

Horticulture 2024 Newsletter

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1712 Claflin, 2021 Throckmorton Plant Science Center
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Success with Cacti and Succulents

Wednesday, July 3rd 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Succulents and Cacti have been popular as houseplants for decades but did you know they also make great landscape plants. Join Calla Edwards, Butler County Horticulture Extension Agent, to learn how to care for your indoor and outdoor succulents along with some cool plants you can try around your home.



Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



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2024 Kansas Turf and Ornamentals Field Day

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

VIDEO OF THE WEEK: **Water Wise Ways to Irrigate Trees**

Trees can benefit from water during times of drought. An easy way to water trees is by installing a drip irrigation line. This segment covers the basics of installing your own system.



GARDEN TO-DO

- Check mower blade for sharpness and sharpen if necessary.
- Fertilize annual flowers about every 3 to 4 weeks to maintain bloom.
- Check for bagworms even if they were sprayed at the middle of June to see if a respray is needed.

VEGETABLES

Harvesting Garlic



Late June through early July is garlic harvest time. When about half of the leaves have turned yellow the bulbs can be dug up. Use a broad-fork to loosen the soil and gently remove the bulbs using care to avoid bruising them. Leave the roots and leaves intact for the curing process. Tie the leaves together so the garlic is in bundles of ten and hang them in a warm, dry, well-ventilated area for several weeks. Cut the stems and roots to 1/2-inch from the bulb after curing. Remove the

outer layer of skin if the bulbs are dirty, but be careful not to expose the cloves. Store the bulbs in a cool, dry location and use them within the year.

If the bulbs are dug too late the skins may start splitting and the cloves will be exposed to the soil. If harvested too early the cloves will not be fully developed.

Vegetables Produce Flowers but not Fruit



There are several reasons why healthy vegetable crops produce flowers and no fruit. Most squash, cucumbers and melons have separate male and female flowers on each plant. Usually, male flowers appear first in the season. Female flowers have a swollen area beneath the petals while male flowers have a narrow base. Check your plants to see if both flower types are present. If male and female flowers are present, observe the area for pollinators. If few to no pollinators are present, vegetables with separate male and female flowers may not produce fruit.

You can pollinate the flowers by transferring pollen from a male flower to the stigma of the female flower using a paintbrush. Mark that flower and notice if it is the only one that sets fruit. If this is the case the problem is likely a lack of pollinators.

Pollinator activity can be inhibited by the weather. Pollinators are less active on cold and rainy days. The use of insecticides can also harm pollinators. If using herbicides, apply them in the evening when the flowers have closed for the day.

High temperatures can cause some vegetable plants to drop their blossoms prematurely. Tomatoes will stop producing fruit in temperatures above 95 degrees F. Production will resume once the temperature decreases. Ensure plants receive adequate water during this time. Though nitrogen can promote vegetative growth, too much can inhibit flower and fruit production. Follow recommended rates for fertilizer applications.



TURF

Bermudagrass Control



Bermudagrass can make a nice lawn if you don't mind the invasive nature and short growing season, though many homeowners do not care for these qualities. Warm-season grasses, such as bermudagrass, zoysiagrass and buffalograss, turn green later than cool-season grasses, such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. They also go dormant earlier in the fall. Bermudagrass growing in a cool-season lawn remains brown during much of the spring and fall while the tall fescue is green. Bermuda is much more drought tolerant and heat

resistant than cool-season grasses allowing it to take over cool-season lawns during the summer, especially if it is growing in full sun.

Some homeowners tolerate non-uniform lawns. Those who are looking for a perfectly manicured, uniform lawn will likely have to rely on chemical treatments to eradicate weeds and rogue grass varieties. If you're looking for the most effective way to control bermudagrass encroaching on a cool-season lawn, research has shown the use of glyphosate (2% solution, applied twice, one month apart) can work. One downside of using this treatment is glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide which means it will kill everything it contacts, including the desired turfgrass. Once the herbicide treatment is complete, the area can be re-seeded with the preferred grass species.

Glyphosate works best if the bermudagrass is growing well as this will allow it to take up more chemical through the roots. Apply the herbicide around the middle of July. Wait two weeks; mow as low as possible and remove the clippings. Wait another two weeks and spray again with glyphosate if any green remains. After another two weeks you can reseed.

Follow all label instructions and read warnings for safe handling.

PESTS

Carpenter Bees



Description: Carpenter bees resemble honey bees however; the abdomen of the honey bee is covered in hairs while the carpenter bee abdomen is smooth and shiny. Female carpenter bees have a black face and a stinger, though they tend not to sting unless provoked. Males have a white face and no stinger.

Life Cycle: The life of a carpenter bee lasts one year. Adults overwinter in tunnels they

bore into wooden structures. In late spring adults emerge to mate and lay eggs. Female carpenter bees make "bee bread" by combining pollen with nectar. The bee bread is inserted in one of the tunnels and females lay an egg on top of it. That section of the tunnel is sealed and the process is repeated six to ten more times. Larvae hatch from the eggs and reach maturity in five to six weeks. During late summer/early fall the mature bees emerge from the tunnels to eat for a short time before overwintering.

Damage: Carpenter bees are reliable pollinators but can be very destructive. Their tunnels are about ½-inch in diameter and five to six inches long through wooden decks, awnings and siding. The secondary damage can be even more destructive as woodpeckers peck gaping holes in the wood in search of the larvae.

Control: Carpenter bees tend to prefer soft, unpainted or weathered wood at least a couple of inches thick. Insecticides can be used to treat openings. Sevin can be applied inside the tunnels as a spray or dust. Apply on a cool night when the bees are more likely to be inside their tunnels. Treatment will need to be reapplied after one to two

weeks. Carpenter bee traps can be effective for smaller populations, but to control larger populations many traps will be required for any control.

MENTAL HEALTH MONDAY

Try Something New: Growing Carnivorous Plants



Though not quite the excitement of the dramatized man-eating plants some imagine, carnivorous plants are still an intriguing addition to the garden. The specialized care including soil and water requirements make this a slightly challenging, yet accessible, project for gardeners looking for a new gardening adventure.

Read more: KSRE Publication [Growing Carnivorous Plants](#)

QUESTION of the WEEK



What are these white, fluffy things on my tree?

I was on a walk through my neighborhood and saw these white things on a tree. Do you know what they are?

I'll be honest. No. I didn't know what they were. But with some help from K-State Entomology (and of course the Google), I was able to get an ID on this intriguing sample. This is the butternut woollyworm (*Eriocampa juglandis*), which is a sawfly larvae. The larvae secrete a white fluffy substance and feed on their host in groups making their appearance quite unusual. When full-size, the butternut woollyworm can devour entire leaflets leaving only the veins and midribs behind. The primary host is black walnut, butternut and hickory, but trees typically recover from the short-term damage.



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<http://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/newsletters/index.html>

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