

NEWSLETTER



From the Director's Desk

Meteorologically, Summer has arrived!

Warm days, green grass, pretty flowers, gardens, and crop fields growing; there is a lot to welcome, cherish, and celebrate in June. We can't forget the celebrations of World Environmental Day, Flag Day, Father's Day, Juneteenth, and National Indigenous Peoples' Day, too! Let's also not forget the Full Moon on June 11th, also known as the Strawberry Moon.

June is one of my favorite months. The days are longer with stellar sunrises and sunsets. We are transitioning from the cool mornings to warmer afternoons and beautiful evenings before the heat of July and August. The rains of the past couple of weeks were welcomed and much needed, moving into our dry months.

A favorite activity of mine and others during the summer is backyard grilling. However, the warm days can also create food safety issues. Bacteria in food multiply faster at temperatures between 40°F and 140°F, so the spring and summer heat can pose a problem. Our KSRE website has some excellent resources available to help you keep your food safe: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/foodsafety/topics/outdoor.html>


The summer days can be long, but the months are short and winter will be peaking its head around the corner before we know. Take some time to embrace the summer months, enjoy some backyard BBQs, and make those memories that will last a lifetime!

~ Charlene

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Upcoming Events

						
① Butler County Fair Pre-Entries Open	②	③ Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. 4-H SE Livestock Judging Contest - Little Balkans	④ Garden Hour 12 p.m.	⑤	⑥	⑦
⑧	⑨ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m.	⑩ Summer Robotics/STEM - Leon Library 11 a.m.-12p.m. Reading Makes Cents - Bradford Library 2 p.m. 4-H Council	⑪	⑫ 4-H SE Judging Contest - Little Balkans	⑬	⑭
⑮	⑯ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m.	⑰ Summer Robotics/STEM - Leon Library 11 a.m.-12p.m. Ambassador Day Camp 1-5 p.m. Reading Makes Cents - Bradford Library 2 p.m.	⑱ Parts of a Plant - Douglass Library 10:30 a.m.	⑲	⑳	㉑
㉒	㉓ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m. Butler County Fair Pre-Entries Close	㉔ Summer Robotics/STEM - Leon Library 11 a.m.-12p.m.	㉕ Douglass Library 10:30 a.m.	㉖ Choose Health, Food, Fun, & Fitness - Augusta Library 10 a.m.	㉗ Butler County Children's Mental Health Day 3-6 p.m.	㉘
㉙	㉚ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m.	4-H Insect Spectacular				
㉛	㉜	㉝	㉞	㉟	㊱	㊲

Butler County Extension Office
 206 North Griffith
 Suite A
 El Dorado, Kansas 67042
 (316)321-9660

Hours*

Monday - Thursday
 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday
 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

*During the week of July 13th - 26th
 Office Hours will be 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Join Us For Our 2025 Quarterly Extension Connection


Mug Mingle



Grab a mug and mingle with your local
Butler County Extension Staff
Friday, July 11th from 7:45-9:00 a.m.

Save the date for October 10th

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

						
		① Extension Council Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Choose Health, Food, Fun, & Fitness - Leon Library 11 a.m.	② Garden Hour 12 p.m.	③	④ 4 th of July CLOSED	⑤
⑥	⑦ Cool Art with Math & Science - Whitewater Library 2-3 p.m.	⑧ Choose Health, Food, Fun, & Fitness - Leon Library 11 a.m.	⑨	⑩	⑪ Mug Mingle 7:45 a.m. Butler County Fair Public Revue 1:30 p.m. - El Dorado High School	⑫
⑬ Butler County Fair Horse Show 6 p.m. - 3 Wooden Crosses Arena, Augusta	⑭	⑮	⑯	⑰ Butler County Fair Check-In	⑱ Butler County Food Auction 6 p.m.	⑲
Butler County Fair						
㉒	㉓ Butler County Fair Project Auction	㉔ Butler County Fair Project Release and Clean-Up	㉕	㉖ CLOSED	㉗ CLOSED	㉘
㉙	㉚	㉛ Choose Health, Food, Fun, & Fitness - Leon Library 11 a.m.	㉜	㉝	㉞	㉟

Upcoming Events



EAST PARK, EL DORADO, KS
FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025
3-6 pm

BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH DAY!

Join us in celebrating the youth of Butler County and bringing awareness to children's mental health in this **FREE** family fun event!

Food • Live Music • Kid and Teen Activities
Community Booths • Prizes • and MORE!



Follow Us On
Facebook for Updates!



Hosted by:
South Central Mental Health Counseling Center

Butler County
H.E.A.L.
Health. Education. Action. Lifestyle.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO LIVE A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ACTION

PROMOTING HOLISTIC HEALTH BY INCORPORATING RESEARCH BASED EDUCATION INTO PRACTICAL DAILY LIVING.

K-STATE Research and Extension | Butler County

206 N Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042
(316) 321-9660

south central mental health
HELPING TO SHAPE PROMISING FUTURES

221 King St, Andover, KS 67002
524 N Main St, El Dorado, KS 67042
2821 N Brookside Dr, Augusta, KS 67010
(316) 733-5047 ext. 515 OR 528

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Garden Hour Webinars:

These class are offered online via Zoom at Noon. For more information on the Garden Hour series or to register visit here:
<https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>

June 2025



K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Native & Ornamental Grasses of Kansas

Wednesday, June 4th 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Join Markis Hill, Johnson County Horticulture Extension Agent, as he explores Kansas's native and ornamental grasses. Learn about grasses that thrive in the state's climate, including drought-tolerant, low-maintenance species. Gain tips on selecting, planting, and caring for these grasses, highlighting their aesthetic, environmental, and wildlife benefits.

Gain valuable knowledge for creating sustainable, beautiful landscapes with grasses suited to Kansas's conditions.



Register Here!

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



K-STATE
Research and Extension



The Strong Couples Project

- ✓ Participate in a 6-session online program scientifically shown to strengthen relationships
- ✓ Video calls with trained coach to help maximize program impact
- ✓ No cost to enroll and chance to win \$25 Amazon gift card for completing program surveys

To learn more and enroll, please visit go.illinois.edu/StrongCouples



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA CHAMPAIGN



Upcoming Events

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Cool Art with Math & Science

JUNE 9 JUNE 16 JUNE 23 JUNE 30 JULY 7

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Whitewater Memorial Library
Origami, Tessellations, String Art, Optical Illusions, and Structures

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Madeline Wallace four weeks prior to the start of the event (May 5, 2025) at 316-321-9660 or mgwallac@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

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JOIN US FOR

CHOOSE HEALTH: FOOD, FUN, & FITNESS



July 1 - Replace Sugary Drinks
July 8 - Color Your Plate
July 29 - Power Up Your Day



TUESDAYS, JULY 1ST, 8TH, & 29TH, 2025
11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
AGES 8-18 YEARS OLD

LEON PUBLIC LIBRARY
703 N. WEST ST.
LEON, KS 67074

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Butler County

SUMMER ROBOTICS/STEM PROGRAM

June 10 - Create PhysBots
June 17 - Build a Mars Rover and take it through an obstacle course
June 24 - Junk Drawer Robots

Tuesdays, June 10, 17, & 24, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Ages 8-18 years old

Leon Public Library
703 N. West St.
Leon, KS 67074

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A Look at KS Demonstration Gardens

Wednesday, July 2nd 12:00PM - 1:00PM CST

For this special edition of the K-State Garden Hour, join Extension agents Mathew McKernan, Markis Hill, Jason Graves, and Jay Harris, alongside Johnson County Master Gardener Coordinator Mary Mathew, as they highlight demonstration gardens across Kansas. Discover how these gardens serve as hubs for education, sustainability, and community engagement. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn from leaders helping shape the future of gardening in Kansas.



Register Here!

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



Upcoming Events

K-STATE Research and Extension | Butler County

POND MANAGEMENT

FREE TO ATTEND

RSVP
316-321-9660
<https://forms.gle/55PFvtDf9NIV7sxu7>

GUEST SPEAKER:
DR. JOE GERKEN
K-State Extension
Fisheries & Aquatic Specialist

TUESDAY, JUNE 17TH, 2025
6:30 P.M.
BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY/4-H BUILDING
200 N. Griffith
El Dorado, KS 67042

COVERED TOPICS

- Managing Ponds
- Aquatic Plant Control
- Stocking Fish

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STRIVE TO THRIVE

Butler County Fair
July 17-21
2025

IN 2025

Butler County Fair
EL Dorado, KS

SPECIAL CHAMPIONS

Goat Show

SUNDAY, JULY 20TH

- Show open to participants ages 14 and older with I/DD
- Participants will be paired with a 4-H/FFA goat exhibitor
- Entries are due by June 16
- More Information Coming Soon!!

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Charlene Miller four weeks prior to the start of the event at 316-321-9660 or cmiller@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.
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K-STATE Research and Extension | **Butler County**

YOU ARE INVITED TO BLOOM INTO 4-H

June 17 | 1-5 p.m.
WITH THE BUTLER COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADORS

- *Free Day Camp for ages 5-9 years old
- *Limited to the first 20 registrations
- *Fun day of games and crafts
- *Light snack will be provided

Butler County Community/4-H Building
200 N. Griffith
El Dorado, KS

Register Here:
<https://forms.gle/ybo7zBbCjnM4i7eN6>

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Available Services

Bad Odor?

We have a breath of fresh air for you! K-State Research and Extension - Butler County offers Nilodor cotton balls to help eliminate the odor in your most desperate areas. Just 1 drop can neutralize the air in a 10'x10' room. Costing only \$0.10 per cotton ball, this is an extremely cost effective solution to your most smelly situations.



Soil Testing

Whether you are preparing your garden for spring planting or wanting to make sure your fields are ready to produce a bumper crop, we can help.

Bring your soil into the K-State Research and Extension - Butler County Office today and we will ship it to K-State Soil Labs for testing. Each test comes with personal recommendations put together by our Agriculture and Horticulture Professionals. Cost will vary depending on tests requested.

For more information on Horticulture Soil Testing, visit our website here: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/Soil%20Tests.html>

For more information on Agriculture Soil Testing, visit our website here: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/soiltest/untitled.html>

Coffee Mugs Now Available!

Get yours today at the K-State Research and Extension - Butler County Office
206 North Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042



Butler County Fair

Butler County Fair Board President Update

With fair time quickly approaching, I'd like to share the new events planned for this year's Fair: Fair King & Queen Contest, Special Champions Goat Show, and Kids Tractor Pedal Pull.

The Fair King & Queen contest highlights the outstanding youth of our county, promotes youth development organizations involved with the fair, and supports the Butler County Fair. Contestants develop valuable life skills such as public speaking, interviewing, and building confidence through the contest process. The crowned King and Queen and their attendants will represent the fair at various events, parades, and venues. The crowning will take place July 11, 2025, at the 4-H Fashion Revue.

The Special Champions Goat Show enables 4-H/FFA meat goat exhibitors to coach individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) on preparing for and exhibiting at the Butler County Fair. This event is open to I/DD individuals aged 14 and older, who will exhibit a goat with the assistance of 4-H/FFA exhibitors on Sunday, July 20th @ 6pm. Entries are due by 5pm on Monday, June 16th, 2025.

Sign up now... Participants: <https://forms.gle/Bgg6HMGBCCupQsyLq9>

4-H/FFA Coach: <https://forms.gle/qRpsR6wiH5TRUUMW6>



Calling all kids ages 4-12, weighing 30-90lbs, you are invited to test your leg strength and endurance at the Kids' Pedal Tractor Pull during the Butler County Fair on Sunday, July 20. Each child will pedal a tractor and drag a weighted sled as far as they can. The friction created by the sled makes it harder to pull the farther they go. This Kansas sanctioned event will qualify the top 3 places from each age division to compete at the Kansas State Fair. Registration begins at 1:30pm, and the pull starts at 2pm.






Visit <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/> for a complete listing of all Fair events

~ Erin

BUTLER COUNTY FAIR

KIDS PEDAL PULL

Sunday July 20th

-  REGISTRATION AT 130PM
-  PULL STARTS AT 2PM
-  AGES 4-12 WITH WEIGHT CLASSES RANGING FROM 30-90 LBS
-  KANSAS STATE SANCIONED PULL
-  TOP 3 PLACES IN EACH AGE DIVISION WILL GO ON TO THE KANSAS STATE FAIR IN SEPTEMBER!




WE'RE LOOKING FOR

AWARD SPONSORS

- Reserve Grand Champion Jr. Rabbit Showmanship \$35
- Grand Champion Sr. Rabbit Showmanship \$40
- Grand Champion Intermediate Clothing Construction Fashion Revue \$40
- Grand Champion Jr. Shopping in Style \$40
- Reserve Grand Champion Sr. Fashion Revue \$35
- Grand Champion Intermediate Foods & Nutrition \$40
- Reserve Grand Champion Jr. Visual Arts \$35
- Grand Champion Sr. Visual Arts \$40
- Reserve Champion Growth Portfolio Photo \$25
- Reserve Champion Career Portfolio Photo \$25

PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO

 butlerfairawards@gmail.com

Madeline Wallace

4-H Youth and Development Agent

mgwallac@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/>

A Minute with Madeline

Get Ready for the Butler County Fair! **Fair Preparation Tips for 4-H Members**

Summer is here, and that means one thing—Fair season is right around the corner! The Butler County Fair is a time to showcase your hard work, meet friends, and take pride in your 4-H projects. Whether you're entering livestock, photography, clothing, or STEM exhibits, preparation is key to making the most of your fair experience. Here are some helpful tips to get ready:



Know the Deadlines

Stay organized by marking all fair-related deadlines on your calendar. That includes:

- Pre-entry deadline: Monday, June 23 at 11:59 p.m.
- Livestock form deadlines
- YQCA certification for livestock

Check the Butler County 4-H Fair Book and Extension Office emails for the most current information.



Livestock Exhibitors

- Double-check your ear tags, tattoos, or registration papers for accuracy.
- Practice showmanship regularly—both with your animal and handling questions.
- Make a fair checklist with grooming supplies, feed, buckets, halters, fans, and bedding.
- Ensure your animal is used to noise and crowds to reduce stress on show day.

Get Ready for the Butler County Fair! **Fair Preparation Tips for 4-H Members Cont.**

Static Project Tips

- Finish projects early so you have time for final touch-ups.
- Review judging criteria in the fair book to ensure your display meets size or labeling requirements.
- Practice explaining your project as if you're talking to the judge—what did you learn?

Fair Etiquette & Safety

- Be respectful and courteous to judges, staff, and fellow 4-H members.
- Keep your stall or exhibit area tidy and your project well cared for.
- Drink water, wear sunscreen, and take breaks—it can get hot!
- Ask for help if you're unsure—it's a great chance to learn.
- For your safety and comfort, please wear appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes.

Final Reminders

- Pack early, not the night before!
- Label your belongings.
- Have a backup plan in case of weather changes or emergencies.
- Most importantly, have fun and be proud of what you've accomplished!

We can't wait to see Butler County 4-H members shine at this year's fair. Your dedication and passion make the event a true celebration of youth development. See you at the fairgrounds!

Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/>

Store Round Bales to Minimize Loss

Rain has been hit or miss for our area that past couple of months. Sadly, it doesn't look like our typical wettest month is going to yield us a lot of rain. Hopefully, the rain faucet won't turn completely off and we will continue to get rain throughout the summer months. A variety of big rounds, little squares and big squares will be seen throughout the county as producers are putting up hay and hay will be found both in barns and out in the fields. Bales that are stored outside can experience high nutrient losses due to rain.



Proper storage is important to reduce nutrient loss in bales stored outside. In a past Beef Cattle Institute Cattle Chat podcast Bob Larson, Kansas State University veterinarian said "Thirty percent of the bale is in the outer six inches so it doesn't take much spoilage to lose a third of the bale." He added that if weathering losses extend 18 inches into the bale, 75% of the hay is affected.

Here are some tips to help minimize loss:

- *Store bales on a rock base. This helps keep the base of the bale from leaching moisture from the ground.*
- *Line large round bales north to south in rows and end-to-end.*
 - *Lining them up north to south, only the north end of the row to avoid the drying effects of the sunlight.*
- *Allow for enough space between the rows so they dry quickly after a rain.*

Some loss will already occur to due feeding so minimizing loss during storage is important.

While putting up hay, it's also important to keep in mind the weather. The old adage "I can't bale it up if I don't cut it down" isn't the best philosophy if rain is forecast and it comes in and rains! Make sure and check the weather forecast either through local media sources or the National Weather Service, Wichita Office.

Mesonet Animal Comfort Tool



In the blink of an eye we have went from cool and wet to hot, dry and humid. The heat and humidity hit with a vengeance. Perfect storms do exist when it comes to weather and that is what happened when lots of cattle perished in recent heat. High temperatures, combined with high humidity in areas that don't typically see high humidity, combined with low winds created a very unfavorable environment for feedlot cattle. Extra efforts were being taken to try and reduce the impact on cattle. Unfortunately, we are still at the mercy of the weather and can only do so much.

Below is an article by Christopher "Chip" Redmond, Kansas Mesonet Manager and Matthew Sittel, Assistant State Climatologist talking about the Mesonet Animal Comfort Tool available.

Summer brings the heat, often amplified by humidity. With recent rains across the state, much of it in drought-stricken regions, there is no shortage of higher moisture in the air. When we factor in warmer-than-normal temperatures, especially at night, heat stress can rapidly develop in humans and animals alike. The Kansas Mesonet has an [Animal Comfort Tool](#) that helps track heat stress values at each location throughout the state.

When heat stress develops with hot, sunny, and humid conditions, increased proactive steps are required to avoid potential illness. This is compounded when heat stress values remain elevated for long periods of time. Of special importance is the animal's ability to recover at night. Recent record high temperatures overnight prevent the body from recovering from the previous day's heat and can compound the next day's stress if not mitigated.

Actual animal response to temperature stress will depend on a number of factors not accounted for in the index. Those include, but are not limited to: age, hair coat (winter vs summer; wet vs dry), health, body condition, micro-environment, and acclimatization. However, despite some of these unknowns, producers can evaluate the environmental conditions to livestock by using the Kansas Mesonet Animal Comfort tool.

Users can access this tool from the main Mesonet page (<http://mesonet.k-state.edu>) by selecting from the drop-down menu on the top left of every page, Agriculture, and then Comfort Index. Also, users can access the tool directly from this link: <http://mesonet.k-state.edu/agriculture/animal/>

Mesonet Animal Comfort Tool Cont.

Understanding the Comfort Index

Building on the Comprehensive Comfort Index produced at University of Nebraska, this tool illustrates the impact of both extremes of hot and cold. The index is unique in that it includes, in addition to air temperature and relative humidity, effects of wind speed and solar radiation. Data from beef and dairy cattle was used in the development and validation of the index. The map indicates where current conditions fit on the scale. Using the “Resources” tab on the webpage, users can learn more about the index, scale, and resulting potential impact. This also describes the colors used on the map and chart. In addition, users can examine the Nebraska publication if they would like to review the actual calculations.

Tracking Conditions

A particularly useful resource is the 7-day graph found under the “Chart” tab. This allows producers to monitor how conditions have fluctuated over the past week. Daily peaks can be expected each afternoon when temperatures are the warmest with peak solar radiation. Values then fall during the, usually cooler, overnight hours. Since stress impacts can be cumulative, having this feature allows producers to evaluate management requirements. This is especially a concern during warm overnights when values don’t drop below higher stress levels.

Accessing Historical Data

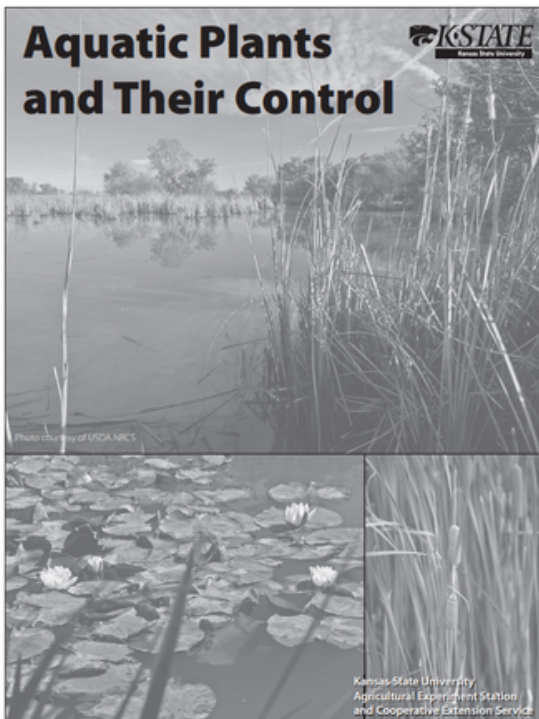
Unfortunately, since this information is calculated on an hourly basis, we do not keep a running archive of Animal Comfort that can be easily downloaded. From the “Download” tab, with the desired station selected, you can download the last week’s worth of data for that location.

Original article can be found here: https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/eu_article_prep.php?article_id=3761#:~:text=The%20Kansas%20Mesonet%20has%20an,step%20ahead%20of%20potential%20issues.

Aquatic Plants and Their Control

In a few recent quests to catch some crappie and bass, I noticed the moss is already starting to show its green presence. I also take a number of calls this year asking what the producer can do to get rid of algae or identify what is growing in the pond. There are some great resources available to help you determine what is in your pond or lagoon.

The first step in controlling aquatic plants is identification. My favorite site to visit for Aquaplant identification is [Aquaplant](#) by Texas A&M University. Their website has an excellent set of colorful pictures that you can navigate and also find ways to control the plant.



K-State Research and Extension also has an excellent publication on [Aquatic Plants and Their Control](#). Once you identify the plant, you can learn more about [chemical control options](#).

Pond information can be found on [K-State Research and Extension Wildlife Management](#) website. If you are looking to build a pond, [The Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) is the agency to contact.

Sorghum Planting Considerations: Planting Date and Hybrid Maturity

The most critical planting practices affecting sorghum performance are planting date, hybrid maturity, seeding rate, and row spacing. This article on planting dates and hybrid maturity complements a companion article on seeding rate and row spacing.

There is considerable variation in environmental stresses during the growing season for grain sorghum as you move across Kansas from east to west. Tailoring management to local conditions is essential to reduce the impacts of stress on the crop and maximize yield potential.

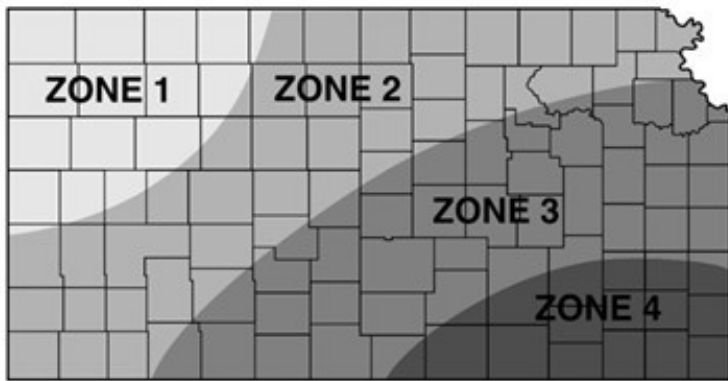


Figure 1. Suggested grain sorghum planting dates: Zone 1 (May 15 to June 10), Zone 2 (May 15 to June 20), Zone 3 (May 15 to June 20), and Zone 4 (May 1 to May 15, June 5 to June 25).

Planting date

Grain sorghum can be planted over a wide range of dates (Figure 1). The key is to time planting so flowering avoids the hottest, driest period of summer but still allows time to mature before frost. Utilizing several planting dates is an easy strategy to spread the risk of one planting date flowering during a period of heat stress. The goal is to establish a uniform stand. Rapid germination and emergence with sorghum occur when the soil temperature is 70°F. Planting too early results in delayed and uneven emergence and reduced stands. Late plantings may not allow the crop to mature before a terminating fall freeze. One potential strategy is to

plant fields with low surface residue levels first, they will likely have warmer soils, then progress to heavier levels of surface residue.

Planting date has some effect on seeding rates (See Sorghum planting considerations: Seeding rates and row spacing). Sorghum will tiller more readily when planted at the optimal date for the location. Later planting generally results in more in-season stress, which reduces tillering, and late-initiated tillers generally are less productive to final grain yield. As a result, later planting scenarios will be on the high side of the recommended range of seeding rates. The potential for greater tillering with earlier planting dates makes sorghum yields more stable when planted in May and early June than in late June or July.

Hybrid Selection

The selection of sorghum hybrids should be based on maturity and other traits, such as resistance to pests, stalk strength, head exertion, seeding vigor, and overall performance. For some production issues like iron chlorosis, hybrid selection is the most important tool available to producers. Hybrid maturity is related to the probability of reaching physiological maturity (black layer formation) one to two weeks before the first freeze. Use a shorter-season hybrid when late planting occurs, mid-June in north central or northwest Kansas, late June in south central and southwest, or July in eastern Kansas. When planted early, long-season hybrids are recommended for making use of the full length of the growing season (greater yield potential).

Sorghum Planting Considerations: Planting Date and Hybrid Maturity Cont.

Hybrid Selection Cont.

Producers should be considerate of biotic (i.e., chinch bugs and sorghum aphids) and abiotic (heat and drought stress) stress when selecting the planting date and hybrid maturity combinations for their operations. Planting early with a medium maturity hybrid could be a way to avoid heat stress during flowering and also avoid sorghum aphid (previously sugarcane aphid) infestation during the boot and early flowering stages. However, chinch bug infestation could be more severe in early planted sorghum, especially when planted near wheat fields.

Key Points

- Time planting so flowering avoids the hottest, driest period of summer, but still allows time to mature before frost.
- Establish a uniform stand. Rapid germination and emergence with sorghum occur when the soil temperature is 70°F.
- The selection of a sorghum hybrid based on its maturity should be related to the planting date, the expected duration of the growing season, and the probability that the hybrid will mature before the first freeze event.



Suggested resources for grain sorghum from K-State Research and Extension

“2024 Kansas Performance Tests with Grain Sorghum Hybrids” SRP1189 <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/SRP1189.pdf>

“Sorghum Growth and Development” poster (updated in 2023)

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3234.pdf>

Information for this article came from the Agronomy eUpdate, May 1st, 2025 issue

https://eupdate.agronomy.ksu.edu/issue_new/k-state-agronomy-eupdate-issue-1051-thu-may-1-2025

Ag Talk



HPAI: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, is a rapidly spreading viral disease that can infect many types of birds. Avian influenza, often called avian flu or bird flu, can be common, but some strains are highly pathogenic, which means they are more deadly. Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI can spread through spring migration and affect **all** domestic poultry — small and backyard flocks as well as commercial industries.

Poultry with HPAI **do not** survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.

Signs of Avian Influenza

- Coughing and sneezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme depression
- Lack of energy
- Decrease in feed or water intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle and legs
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death

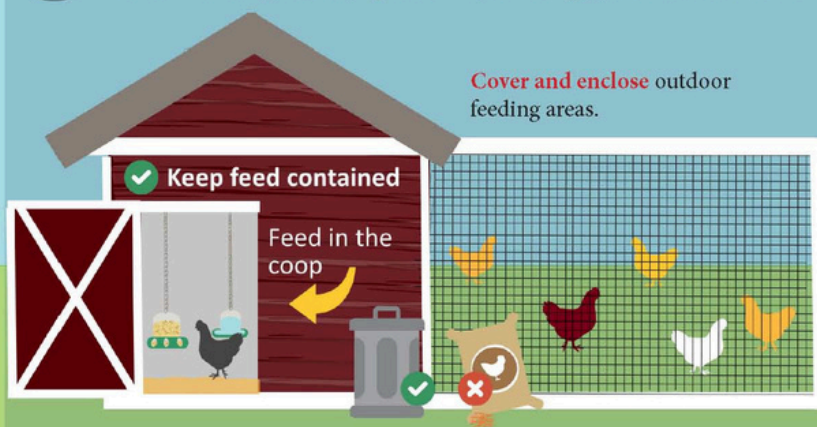
Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or backyard poultry flock.

Here is what you can do:

Protect Your Small Flock from Avian Influenza

1

Avoid attracting wild birds and waterfowl to your home or farm. Song birds, sparrows, starlings, etc. are **low risk**.



- **Clean up** feed spills.
- **Reduce** puddles and standing water.
- **Avoid** visiting ponds and streams, especially with pets.
- **Do not** move birds from farm to farm.
- **Isolate** new birds.

2

Limit or halt travel with your birds to sales, shows and swaps.

Ensure you have clean hands, clothes, and footwear before handling your birds if you attend events. **Do not** allow others to handle your birds.



3

Limit your birds' visitors.

If someone must visit your birds: discuss where they have been. Have them wash their hands and wear clean clothes and footwear.



Call your veterinarian if your flock shows signs of influenza or you suspect exposure. No veterinarian? Call the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health at 785-564-6601.



Ag Talk

Charlene Miller

Director/Agriculture Agent

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/>

K-State Agricultural Economics presents

Finances and the Farm: An online class to enhance your farm management skills

An applied approach to developing and using farm financial statements
for management decision-making for farmers and ranchers of all types

**This is a self-paced course you can take when
it is convenient for you!**

This course can be taken for education only or to fulfill FSA borrower's requirements.

**Seven Lessons: Recordkeeping, Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Enterprise
Budgets, Cash Flow, Goal Setting and Managing Family Living Expenses**

Participants will:

- Understand the structure of a balance sheet, income statement, enterprise budgets, and cash flow
- Choose either Cattle & Crops or CSA & Farmers Market case farm to complete quizzes to check understanding and practice using these financial statements in a real-world setting
- Be prepared to use financial management techniques for their own operation
- Set goals for their operation

- Learn how to make changes to avoid financial difficulties

Registration Fee:

- \$300 for FSA credit class
- \$100 for education only



**Approved for FSA Borrower's Training
Credits in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas,
Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota,
Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming**

Taught by Robin Reid, K-State Extension Farm Economist, and LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Analyst

**Register online for FSA Credit or Education Only:
www.AgManager.info/Events**

KANSAS STATE
Agricultural Economics

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



K-STATE
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K-State Agricultural Economics Presents:

Risk Management on the Farm

Online, on-demand course to take when it is convenient for you.

Taught by Robin Reid, Extension Farm Economist, and LaVell Winsor, K-State Farm Analyst

**Five Lessons: Determining Cost of Production, Crop
Insurance, Crop Marketing, Farm Programs (ARC/PLC), and
Beef Cow/Calf Risk Management**

Register online by using the link below:

www.AgManager.info/Events

Course Description:

- Learn principles of determining cost of production, developing a marketing plan, evaluating crop insurance options, and participating in farm programs (ARC/PLC)
- Participants will work with a case farm to apply these topics to a real-world farming operation through hands-on activities.
- The goal of this class is to acquire risk management skills that can be applied directly to a farming operation.
- The bulk of the course focuses on risk management for row-crop farming operations but also includes principles for beef cow/calf operations.

Special Topics:

- Managing stress and being resilient in tough times
- Communicating effectively with family members

Registration Fees:

- \$100 education only

Other information:

- Have 6 months from registration to complete
- This course is a replica of the 5-part Risk Management Series delivered by KSRE in 28 locations across the state from January-February 2022 in which 340 producers participated in-person

KANSAS STATE
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Find Your Balance

WITH BONNIE BREWER
FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCES AGENT
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FAMILY LIFE - MENTAL WELLNESS - NUTRITION - RELATIONSHIPS - SELF-CARE

bjbrewer@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/fcs/>



Fun in the Sun



Time outdoors has countless benefits for physical and mental health. Many people enjoy sports or engage in activities to improve their health. Time spent outdoors is known to help relieve stress, anxiety, and boost feelings of happiness and wellbeing. With these benefits of outdoors being well known to many, some may not know how to enjoy the outdoors while practicing sun safety.

Sun safety is important to reduce your risk of skin cancer. One in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime and nearly 20 Americans die every day from melanoma. Everyone is at risk for skin cancer, no matter their age, skin color, or gender.

Some helpful everyday preventative measures for practicing sun safety are to stay indoors or in shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when UV rays are strongest: Wearing UPF protective clothing, wide-brimmed hats, UV sunglasses, sunscreen: Seeking shade. Knowing these preventive measures is helpful, but other questions may come to mind as you prepare to be sun safe.



What about Vitamin D?

Strive to focus on foods rich in vitamin D. If you are unsure about your vitamin D levels, talk with your physician about having your levels checked through a blood test.

Find Your Balance



Fun in the Sun Cont.



Is my sunscreen safe to store in a vehicle?

According to the Food and Drug Administration, when exposed to heat, the preservatives found in sunscreen break down, allowing bacteria and fungi to grow faster.



If I apply a moisturizer with SPF each morning, am I covered?

Many moisturizers or foundation now have SPF ratings, but it's important to note that these do not protect all day. Just like sunscreen, to remain protected, you will need to reapply throughout the day.



Should I visit a dermatologist or my physician?

Many physicians will check the body during annual exams or when asked to do so. A physician may refer you to a dermatologist if they come across anything concerning, but it's encouraged to schedule an appointment with a health professional you trust, whether that's your physician or dermatologist.

Does a higher SPF mean more protection?

According to the MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas, SPF 15 sunscreen blocks 93% of UVB radiation, and SPF 30 blocks 97%. After that, the difference in protection is small. SPF 50 blocks 98%, and SPF 100 stops 99% of UVB rays from reaching your skin. No matter what SPF you choose, be sure to reapply often and use enough to cover all parts of your body thoroughly.

Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent

callae@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/>

Keeping Pets out of Flowerbeds

If you live in town or the country, pets can become nuisances in your flowerbeds and vegetable garden. Whether domestic or feral (wild), dogs and cats can be a real problem for gardeners. Cats can destroy plants and mess up your seedbed. Both defecate and urinate in the garden soil, making the place unpleasant. Cats can serve as a reservoir for diseases that include histoplasmosis, leptospirosis, mumps, plague, rabies, ringworm, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, cat scratch fever, and distemper. Cat feces can



contain parasites that can affect people's health. It is in the gardener's interest to keep cats out of the garden. Once animals start using your flowerbeds as a restroom, it can seem impossible to get them to stop, but there are some tips and tricks to keep the pesky animals out of your area.

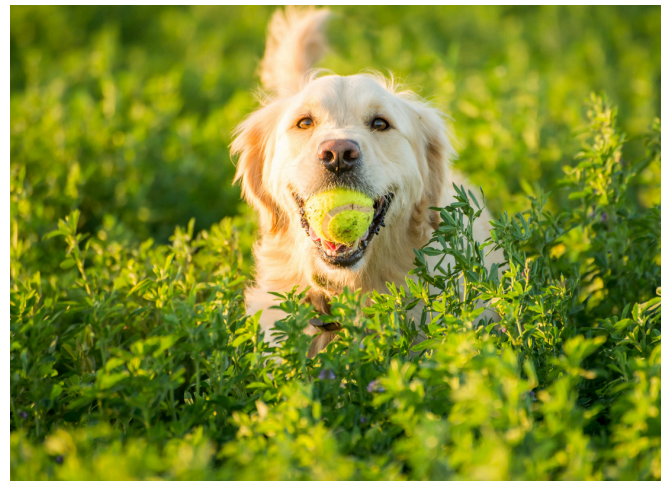
Cats use gardens and flowerbeds as litter boxes because the soil is similar to what they prefer for their kitty litter. Our first step to stopping them is to create a place that doesn't mimic their preferred restroom. You can use rough-textured mulch in flowerbeds to deter cats from using that area as a litter box. Cats don't like the feel of rough or larger chunks of mulch. Chicken wire fencing can be laid on the ground in the garden to prevent cats from digging. The wire can be secured with extra-large "hair pins" formed by cutting wire coat hangers in half. Most plants will grow through the wire easily. The wire can be covered with a thin layer of mulch if needed.

Garden Gossip

Keeping Pets out of Flowerbeds Cont.

Floating row covers can be used to cover raised beds or small areas where the cats are digging is limited to a small space. Single or double strands of electric wire on a low voltage can be used around the garden to teach cats that it isn't a safe space for them. The fence can be turned off once the cats have learned their lesson, but leave it in place as a deterrent. Some repellents can be used, but they might have limited effectiveness. Cats are more active during twilight and nighttime, so freshen repellents and prepare barriers for higher use during those times. To avoid contamination by cats' feces, wear gloves when gardening. Wash your hands and fingernails thoroughly after working in the garden when not using gloves. If a cat has been using your garden as a litterbox, I would hesitate to eat the produce grown in that area.

While having Fido with you when you are working in the garden is a wonderful experience, there are also some less-than-ideal experiences you can have with man's best friend. You might be less than impressed if your prize flowerbed has become the neighborhood dog's message board. Due to its high nitrogen content, dog urine can damage and even kill plants over time. Unfortunately, dogs can be harder to repel than cats, but it is possible. Put up a barrier around plants that are being used as a pee spot to make it harder to get to those spots. Some people have found that putting pinecones or other things that are uncomfortable on their paws discourages the dogs from walking there. As with cats, repellents have mixed reviews on whether they work, especially once pets use that area. If you can't stop them from going in that spot, pick a plant resistant to pet urine to plant there instead.



Pets are a wonderful part of life, even if they can cause us some headaches along the way. Hopefully, one of these tricks will help you keep roaming pets out of your flowers and garden. Don't use mothballs or flakes made from naphthalene to repel cats and other pests outside. When used outdoors, the balls and flakes melt and may contaminate groundwater.

Garden Gossip

After the Storm

Spring in Kansas often brings severe weather, and with it comes damage to trees. So far this spring, we have been lucky and avoided most severe weather, but that can change anytime. Unfortunately, severe weather will continue to happen; we live in Kansas after all, and while we can't control the weather, we can have the tools to handle the aftermath.

Your priority should be any dangling limbs or limbs barely connected to the tree. These limbs can easily fall and hurt people or property, and they should be removed ASAP before you do anything else with the tree. After you have removed the hazards, it's time to take a break and deal with other issues. The trees, for the most part, have stood for years, and waiting a few days or weeks will not hurt them in the long run. Often, our first thought is to get the tree taken care of immediately, and while that's important to do if the tree or branches pose a danger to humans or property, general pruning can wait.

The second step is to assess the damage done and determine the best steps to handle it. Once you have checked the area for safety concerns (powerlines, dangling limbs, etc), look over the tree. Trees that are missing less than 50% of their canopy and have minor damage to the main trunk or major limbs will survive and be fine with some pruning. Once a tree has lost more than 50% of its canopy, it becomes a bit trickier to determine if it can be salvaged. If the main structure of the tree is still intact (trunk and main limbs), then the tree could potentially be saved, but that depends on the sentimental value of the tree, how much it would cost to replace it, and the tree's health before the storm.

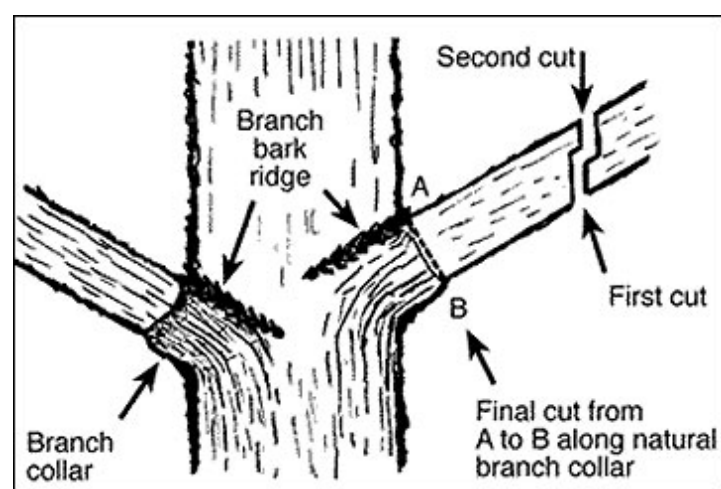
Once you have assessed the damage to the tree and determined what needs to be pruned out, it's time to clean up the tree. Before doing that, ask yourself if you feel comfortable pruning, how high up in the tree you must get, and how big the limbs you need to prune. Hiring a professional arborist to prune high in the tree and deal with large limbs may be best. When pruning branches over 3" in diameter, I recommend using the three-cut method to prevent tearing the bark. The first cut is on the bottom side of the limb about a foot from the trunk. This cut prevents the bark from tearing when the limb falls off. The second cut is from the top, is 2-3 inches beyond the first cut, and goes through the limb. This cut removes most of the weight from the branch and makes it easier to handle. The last cut is just beyond the branch collar, with a slight swelling or wrinkle in



Garden Gossip

After the Storm Cont.

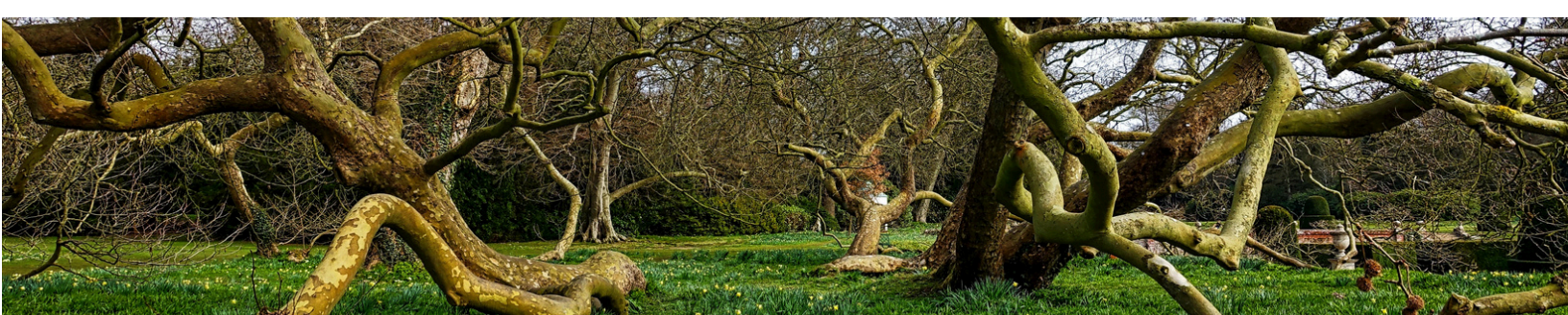
the tree's bark. This collar contains the cells to heal the branch after the cut. If bark was torn when limbs broke off during the storm, prune off the loose bark back to where it is solidly attached to encourage growth and healing. Wound treatments are unnecessary when pruning branches and, in some cases, can slow the plant's healing.



Commonly, trees will be blown over in storms, and while large trees that have fallen over cannot be saved, smaller trees with at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of their roots still in the ground could be pulled back upright and staked.

Remove some soil from the hole before the tree is pulled upright so the roots are below ground level. Once the tree is pulled back up, cover the roots with dirt as needed. Stake the tree using 2-3 lines.

After a disaster and a tree has been damaged, it is very common for people to want to pamper their tree and give it extra attention while it is recovering. This can cause more issues for our trees. If your tree is in your yard and you are fertilizing your lawn, it is getting all the nutrients it needs, and extra fertilizer will not help it recover. Most trees will survive without extra water; however, watering your tree once a week can be beneficial if we have dry weather. Your tree will be fine if you are already watering your lawn. Our trees are resilient, and very little care is needed after a storm to help them survive. It is crucial to watch damaged trees for several years after the storm, as insects and diseases are more likely to infect trees that are stressed from the damage. While there are chemicals you could apply, they likely would do more harm than good in the long run. If you do start seeing an issue, first get it diagnosed so you can treat it properly, then treat it.



Garden Gossip

Calla Edwards

Horticulture Agent

callae@ksu.edu

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/horticulture/>

June Gardening Calendar

Vegetables and Fruits

- Renovate June bearing strawberry beds
- Fertilize strawberries and water regularly to promote new growth
- Plant another crop of sweet corn and green beans
- Watch tomatoes for foliar leaf disease development and treat
- Mulch crops for moisture conservation and weed control
- Continue a regular fruit tree disease and insect control program
- Treat peach trees for trunk borers
- Remove sucker growth from the base of trees and along branches
- Pinch herbs to keep bushy and fresh with new growth
- Turn the compost pile and keep moist for quicker breakdown



Flowers

- Pinch chrysanthemums for development of a bushy plant
- Deadhead spent flower blossoms to keep plant flowering
- Remove flower stalks from peonies and Iris
- Mulch flower gardens to conserve moisture, control weeds and cool the soil
- Fertilize roses with about 1 cup of low-analysis fertilizer per plant
- Trim spent rose blossoms and check plants for insects
- Water and fertilize container plantings regularly to encourage flowering

Garden Gossip

June Gardening Calendar Cont.

Lawns

- Raise mowing height on tall fescue to 3" or 3 ½" for summer heat
- Fertilize zoysia lawns with a high-nitrogen fertilizer
- Sod or plug bare areas in zoysia lawns
- Spot treat for broadleaf weeds
- Core aerate zoysia lawns for removal of thatch and overall vigor
- Water turf sparingly to increase drought tolerance
- Let grass clippings fall for nutrient recycling
- Check mower blades for sharpness and sharpen as needed



Trees and Shrubs

- Check for bagworms and control as needed
- Mulch around base of trees and shrubs
- Prune pines and spruce trees to shape and control size
- Prune spring flowering shrubs
- Water newly planted trees and shrubs as needed
- Check for spider mite damage on various shrubs

House Plants

- Fertilize throughout summer months to encourage growth
- Take cuttings to start new plants
- Repot plants as needed in 1" larger containers
- Check for insect problems

