Horticulture

The bagworms are coming!!! These plant pests have started hatching in our area and moving out of the parent’s home to establish a new home of their own. Bagworms are so named because of the “bag” they create around themselves to camouflage them from predators. Young larva hatch typically in about mid-May (when the Catalpa trees bloom) and leave the bag they hatched from to find foliage to start eating. Larvae will typically feed on the plant they hatched from or one nearby but they can be carried to other plants via the wind and a long thread of silk.

Bagworms will eat on just about anything but prefer junipers or arborvitae over other plants. These insects usually will typically go unnoticed till their bags are 1-2” in size and hang from the plant like little Christmas ornaments. If you don’t notice the bagworms till August, it’s best to just pick them off since chemical applications at that point are often unsuccessful.

Control is best two to three weeks after they have hatched to ensure all the larvae are out of the mother’s bag and have started to feed which typically is about the mid to latter half of June.

Several active ingredients can be used to kill bagworms including BT, spinosad, permethrin, acephate, and cyfluthrin. Be sure to thoroughly cover all the foliage to kill the bagworms.

Agriculture

Summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime! I don’t know about all of you but I am ready for some warmer weather and more stable temperatures – if there is such a thing with Kansas weather!

With warmer and dryer weather also brings more activities on the road and in the fields with farm equipment as haying season and wheat harvest is just around the corner. As more and more farm implements are on the road, take time to slow down for them and wait for a clear opportunity pass. As an equipment operator myself for our family farm, I have witnessed numerous near misses due to vehicles not slowing down and rapidly passing paying no attention to on coming vehicles along with not only being passed on the “legal” side but also on the shoulder.

Encourage your family and friends to slow down and take a couple extra minutes if necessary. Nothing is worth jeopardizing your life or anyone else’s for that matter to make it to your intended destination!

4-H & Youth Development

As school ends, the busiest time of the 4-H year begins!

- We hope you’ll make plans to attend the Mini Fair on June 18th at the Butler County Community Building in El Dorado. We would love to have the community come out and join us for a fun and entertaining family event!

- Don’t forget the 2021 Butler County Fair is right around the corner! Check out the schedule here: https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/

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Family Consumer Sciences

Planting a Garden this year? Or Planning to visit a local Farmer’s Market to find those tasty, home-grown foods?

If you want to preserve that homegrown “freshness,” begin with safe, science-based resources. Use resources such as the KSRE Preserve it Fresh, Preserve it Safe website: https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/preservation/index.html

Be safe and preserve great taste with up-to-date resources that include:

How-to Home canning videos, Safe, tasty, and up-to-date recipes for jams/jellies, pickles, green beans, tomatoes salsa, and more!