

# Horticulture 2024 Newsletter No. 23 June 10, 2024

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Riley County Master Gardener 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour



#### GARDENS ON THE TOUR

Kitra Cooper .....	302 S. Manhattan Ave.
Tim Lindemuth .....	500 Denison Ave.
Barbara & Ron Meitler .....	1736 Westbank Way
Susan & Kim Nelson .....	3001 Pinewood Circle
Doris Proudfoot .....	1739 Fairchild Ave.
K-State Gardens .....	1500 Denison Ave.
Manhattan Community Gardens .....	703 S 9th St.
.....	1435 Collins Lane

Tickets not required. Suggested \$10 donation. Proceeds benefit Kansas State University Gardens. For more information call 785-537-6350.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider. K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to physical, vision or hearing disability or a dietary restriction contact Gregg Eyston at 785-537-6350. <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/master-gardener/>

**K-STATE** | Master Gardener  
Research and Extension | Riley County

### 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:

K-State Garden Hour: [Growing Cut Flowers for the Home and Farmers Market](#)



## GARDEN TO-DO

- Turn compost pile after it cools
- Deadhead flowers: KSRE Publication [Deadheading Flowers](#)
- Remove flower stalks from peonies and iris
- Fertilize warm-season lawns such as zoysia, bermuda and buffalo
- Monitor plants regularly for signs of pests

## TURF

### Brown Patch on Tall Fescue

As summer weather sets, we are experiencing warmer nights and more humidity. These conditions extend the amount of time grass blades stay wet making the lawn more susceptible to the disease, brown patch.



Brown patch is primarily a leaf pathogen, but with a severe outbreak, the fungus can spread down into the crown and cause plant death. However, depending on the weather, typically the turfgrass recovers within two to three weeks.

Symptoms can be similar to those of drought, but look closer at the grass plants around the edge of the symptomatic area. If you notice tan spots with a dark halo similar to the photo here you likely have brown patch.

Brown patch persists in the soil. It cannot be eliminated from a lawn, but is also not carried from one lawn to another. You can, however, provide proper care to reduce your lawn's susceptibility to brown patch.

- Water in the early morning rather than the evening and only as needed. This decreases the number of hours the grass blades stay wet.
- Fertilize according to recommendations for your lawn. Don't fertilize when brown patch is active.
- When seeding, follow recommended rates.
- Grass growing beneath trees does not dry as quickly. Use a mulch ring around trees so grass isn't growing beneath the canopy.



Fungicides can be effective to prevent brown patch though the most commonly used products are expensive and typically only available in large quantities. Preventative fungicides are recommended if you want a blemish-free lawn, beginning in mid-June through August, but this does get expensive.

## FRUIT

### Fruit Reminders

For the best harvest this year here is some fruit tree maintenance to complete.

- Thin fruit on apple and peach trees. Fruit should be 6-8 inches apart.
- Remove suckers from the base of fruit trees and grape vines.
- Water as needed. During hot weather, 1-inch of water per week is the recommendation.
- Comb (position) grapevine shoots to prevent tangling and promote more uniform sun exposure.
- Follow disease and pest management protocol. For more information about fruit sprays see our KSRE Publication: [Spray Guide for Growing Stone Fruit at Home](#).



Suckers at Base of Pear Tree

## VEGETABLES

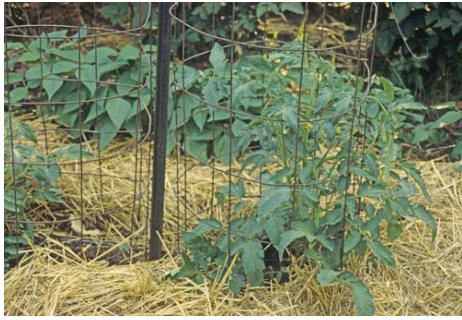
### New Potatoes



occasionally for signs of rotting.

New potatoes are harvested about 6-8 weeks after planting while they are still small and immature. Gently remove the soil from the base of the plant to check the size. When the potatoes reach the size of a walnut, carefully dig the entire plant without damaging the tubers. Allow them to dry, out of the sun, for a day or more to toughen the skin. Next, move the potatoes to a cold (below 40 degrees F), dark location for storage. Check on the potatoes

## Fertilizing Tomatoes



Too much nitrogen for tomato plants may result in vigorous plant growth without much fruit. Plants should be side-dressed with nitrogen three times during the growing season.

The first application should be applied one to two weeks prior to fruit ripening. Two weeks after ripening, it's time for the second application. The third round of fertilizer should be applied one month after the second. Basically, there should be one month of time between each application.

Common sources of nitrogen-only fertilizers include nitrate of soda, urea and ammonium sulfate. Blood meal contains primarily nitrogen but has other elements as well.

Apply one of the following fertilizers at the rate provided:

- Nitrate of soda (16-0-0): 2/3-pound (1.5 cups) fertilizer per 30 feet of row
- Blood meal (12-1.5-.6): 14 ounces (1.75 cups) fertilizer per 30 feet of row
- Urea (46-0-0): 4 ounces (1/2 cup) fertilizer per 30 feet of row
- Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0): 0.5 pounds (1 cup) fertilizer per 30 feet of row

Alternatively, lawn fertilizer, free of weed killer/preventer, can be used at a rate of 1/3 pound (3/4 cup) fertilizer per 30 feet of row. Choose a fertilizer that is about 30% nitrogen (the first number in the set of three).

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Look for Bagworms NOW!

Bagworms are showing up. Though right now they are small and hard to see they are also much easier to control. Bagworms overwinter as eggs inside the dead female's bag. Larvae hatch and emerge from the bags mid to late-May in Kansas. The young larvae begin feeding on their host plants right away. It's recommended to wait to spray for bagworms until mid-June to ensure most of the eggs have hatched.



Young bagworms look just like the adult version only much smaller. If you see empty bags on your trees/shrubs, that is evidence of bagworms from the previous year and there are likely young bagworms on the plant this year as well.

Insecticides commonly used for controlling bagworms include:

- Acephate (Orthene) Permethrin (38 Plus Turf, Termite & Ornamental Insect Spray; Eight Vegetable, Fruit & Flower Concentrate; Garden and Farm Insect Control)

- Bifenthrin (Bug Blaster II, Bug-B-Gon Max Lawn and Garden Insect Killer)
- Lambda-cyhalothrin (Spectracide Triazicide, Bonide Caterpillar Killer)
- Spinosad (Conserve; Natural Guard Spinosad; and Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew). *Spinosad is a very effective organic control for bagworms.*

Thorough coverage of the plant material is essential for good control of bagworms regardless of which product you choose.

### Slime Molds



Slime mold is not truly a mold but a member of the Protista family. This single-celled organism is commonly found on organic matter such as bark mulch, turfgrass, strawbales, even tree trunks. It resembles a fungus and is often mistakenly identified as such. Colors of slime mold vary including orange, brown, red, yellow and white. When the slime mold dries out it creates spores that are gray, white or purple. The spores break apart and disperse into the air in search of a new

growing environment. Slime mold patches can be small, 4-inches across, up to one foot in diameter.

Though unsightly, slime mold is not a real threat to your plants. It feeds on bacteria and fungi within the organic matter. On turfgrass slime mold can block the sunlight from the blades of grass and inhibit photosynthesis. Consequently, the leaf blades may turn yellowish in color. Chemical control is not recommended for eliminating slime mold but changing the environmental conditions can be effective.

Since slime mold grows best in warm, wet conditions, allow the area to dry out, if possible, by reducing irrigation. Patches of slime mold can also be scooped off the host and discarded. Areas of lawn covered in slime mold can be mowed and the clippings bagged and disposed.

### Effects of too much Rain



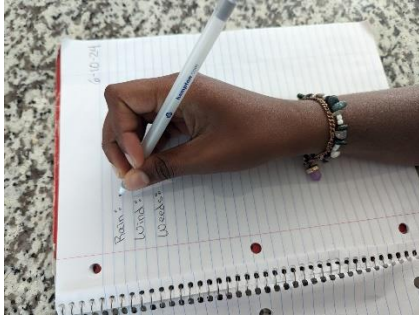
After multiple heavy rains across many parts of Kansas, gardeners are likely to assume watering won't be needed for quite some time. However, watering may be needed much sooner than you expect.

Excessive rain can drive oxygen out of the soil and drown the roots. As the weather gets hotter and drier the plants with damaged root systems may be poorly suited to take in water and shows symptoms of drought. Monitor your plants for signs of wilting and leaf scorching and water as needed.

Usually, supplemental water is needed once per week depending on the weather. Plants should be watered deeply and soil should be moist but not waterlogged.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN CORNER

### Journaling



If you've been gardening any amount of time, you've likely heard recommendations to maintain a garden journal. When gardening with a community of people, journaling is even more important.

Read more at KSRE Publication: [Community Garden Journaling](#)

## QUESTION of the WEEK



### Tomato Trouble

*Why are my tomatoes wilting?*

There are many reasons you may see your tomatoes wilting. Some are serious, others will self-correct. Look closely at the leaves for signs of fungus such as: brown or black spots/lesions which can contribute to wilting. Leaf roll can also occur when there are sudden changes in the weather, after cultivating the soil heavily or after a heavy rainstorm. It is the plant's response to environmental stress. To prevent this, keep the soil evenly moist, as much as possible, and avoid damaging roots while cultivating.



Read more about common tomato problems in our KSRE publication: [Tomatoes](#)

### Contributors:

Cynthia Domenghini, Instructor and Horticulture Extension Specialist  
K-State Plant Pathology  
K-State Turf and Landscape Blog  
Kansas Garden Guide

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

For questions or further information, contact: [cdom@ksu.edu](mailto:cdom@ksu.edu) OR [cdipman@ksu.edu](mailto:cdipman@ksu.edu)  
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