seeds germinate. Sprinkle a light layer of compost over the top of the seeds to prevent the soil from forming a crust.



An alternative way to grow a salad garden this fall is using a bag of potting media. Lay the bag flat and cut it open, on the long side, exposing the media as shown in the photo. Plant the seeds as recommended on the packet. Fertilizer may be necessary depending on the type of media used. Once planted, the salad garden bag should not be moved or the seeds will be displaced. Prior to planting, place the bag on a pallet or similar support, making it possible to move the planting as

needed.

One benefit of growing fall greens in a potting media bag is the temperature of the media can be regulated by relocating the bag. This is particularly helpful during August and September when the heat can hinder germination and negatively affect flavor of certain cole crops. Due to the limited amount of soil, monitoring moisture is essential to crop success.



## FRUIT

### Fertilize Strawberries



Strawberries should be fertilized from now through mid-August to support fruit development next spring. Sunlight and warm temperatures from June through August promote runners and daughter plant development. As the daylight hours decrease and temperature begins lowering into September and October, fruit buds start to develop which is why this is the time to fertilize.

Nitrogen can be applied as part of a complete fertilizer (such as 12-12-12) at a rate of  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 pound per 25 row feet. Alternatively, urea (46-0-0) can be applied at a rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  pound per 25 row feet. Apply  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of water after fertilizing to dissolve and move the nitrogen into the soil.

## PESTS



*Description:* Mimosa webworm larvae are about one-inch long and light green to gray/brown with five longitudinal stripes on the body. The adult moths are silver-grey and have small black spots on the wings.

*Life Cycle:* There are two generations of Mimosa webworm each year. The first-generation moths emerge in early June and lay eggs on the honeylocust leaves. Caterpillars

can be seen from mid-June through early July. The second generation of moths appear in mid to late July to lay another round of eggs. The larvae from this generation feed from early to late August.

*Damage:* Though Mimosa webworms can defoliate trees, healthy, established trees tend not to suffer greatly. Damage is primarily aesthetic as the larvae create tight webs of silk around the leaflets. Foliage in the webs turns brown and is unsightly. Additionally, the silk hanging from the trees as the larvae lower to the ground is a nuisance.

*Control:* Chemical control is not typically necessary. Treatment is ineffective if applied this time of year when the webs and brown leaves are already present.

For more information about Mimosa webworm visit: [KSRE Publication Mimosa Webworm](#)



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Roundup-Branded Herbicides: Active Ingredient Changes



For decades, herbicide products sold under the trade name *Roundup* contained the active ingredient glyphosate. Glyphosate-containing products are labeled for non-selective control of broadleaf and grassy weeds in landscape situations. Now, many *Roundup*-branded herbicides available to consumers no longer contain the active ingredient glyphosate. Glyphosate has been replaced with active ingredients, such as diquat, fluazifop, imazapic and triclopyr. Trade names for these products include: *Roundup* Extended Control, *Roundup* Weed and Grass Killer – Exclusive Formula, and *Roundup* Dual Action.

These active ingredient changes have created confusion for consumers regarding where and when these products can be applied. Undesirable injury may occur if these active ingredients are inadvertently applied to landscape beds or vegetable gardens, as they cannot be used in the same manner as products containing glyphosate. It is important to note that these products control different weed species and have different application rates than previous products. This illustrates why reading and reviewing the label of any purchased herbicide is extremely important.

Moving forward, consumers and applicators must be aware of the active ingredients in the *Roundup* products they purchase, as they may change. Be sure to carefully read and follow the labels. For more information about this topic, consult the Extension publication [“UPDATE ON ROUND-UP BRANDED HERBICIDES FOR CONSUMERS”](#) from the University of Tennessee.

*Frannie Miller*  
Pesticide Safety and IPM Coordinator

### 13- And 17-Year Periodical Cicada Emergence



We were recently contacted by a Kansas resident asking where all the cicadas are. While there are plenty of cicadas present, it's not the overwhelming quantity predicted by the media who reported an emergence of two periodical cicada broods this summer.

Periodical cicadas are insects with a 13- or 17-year life cycle depending on geography. Seventeen-year life cycles are affiliated with the northern and western regions of the United States whereas 13-year life cycles are associated with the southern regions of the United States. Neither of these broods were slated to emerge in Kansas this year which is why the cicada count you are experiencing is likely pretty similar to previous years.

Periodical cicadas have the longest life cycle of any insect, spending almost all their lives as nymphs underground that feed on the xylem (water conducting tissues) of plant roots. When the time is right, millions of periodical cicada nymphs emerge from the soil. Each periodical cicada emergence is referred to as a brood.

Periodical cicada nymphs undergo five instars (stages between each molt). The early instars live in the soil feeding on the xylem tissue of plant roots for 13 or 17 years. From April to June, fifth instar nymphs emerge from the soil and crawl onto tree trunks, posts or other objects. The nymphs remain stationary, and then transition into adults that emerge from the hardened exoskeleton of the nymph. Adults are active for four to six weeks during which time mating and subsequent egg-laying occur. Six to ten weeks after eggs are laid, nymphs emerge, enter the soil and begin feeding on plant roots starting the next generation. They will remain in the soil for the next 13 or 17 years.



The next brood of periodical cicada to emerge in Kansas will be the 17-year cicada, scheduled to emerge in 2032.

*Raymond Cloyd*

*Horticultural Entomology/Integrated Pest Management Extension Specialist*

## MENTAL HEALTH MONDAY

### The Art of Bonsai



Bonsai is a method of growing a plant, traditionally a tree, in miniature form by restricting growth through selective pruning. Growing a bonsai enlists skills of patience and attention to detail, but journeying through life with a manicured plant can be very rewarding.

Read more: KSRE Publication [The Art of Bonsai](#)

## QUESTION of the WEEK



Any idea what is going on with these coneflower blooms?



This growth is called “Aster Yellows”. It is a disease which can infect a wide range of ornamentals, weeds and even some vegetables, but the aster family is a common host. The disease is spread by sucking insects that feed on the plant and then travel to various food sources. The disease can cause deformed blooms, chlorotic leaf tissue between veins, mottled leaves and flowers as well as stunted or irregular growth. In the photo on the right, you can see deformed blooms as well as discolored leaf tissue indicating aster yellows is the cause.



Another problem that can cause deformed blooms is the coneflower rosette mite. Symptoms of this problem can look similar to aster yellows, though aster yellows affects the entire plant. Rosette mite is focused on the bloom. The mites live and feed inside the developing bud depleting it of nutrients.

For either one of these issues, the best treatment is to remove and destroy the infected plant material. For aster yellows it is especially important that even the root system is destroyed to prevent the spread to other hosts.

### Contributors:

Cynthia Domenghini, Instructor and Horticulture Extension Specialist

Frannie Miller, Pesticide Safety and IPM Coordinator

Raymond Cloyd, Horticultural Entomology/Integrated Pest Management Extension Specialist

Division of Horticulture  
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For questions or further information, contact your local extension agency.

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