

Horticulture 2024 Newsletter

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1712 Claflin, 2021 Throckmorton Plant Science Center
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Video of the Week: [Buffalograss: Male and Female Plants](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you a gardener? Do you know a gardener?

If so, email Cynthia to be featured in an upcoming newsletter (cdom@ksu.edu).

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>

GARDEN CALENDAR

It is safe to plant all warm-season crops!

FRUIT

Newly Planted Strawberries



During the first year, strawberries rely on adequate soil moisture for survival, root development and formation of runners and fruit buds. Provide about one-inch of water per week during the growing season and up to two-inches per week in July and August.

Remove blossoms off newly planted spring-bearing plants. This will direct energy to plant development. Plants that are allowed to fruit during the first year will still develop runners, but they will not be as strong which will negatively impact next year's fruit. Focusing on developing runners during the first year is necessary to produce a large harvest in the future.

Remove blossoms from newly planted everbearing plants during the first four to six weeks after planting. This will promote root growth.

PESTS

Colorado Potato Beetle



Description: Adult beetles are about 3/8-inch long with yellow/cream to orange bodies with black stripes on the wings. Their bodies are oval-shaped. Larvae are dark-red with two rows of black dots on the sides of their bodies. Mature larvae are about 1/2-inch long.

Life Cycle: Adults overwinter in the soil and emerge in May. After feeding for up to ten days, they mate and females lay eggs in clusters of up to 40 yellow-orange eggs on the bottom of potato leaves. In three to ten days, larvae emerge and feed on the leaves. After several weeks, larvae burrow into the soil and pupate. The life cycle is complete in about 21 days and there can be three generations per year.

Damage: Adult beetles and larvae feed on the leaves of potato, tomato, eggplant, pepper, tobacco and other solanaceous plants causing damage and stunting. Large infestations can completely defoliate plants. Mature larvae consume the most and cause the greatest damage. Yield can be affected depending on the timing and extent of leaf damage.

Control: Begin scouting for beetles weekly early in the season. Look for egg clusters under the leaves. Eradicate weeds near potato plants and practice crop rotation. Select early-maturing varieties of potatoes. Remove larvae and adults by hand and place in a container of soapy water. Destroy egg clusters as well. Beneficial insects such as lacewings, ladybird beetles, predatory stink bugs, spined soldier beetles and tachinid flies attack Colorado potato beetles.



Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) is effective for controlling Colorado potato beetle if applied when the larvae are small. Apply every 5-7 days until all eggs have hatched and ensure thorough coverage of the host plant. Bt is safe for mammals, birds, fish and beneficial insects but Colorado potato beetle can develop resistance if used repeatedly.

Learn more from our KSRE publication: [Colorado Potato Beetle](#) and [Colorado Potato Beetle: Insect Pest of Vegetable Crops](#)

Walnut Wilt

Description: Several species in the walnut family produce a toxin, juglone, which is formed in the leaves, fruit hulls, inner bark and roots. Juglone can be leached from the



leaves and nuts into the soil with rain or released from the roots. When susceptible plants come in contact with the toxin the affected stem tissue may turn brown and plants may begin to wilt and show stunted growth.

Susceptible Plants: Tomato, potato, blackberry, apple, lilac, asparagus, chrysanthemum, peony

Resistant Plants: Red cedar, redbud, quince, black raspberry, Kentucky bluegrass, corn, bean, carrot, dandelion, zinnia, and most native hardwoods

Recommendations: Avoid planting susceptible plants near juglone-producing trees. Juglone can persist in roots for several years after trees are removed. Avoid planting susceptible plants in these areas for at least two years to avoid damage.

KSRE Publication: [Walnut Wilt](#)

Bristly Rose Slug

Description: Larvae are pale-green and ½-inch long with fine, hair-like spines in clusters along the body. Though sometimes confused as a caterpillar, this is actually the larvae of a sawfly. Adults are black to yellow wasps.



Life Cycle: Adult females create slits along the edges of rose leaves and insert eggs. Larvae hatch from the eggs and begin feeding on leaves. Larvae drop to the ground to pupate on the soil surface. They overwinter as pupae and there is typically only one generation each year.

Damage: Young larvae feed on the underside of leaves causing them to appear skeletonized. As the larvae mature they create larger holes in the leaves. Eventually they may consume the entire leaf except large veins.

Control: A strong spray of water will dislodge the larvae and make it difficult for them to return to the leaves. Insecticidal soap, horticultural oils, Spinosad (Monterey Garden Spray, Natural Guard Spinosad or Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew) and permethrin (BioAdvanced Vegetable & Garden Insect Dust, Bonide Eight Vegetable, Fruit & Flower Concentrate, Hi-Yield Garden & Farm Insect Control) are also effective options. Always follow label instructions and research any product before use to ensure it will support your gardening goals.

KSRE Publication: [Rose Slug and Bristly Rose Slug](#)

TURF

Time to Fertilize Warm-Season Grasses



Turfgrasses should be fertilized when they are actively growing. For warm-season grasses that time is near. Late spring/early summer fertilizer applications are ideal for bermudagrass, buffalograss and zoysiagrass. Fertilizing too early encourages cool season weeds to grow.

Northern and northwest Kansas can wait until May 30 or later to fertilize warm-season grasses, but most of the state can fertilize beginning now (mid-May). Fertilizing too late in the season (late

summer) can increase their susceptibility to winter damage. Avoid fertilizing with nitrogen after August 15.

Bermudagrass needs about one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet every four weeks. Zoysiagrass requires less nitrogen. Apply $\frac{3}{4}$ to one pound of nitrogen in two applications; one in June and one in mid-July. Buffalograss will survive without supplemental nitrogen, but providing it will improve the color and density of the lawn. Sometime between now and early June apply one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. If a darker green is desired, follow the same fertilizer recommendations as zoysiagrass.

If you need additional information about fertilizing your lawn, visit our KSRE publication: [Fertilizing Kansas Lawns.](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Poison Ivy



Two types of poison ivy are found in Kansas. They have similar growth habits and leaf structures. Poison ivy is a woody native and can be a vine, shrub or groundcover.

Commonly mistaken for Virginia creeper and woodbine, poison ivy has three leaflets per leaf rather than five. Individual leaflets can be one to four inches long. The middle leaflet is the only one with a long stalk while the other

two leaves are closely attached to the petiole. Leaves range in shade of green and glossy/dull surface. Leaf margins can be smooth, toothed or lobed. The shape can also vary among leaves on the same plant.

Poison ivy should be carefully removed from areas frequented by people. Individual sensitivity to the plant varies so use caution when handling the plant and keep skin covered. The sap from the plant can cause a reaction so exercise caution if using a

power mower or weed eater as plant parts will be projected. When the soil is wet, young plants can be hand pulled or dug out. Large vines can be cut at the ground level and then treat the stump with herbicide.

There are several herbicides labeled as poison ivy killers. Many are premixed and ready to use with the active ingredient triclopyr. Glyphosate, 2, 4-D and dicamba can also provide good control. Wait three to four weeks between treatments before re-applying. Follow all safety precautions and label directions. Contact a lawn care professional if you do not feel safe removing poison ivy yourself.

PERMACULTURE

Planting Guilds



Plant guilds revolve around relationships. This includes how the plants relate to each other, their environment and humans. When a guild is designed to represent nature, the result is a landscape that works together and supports the gardener at the same time.

Learn more about [Planting Guilds](#) and see design ideas from Midwest Permaculture.

QUESTION of the WEEK



Buffalograss Seeding

Can I mow my buffalograss lawn and spread the clippings on sparse areas to distribute seed rather than purchasing new seed?

From the John C. Pair Horticulture Research and Extension Center: Buffalograss has separate female and male flowers. The female (seed) flowers are nestled down within the grass like the left photo. Male flowers (pollen) like the right photo, are high above the leaf blades and are the most visible. Mowing and bagging only collects leaf blades and male flowers. We know quality seed can be expensive but for new grass to establish you'll have to buy it.



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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>

The web version includes color images that illustrate subjects discussed. To subscribe to this newsletter electronically, send an e-mail message to cdom@ksu.edu or cdipman@ksu.edu listing your e-mail address in the message.

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