

Horticulture 2024 Newsletter

No. 17 April 29, 2024

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

Video of the Week: [When to Fertilize your Lawn](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling ALL Kansas Gardeners!

Share your experiences gardening in Kansas. Whether you are a beginner or life-long gardener you have a story to tell. Answer a few questions and be featured in our Garden Spotlight in an upcoming newsletter. Contact Cynthia at cdom@ksu.edu if you'd like to find out more.

K-State Garden Hour



Understanding Water Sources for Your Garden

Wednesday, May 1st 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

There are often multiple water sources available to irrigate our gardens. Join Jay Harris, Cottonwood District Horticulture Agent, to understand the many differences between water from private wells, city water supplies, or rural water districts. Learn about the differences in water quality, the importance of knowing what is in your water, the costs associated with each, and why you should test your water before you use it.



Register Here!



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



Johnson County Public Garden Tour May 17 & 18, 2024



Access private gardens and the Garden Gallery Demonstration Garden for ideas and inspiration. Tour includes the Garden Thyme Marketplace with garden-themed décor for purchase and the Extension Expo with free resources. Support the programs and projects provided by the Extension Master Gardeners by purchasing tickets to the garden tour. View the flyer here: [Johnson County Public Garden Tour](https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/public-garden-tour/2024-tour.html) or visit the website to purchase tickets. (<https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/public-garden-tour/2024-tour.html>)

Sedgwick County Spring Garden Fair

2024 Spring Garden Fair
Blooms, Bees & Butterflies
Saturday May 4th, 2024
7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Free, inside The Sedgwick County Extension Education Center
7001 W. 21st Street N, Wichita, KS 67205

Interactive Booths:
See Like An Insect
Insect Zoo
Water-Saving Gardening Techniques
Plants For Pollinators

Plant Sales
Make & Take Youth Activities
Plant Giveaways
Food Sales
Visit Area Garden Clubs

Guided Tours:
8am: Demo Garden
9am: Compost
10am: Arboretum Trees
11am: Hosta & Shade Gardens
12pm: Roses

www.sedgwick.ksu.edu/events

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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>

GARDEN CALENDAR

It's about that time... Warm-season veggie planting dates arrive in May! Here's the garden calendar with information you need to know.

[May Garden Calendar](#)

VEGETABLES

Planting Warm Season Veggies



Most of our warm-season vegetables can be planted in early May, however, winter squash and pumpkins should be delayed until mid to late June. The first generation of squash bugs is active in July. Delaying the planting date for squash will result in younger plants that can escape this round of squash bug damage. Plants will need protection from the second generation of squash bugs which is present in August. To read more about squash bugs visit our KSRE

publication: [Squash Bugs](#)

FRUIT

Integrated Approach to Fruit Tree Care

We may sound like a broken record but success in the landscape begins with good cultural care. For fruit trees this means clean up debris, proper pruning, minimize weeds, plant in the right location and provide supplemental water as needed. Even with the best cultural care there are times where spray treatments are necessary, but healthy trees are better able to stand up to the stress from diseases and pests.



At this time of year, you can do all the cultural care right and still have problems with disease and pests on fruit trees. Starting a spray schedule in April and May is often necessary to prevent problems such as cedar apple rust. The fungicide you use will change from spring into summer and organic options are available.

Here is a sample spray schedule for apple trees:

- *Leaves Appear*: Apply Immunox, Fungi-Max or F-Stop Lawn & Garden Fungicide
- *Petal Drop*: Add insecticide (see below) to the Immunox, Fungi-Max or F-Stop. (Immunox, Fungi-Max or FStop + one of the listed insecticides)
- *June 1*: Discontinue Immunox, Fungi-Max or F-Stop continue insecticide treatment.
- Treat every 2 weeks
- Bag fruit in mid-August and discontinue spray treatment

Adding an insecticide to the fungicide spray will help prevent against codling moth. See the insecticide options below along with the maximum number of applications allowed per year.

- Bonide Malathion - 2 applications/year
- Bonide Fruit Tree Spray - 2 applications/year
- Bonide Fruit Tree and Plant Guard - 4 applications/year
- Cyd-X (organic option) - No limit

Never spray while trees are in bloom or you risk harming the bees whether using an organic or synthetic product. Always read the label and ensure the product you choose is labeled for fruit and follow the directions carefully. Choosing the right plant is always a great prevention against disease. Whenever selecting new plants look for disease-resistant cultivars. This is true for fruit trees as well.

Here is our KSRE publication for preventing disease in apple trees ([Pests on Fruiting Apples](#)).

Here is our KSRE publication for preventing disease in stone fruit ([MF3430 Spray Guide for Growing Stone Fruit at Home](#)).

TURF

Spring Fertilizer Application for Cool Season Turf



Lawns should typically be fertilized when they are actively growing. Cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and perennial ryegrass benefit from being fertilized in fall and late spring. The fall application is important as it helps the turf build up food reserves enabling it to green up earlier in the spring. Cool-season grasses usually have a flush of growth in mid-spring using up much of the stored energy. By applying fertilizer shortly after this growth,

the turf is able to replenish the depleted nutrients ensuring the plants are strong heading into the stress of summer. A slow-release nitrogen fertilizer is best for the May application. Liquid or dry fertilizer are fine, though dry tends to be easier for homeowners to apply.

Warm-season grasses such as bermudagrass, buffalograss and zoysiagrass should be fertilized in late spring and/or summer.

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf2324.pdf>

- Always read the fertilizer label for the correct rate and specific instructions.
- Sweep dry fertilizers off hard surfaces and back onto the lawn to prevent it from washing into storm drains polluting our waterways.
- Water after applying fertilizer if rain is not in immediate forecast.

PESTS

Bagworms – Too early to spray!

Mid to late June is typically the best time to treat for bagworms but if you had bagworms last year you're likely antsy to prevent their return. If you have found empty bags on trees and shrubs in your landscape, it is likely you will have bagworms this year as well. Treatments for bagworms should not be done until most or all of the larvae have hatched. For now, if you see young bagworms you can manually remove and destroy them as treatments will be largely ineffective right now.



TREES

Suckers on Trees



In spring some trees send up growth, known as suckers, from the base of the tree or roots. Suckers can develop several inches to several feet from the trunk of the tree and can be an indication the tree is under stress. However, some species are just more prone to sucker growth regardless of the health of the tree.

Not only are suckers unattractive but they waste energy the tree can use for healthy growth so removal is recommended. Use pruners to

clip suckers at the base where they are attached to the main tree. If the cut is not made at the point of origin and a stub is left intact it will likely cause branching and exacerbate the problem. If there are minimal suckers present, removal can be delayed until early summer when regrowth is less likely. Herbicides should NOT be used to treat suckers.



Storm-Damaged Trees

Much of Kansas experienced heavy winds and rain over the past week or will at some point this season. Here are recommendations for managing storm-damaged trees.

- Not all trees should be salvaged. Trees with bark that has split and exposed the cambium or those where the main trunk has split are not likely to survive. Trees with so many broken limbs that the structure is altered may best be replaced. Though these trees may produce new growth, they are under such extreme stress they are much more susceptible to diseases/pests and can be dangerous due to increased risk for further breaks.



- Prune broken branches to the next larger branch or the trunk. Do not cut flush with the trunk, but rather to the collar area between the branch and the trunk. Cutting flush to the trunk creates a larger wound that takes longer to heal.
- Cut back large limbs progressively. The first cut should be made on the underside of the branch about 15 inches away from the trunk. Cut up about one-third of the way through the limb. The second cut should be made on top of the branch but about two inches further away from the trunk creating an angle when joined with the first cut. This will cause the branch to break away. The third cut should be made at the collar to remove the resulting stub.



GARDEN SPOTLIGHT



In honor of Mother's Day this month the Garden Spotlight will feature my (Cynthia) garden story in which I'll share how my own mom lead me to a career in horticulture and lifelong love for gardening.

[Gardening with Mom](#)

Email Cynthia at cdom@ksu.edu if you'd like to share your own garden story!

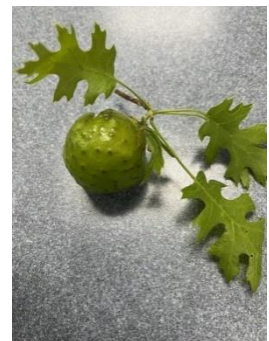
QUESTION of the WEEK



What is this thing that fell out of my oak tree?

This thing was sitting on the ground beneath my red oak tree. It's the only one I've seen on my whole tree. Do you know what it could be?

This is called "oak apple gall" and is created by a cynipid wasp. There are many wasps, mites and flies that cause this type of growth to form on leaves and branches of oak trees. The galls come in many different shapes and sizes but are formed as a result of a chemical the insect injects into the plant. The gall is formed around the larvae which then feed on the interior of the gall and later emerge as adults.



Though galls typically are not harmful to the tree, they can be considered unsightly. There can be severe infestations of galls which can cause twig dieback. In general, the best approach is to ignore the presence of the galls or remove them if they bother you. Chemical control is not effective nor practical for these insects.

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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>

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