



Horticulture Newsletter

August 11, 2026

KANSAS STATE
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Horticulture and
Natural Resources

Video of the Week:



Watering trees and shrubs during periods of summer drought is important for plant health, but few people enjoy braving the heat to provide the water needed. Using drip irrigation to water trees can be a very effective way to provide the necessary water, without spending much time outside doing it. [This week's video covers the water-wise way to irrigate trees](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM5QORMwSCg), and discusses a simple way to provide effective and efficient irrigation to trees during drought. Review the components you'll need, and the basics of drip irrigation design for watering trees: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM5QORMwSCg>

Announcements:

Serve Your Community Through The Extension Master Gardener Program:

In 2025, Extension Master Gardener volunteers reached 1 in every 15 Kansas adults, donated more than 65,000 pounds of produce, and were recognized with national awards. Collectively, Extension Master Gardeners contributed nearly 130,000 hours of volunteer service across 50 counties, a value of over \$3.9 million in public service. Behind those incredible successes are everyday Kansans who shared what they know with the people around them. [Visit our website](https://extension.k-state.edu/master-gardener/get-involved/) for more information on how to apply now for the upcoming training this fall and become part of the impact in your local community: <https://extension.k-state.edu/master-gardener/get-involved/>



2026 K-State Commercial Fruit & Vegetable Field Day:

Next week, on Monday, August 17, 2026 join the K-State Olathe Horticulture Research and Extension Center for the 2026 Commercial Fruit and Vegetable Field Day. The program features walk-and-talk updates on current and recently completed research projects on vegetable grafting, high tunnel production, soil conservation, and crop variety evaluations. In addition, a tour of the Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners Backyard Demonstration Garden, a cookout meal, and recognitions for the Growing Growers KC apprentice and host farms will be included. This event will be hosted from 4:00 to 7:00pm at the K-State Olathe Horticulture Research and Extension Center (35230 W 135th Street, Olathe, KS 66061). Registration is required and is \$15.00 per person. Register online at: <https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUOHREC> Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about the commercial fruit and vegetable production research being conducted by K-State.



**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

K-State Olathe Horticulture Research and Extension Center

Commercial Fruit & Vegetable Field Day

Monday, August 17, 2026
4 - 7 p.m.

35230 W 135th St., Olathe, KS
Research updates followed by cookout dinner
and Growing Growers KC recognition.
Cost is \$15

Register today
<https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUOHREC>



Garden Calendar:

- Plant transplants of broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage outdoors for fall production.
- Fertilize spring-bearing strawberry plants in early to mid-August to stimulate plant growth and increase fruit bud development for the next year's crop.
- Make the last application of fertilizer to roses by mid-August.
- Deadhead annuals to encourage late season blossoms.
- Mow turfgrass only as needed, depending on summer growth.
- Apply the last application of fertilizer to zoysia and bermudagrass lawns by mid-August.
- Check the depth of mulch layers around trees and shrubs. Add more mulch as needed to maintain a 2 to 4 inch layer of mulch. Be sure to pull mulch away from the trunk of the plant.
- Check young trees and shrubs for girdling wires and ropes from planting or staking.
- Wash houseplant leaves to remove dust layers.

Vegetables:

Grasshoppers In The Garden:

Grasshoppers are a familiar sight in Kansas. Although there are over 115 species of grasshoppers found in the state, only a few pose serious threats to vegetable crops and gardens. The differential, two-striped, and redlegged grasshopper are the most common species encountered by gardeners.



Grasshopper populations and garden damage can vary greatly from year to year. Most species produce one generation annually and overwinter as eggs deposited in the soil. Egg development resumes when spring soil temperatures reach 50 to 55°F, and newly emerged nymphs begin feeding immediately.



Garden damage is most likely when grasshopper numbers are high and drought reduces the availability of natural vegetation. Under these conditions, grasshoppers leave weedy areas, field margins, roadsides, and other hatching sites in search of fresh food sources, often moving into gardens and landscapes. Winged adults can travel considerable distances to locate suitable feeding areas.

With how easily adult grasshoppers can move, the management of grasshoppers is difficult. Not all plants are equally attractive to grasshoppers. Select plants that are less desirable food sources for grasshoppers, such as euonymus, forsythia, juniper, lantana, and tomato. In the vegetable garden, purchase floating row covers to protect vegetable crops. The row cover can also be sprayed with an insecticide to enhance its effectiveness and prevent grasshoppers from chewing through row covers.

Poultry, especially guinea hens, can be effective predators for grasshoppers, and may help gardeners living in rural areas.

Insecticides applied directly to grasshoppers are usually effective, but most have limited long-term residual control. This can require multiple applications in order to directly contact grasshoppers with sprays as new grasshoppers arrive in the garden. Insecticides work best against wingless nymphs, which are concentrated and unable to fly away from treated locations. Target grasshopper hatching areas whenever possible. Direct contact with insecticides is essential for control, and applications made just before or at sunrise may improve effectiveness because grasshoppers are less active and more exposed on plants at that time.

Insecticides labeled for grasshopper control on the widest variety of crops include products with active ingredients such as bifenthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, cyfluthrin, or permethrin.

Ultimately, grasshopper populations in the garden can be lowered, but likely not eliminated. Consider planting bait crops, searching for egg-laying areas in the fall, and creating habitat where insects, birds, coyotes, and other wildlife visit to feed on grasshoppers, helping to control these insects rather than relying on insecticide sprays.

Visit the [Grasshoppers In The Lawn & Garden publication](#) for more information on grasshoppers and their control:

https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/grasshoppers-in-the-lawn-and-garden-home-and-horticultural-pests_L868.pdf



Fruit:

Fertilize Strawberries In August:

The warm, sunny days of summer (from June through August) are ideal for promoting strawberry plants to develop runners and daughter plants. In September and October, as the days grow shorter and temperatures begin to cool, spring-bearing strawberry plants begin to develop the flower buds that produce next year's fruit crop. To promote good fruit set, steps should be taken now to boost plant growth. One important way to do this is by fertilizing spring-bearing strawberry plants in early to mid-August.



To help stimulate fruit bud development, apply a nitrogen fertilizer to boost plant growth. When using a high nitrogen fertilizer, such as a urea fertilizer (46-0-0), apply at a rate of approximately 1/4 to 1/3 pound of fertilizer per 25 feet of row. If using a balanced fertilizer, (such as a 12-12-12 or something equivalent), apply at a rate of approximately 3/4 to 1 pound of fertilizer per 25 feet of row.

Complete all fertilizer applications with a light watering to activate the fertilizer and begin making nitrogen available in the soil for plant roots to absorb. Apply at least 1/2 inch of water through sprinklers or well-timed rainfall events.

[Visit our strawberries publication](#) for more fertilization and growing information:

https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/download/strawberries_MF598

Flowers:

Dividing Daylilies:

For healthy daylilies, plants need to be divided every three to five years to maintain good vigor. Though they may be divided in early spring before growth starts, it is more common to divide them at this time of year.

To help make dividing daylilies easier, many gardeners start by cutting back the tops (leaves) to about 6 to 8 inches, or half their original height. This makes plants easier to divide and handle.

Next, use a shovel or spading fork to dig around the entire daylily plant, and lift the entire clump out of the ground. Daylilies have a very tough root system that grows together, making it more practical to divide the plant after the entire clump has been dug, rather than while growing in place.

Shake off excess soil from the root ball or use a stream of water from a garden hose to wash the soil from the roots. Although it is possible to cut the clump apart with a sharp spade, more daylily roots can be saved by carefully cleaning off the roots.





Once clean, roll the root clump back and forth until the individual divisions (called a daylily fan) separate. Each section should be about the size of a head of cauliflower and contain both roots and a fan of leaves.

Mix in 2 or 3 inches of compost into the planting bed before replanting.

Select the three to five largest fans to replant in a sunny location with well-drained soil. Space divisions in groups of 3 to 5 fans in a triangle or ring pattern. Space fans at least 12-18 inches apart within each group, and with at least 24 inches in between groups to give plants room for future growth. Set each fan at its original planting depth, burying the

crown of each fan no more than 1 inch below the soil surface. Cover the roots with soil. Water newly divided daylily plants well to help settle the soil around plant roots after replanting.

The number of flowers will be reduced the first year after division but will return to normal until the plants need to be divided again.



Trees & Shrubs:

Mimosa Webworm Damage On Honey Locust Trees:



Many homeowners across Kansas may be noticing their honey locust trees developing brown, scorched-looking foliage near the ends of branches this time of year. From a distance these trees look heat scorched, but closer inspections reveal white, silken webbing that binds the leaves together. These symptoms are the characteristic damage of the mimosa webworm (*Homadaula anisocentra*), a caterpillar insect pest that feeds on the leaves of honey locust and mimosa trees.

Originally native to Asia, the mimosa webworm was first reported in the United States in 1940 and is now a common landscape pest. In Kansas, there are two generations of mimosa webworm each year. These

generations often overlap, so that larvae may be found from June through September in Kansas. The first generation of mimosa webworm larvae feed mid-June through early July, and reach their maturity toward the latter part of July to early August. Then, the second generation appears in late August to early September, causing the most noticeable damage.



During its lifecycle, the mimosa webworm undergoes four life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa, and adult. Female moths lay eggs on new foliage from spring into summer. After hatching, young caterpillars feed on leaves and begin webbing foliage together near branch tips. As the caterpillars grow, they remain protected inside these webbed nests, making management more challenging.

Caterpillar feeding skeletonizes leaves, leaving only portions of the leaf tissue behind. Damaged foliage eventually turns brown and dies, while accumulations of frass (insect waste) can be found within the webbing. Heavy infestations may defoliate trees, leaving them covered with webbing and brown foliage.

Honey locust cultivars differ in their susceptibility to mimosa webworm, and in many cases, light feeding damage is primarily an aesthetic damage. Successive years of caterpillar feeding, however, combined with drought and environmental extremes may cause long-term damage to tree health and predispose a tree to other issues.

Management of mimosa webworm begins with regular scouting in spring to detect young caterpillars before webs form. Small, localized infestations can often be controlled by pruning out and disposing of affected branches. Insecticides may be effective when applied against young caterpillars before webbing develops. Once extensive webs are present, insecticide treatments become much less effective. At this time of year, it is likely too late to apply an insecticide for the first generation of caterpillars. Monitor for the beginning of second generation caterpillars to emerge, and only consider high pressure sprays of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, spinosad, acephate, cyhalothrin, or permethrin if caterpillars can be sprayed before they develop leaf webbing which shields them from insecticide sprays.

[Visit our Mimosa Webworm - Insect Pest of Honey Locust and Mimosa Trees publication](https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/download/mimosa-webworm-insect-pest-of-honey-locust-and-mimosa-trees_MF3722) for more information on this pest:
https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/download/mimosa-webworm-insect-pest-of-honey-locust-and-mimosa-trees_MF3722

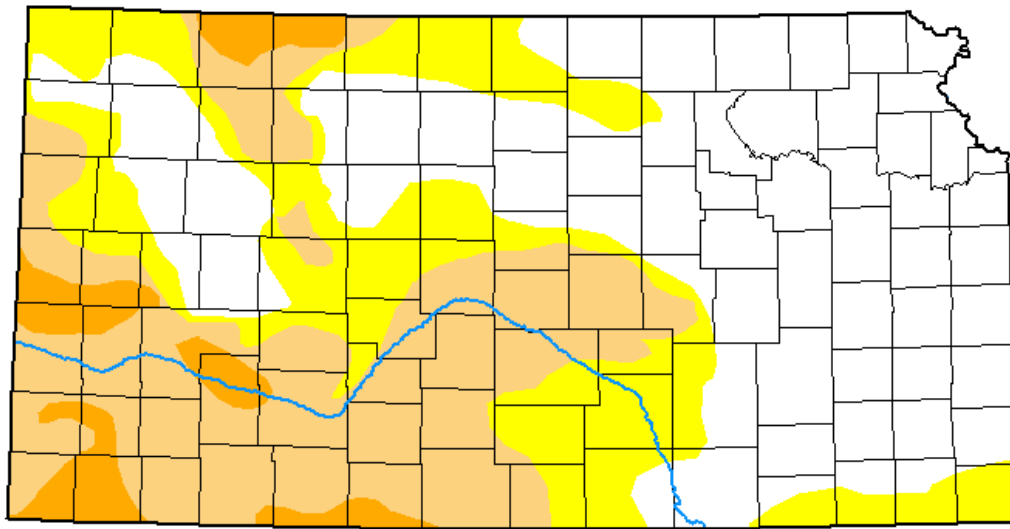


Miscellaneous:

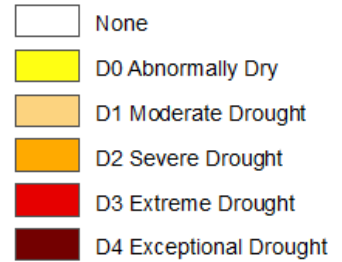
Watering Guidelines As Droughts Return To Many Parts Of Kansas:

In recent weeks, much of the state has been under severe weather warnings for the intense heat and humidity. Coupled with strong, drying winds, these conditions have allowed drought stress to become very pronounced in many portions of the state, especially western and southern Kansas.





Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Signs of drought stress include plants with:



- Wilted or droopy leaves
- Leaves that begin to roll, cup, or curl
- Browning that occurs along the edges of the plant leaf or in areas between leaf veins
- Discoloration of the leaves (often a silverish-blue color, especially in turfgrass)
- Footprints left behind in the lawn when turfgrass does not pop up quickly after being walked across

These can all be signs that plants need some supplemental irrigation to combat drought stress.

Whether you are in an area of the state that is just beginning to see drought stress, or whether drought stress has been present for several weeks, it is important to know the approximate water needs of our plants:

- Newly Planted Trees & Shrubs: 10 gallons of water per week for plants with a trunk caliper (diameter) of 2" or smaller
- Well Established Trees & Shrubs: Soaking the soil 12 inches deep every 3-4 weeks
- Cool Season Lawns: 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week
- Warm Season Lawns: 1 inch of water every 10-14 days (soaking the ground six inches deep)
- Flowerbeds & Vegetable Gardens: 1 inch of water per week

Regardless of where you are in the state, or what plants you have growing in your garden, efficient watering practices are always important. Good watering practices will benefit both your plants and the environment. Some recommendations to keep in mind while watering include:

- Do not overwater. Too much water can be just as damaging as not enough water.
- Check soil moisture before adding water rather than watering on a set schedule. Use a soil probe, shovel, metal rod, or screwdriver to evaluate moisture in the root zone and add water accordingly.
- Water early in the morning to prevent water loss through evaporation or strong winds.
- Group plants with similar water requirements together to prevent overwatering species that are more drought tolerant.
- Eliminate weeds and turfgrass around the bases of desirable plants (such as trees) to reduce competition for limited soil moisture.
- Water slowly, so that water can filter deep into the soil to benefit plant roots. Watering too frequently or too quickly can lead to runoff and wasted water.
- Allow soils to dry slightly in between waterings. Do not water every day.
- Measure the water you apply. For lawns, use a tuna can, upside down frisbee, or Tupperware with flat sides to measure the inches of water applied. For trees and shrubs, use a 5-gallon bucket with a small hole drilled in the side near the bottom to measure water.
- Avoid planting a ring of flowers at the base of trees. This pairs together plants that require regular, shallow watering with plants that need less frequent, deeper watering. This combination leaves one set of plants over or under watered each time, resulting in shallow tree root growth and the potential for basal decay.

Contributors:

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For questions or additional information, contact: hortsupport@ksu.edu

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

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