

# The Grapevine

## Growing Beautiful Annuals

Annual flowers are unmatched in their ability to provide a plethora of blooms throughout the growing season. No matter what color, size or shape of flower you want there is likely an annual that will fit your need. Annuals are plants that sprout, grow, flower and set seed all in one growing season. Some plants that we consider annuals are actually perennials in other locations but that's a conversation for another time. For some, growing annuals can be a frustrating task but with a few tips you can have beautiful blooms all summer long.

The first key is to pick the right plant for the right location. A sun loving plant will never be happy or perform well in a full shade location no matter what type of care you give. Be sure to check the tag to see what the growing requirements are for the plant before you buy it. It's also important to check how much water the plants need before planting them in combination. Try not to plant water loving annuals with plants that prefer to stay dry. You will never make both happy and in turn you won't be happy with the look.

The second tip is to encourage bushy plants. Annuals can become leggy and slow down on blooming if not trimmed, especially right when they are first planted. While it might seem harsh to remove flowers when planting annuals it's important to encourage them to develop a root system and branch out so you have a larger healthier plant later. Another key to keeping annuals blooming is to deadhead the flowers. There are some annuals who no longer need deadheading such as petunias however they will bloom better if spent flowers are removed. Always use scissors to cut the old flowers off instead of pulling them to remove.



The third tip is to fertilize. Annuals are heavy feeders and need fertilizer throughout the growing season to keep up with the growth and blooms they produce. Plants in the ground should be fertilized every 4-6 weeks through the growing season with a general-purpose fertilizer while plants in pots should be fertilized weekly with a water-soluble fertilizer. Along with fertilizer, be sure the flowers are getting watered on a regular basis and don't allow them to dry out for too long as this will reduce the bloom time. Some plants we consider annuals such as geraniums, hibiscus, mandevilla can be brought inside as houseplants to be moved back outdoors the next year. Just make sure to treat for bugs before bringing them inside.



## Weed of the Week- Poison Hemlock

This week's weed is poison hemlock. This member of the carrot family is often mistaken for Queen Anne's Lace, carrots and parsnips but should not be eaten under any circumstances. Poison hemlock is a tall, invasive and as the name suggests a poisonous weed that can cause severe reactions in people and animals. Poison hemlock has lacy, fern-like leaves with purple blotches on the stem and white, flat bloom clusters. It is a biennial, which forms a rosette the first year and will bolt with a bloom stalk the second year. Plants typically grow 2 to 6 feet tall with multi-branched stems. All parts of this plant are poisonous but the seeds are the worst while the sap causes rashes on the skin and if ingested can lead to muscle paralysis and suffocation. Poison hemlock can often be found in roadside ditches and in damp locations. When working with this weed be sure to wear long sleeves and gloves to prevent contact with the sap. Control can be found by either removing the plants with a hoe or shovel or spraying large areas with a herbicide containing glyphosate, 2,4-D, clopyralid or a product combination of active ingredients.



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### **Insect of the Week- Bagworms**

The bagworms are coming, the bagworms are coming!!!! The insect of the week is the Bagworms. 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. This bag is created from silk they spin and small pieces of leaves they collect to protect themselves from predators. Young larva hatch typically in about mid-May and leave the bag they hatched from to find foliage to start eating. Larvae will usually feed on the plant they hatched on 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 any plant but prefer junipers or arborvitae. These insects usually will go unnoticed till their bags are 1-2" in size and hang from the plant like little Christmas ornaments. The best control is achieved by starting control measures two weeks after the insects have started to hatch to ensure all the larvae are feeding which means we usually can start spraying around the end of May to the mid to latter half of June. There are several active ingredients that can be used to kill bagworms including Spinosad, permethrin, acephate, and cyfluthrin. Be sure to thoroughly cover all the foliage with the spray to kill the bagworms. There is unfortunately not a systemic insecticide on the market that is effective at controlling bagworms, the only control option currently available is spraying the foliage of the tree. If you don't notice the bagworms till August when they are larger, it's best to just pick as many bagworms off as possible and discard them since chemical applications at that point are usually unsuccessful.



### **Plant of the Week- Clematis**

The plant I am highlighting this week often goes by the nickname "Queen of the vines" for its beautiful blooms and climbing nature. The clematis has long been a popular vine for a variety of reasons. In modern times we love this plant because of its wide range of bloom color, the large blooms and its range of bloom times however in ancient times, the clematis was prized for very different reasons. Historically clematis were once used by Europeans to make fish traps, baskets and wicker while Africans use its dried roots as tinder to start fires and Roman beggars used to rub their hands with sap from this plant to form sympathy-evoking blisters. As you can guess this vine is native to a wide range of the world including North America, Europe, India,



Australia, China, Japan and New Zealand depending on the species we are talking about. Worldwide there are about 300 species of clematis but only a few hybridized species are currently grown as ornamentals today. These vines prefer full sun with afternoon shade in areas with hot summers and moist well drained soils. If possible mulch around the roots of clematis to keep the roots cool in the summer heat. Clematis blooms come in almost every color imaginable and range in size from an inch to seven inches depending on the variety. Many clematis bloom from spring through summer however there are a few varieties that bloom in the fall. Clematis are heavy feeders and will need a slow release fertilizer every four to six weeks through the growing season to keep them going. This vine has very few disease or insect issues and is relatively low maintenance with the exception of occasional pruning, watering and fertilizer. Before you prune your clematis first figure out whether it blooms on new growth or old growth and go from there. Be aware this plant is poisonous so keep pets or children from playing with or eating the vines, leaves and flowers.



## Issue of the Week- Iron Chlorosis

Iron Chlorosis affects many trees and shrubs in the Butler County. This issue is caused by one of two things, soils deficient in iron or soils where the pH restricts the ability of plants to take up iron. In our area iron chlorosis is caused



by the second. Iron is readily available in soils where the pH is between 5.0 and 6.5, when the pH is 7.0 and above the iron changes to an insoluble form and is not

available to trees. Iron chlorosis is most common in pin oaks, silver maples, sweetgum, baldcypress and even hydrangea plants. Iron plays a big role in producing chlorophyll, the green pigment in the leaves, and one of the earliest signs that your plant has this issue is yellow-green leaves with green veins. Trees suffering from iron chlorosis often have leaves that emerge early in the year be a normal size while leaves emerging later in the year are smaller and often more yellow in color. In advanced stages this

issue can turn the leaves fully brown and twig dieback may be observed toward the top of the tree. Eventually the lack of iron will weaken the tree to the point that it dies. In areas where the soil pH is highly variable some trees may only show symptoms on one side of the tree similar to the photo. Luckily there are treatments that can help the tree survive this issue. If a rapid response is needed, a foliar spray of iron sulfate or iron chelate may be applied to the leaves while the tree is leafed out. This provides the quickest response but it only helps the leaves that are already formed so any new leaves will be yellow in color. Lowering the pH of the soil is also an option if you have had the soil tested. This method, unfortunately, is the most difficult to do as the soil will eventually slowly move back to the pH it was at originally. For this treatment you add a sulfur product to the soil such as sulfur, iron sulfate, aluminum sulfate or a liquid injection (done by a professional) to the soil according to the soil test results you received. The products are applied under the canopy of the tree out beyond the dripline for best results. The final option is where you inject or implant an iron solution into the trees. This usually sees a response in a couple weeks. This can be done either by an arborist or by a homeowner. The concern with the injections is that the wounds made to inject the product can provide an entry for disease causing organisms. Whichever treatment option you choose will depend on your circumstances. Just be aware that treatments may only work for one year and this will be an ongoing treatment issue. It's also important to note that iron chlorosis is not the only issue that causes yellow leaves so if you have questions be sure to contact our office.



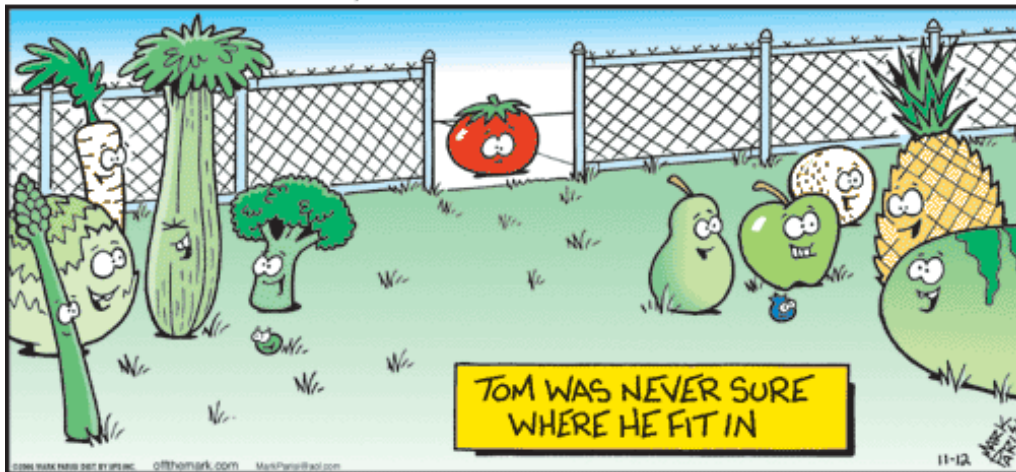
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## Reminders-

- Prune off the foliage from spring blooming bulbs as it dies back. By this point in the year they have stored enough food to bloom the following spring. Pruning them back now cleans up the bed.
- Fertilize hanging baskets and annual plants as needed.
- Start mounding soil or mulch around the stems of potatoes to keep the tubers from being exposed to the light. Exposure to light causes the tubers to turn green.

## Video of the week: Leaves turning Yellow? Check for Iron Chlorosis

Iron is necessary for the production of chlorophyll, which makes the leaves green. Chlorosis is caused by the plant not being able to acquire the iron it needs, which causes the leaves of plants to turn yellow and then brown. However, this condition can be treated. Watch the video here: <https://kansashealthyyards.org/all-videos/video/iron-chlorosis-in-plants>



## Upcoming Events

- June 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon- Drought Tolerant Lawns of Kansas- Warm Season Turfgrass**  
 Kansas weather is extreme, but summers are frequently hot and dry. Join Dr. Ross Braun, Assistant Professor of Turfgrass and Landscape Management, as he explains what it means to live in our “transitional climatic zone”, with the option to grow both cool- and warm-season turfgrass species. Learn how to grow grass species that are more drought tolerant, in order to better survive our summer weather and conserve water. This class is offered online via Zoom. For more information on the Garden Hour series or to register visit here: <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>
- July 5<sup>th</sup> at Noon- Solutions to Your Top Garden Insect and Disease Problems**  
 Insects, diseases, and weather related problems are always an issue in the landscape & garden. Judy O'Mara, Director of the K-State Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab, and Dr. Raymond Cloyd, Extension Specialist in Horticultural Entomology, are here to help! Learn to identify and solve the plant problems you should be on the lookout for, and bring your insect & disease questions for assistance from our experts. This class is offered online via Zoom. For more information on the Garden Hour series or to register visit here: <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/>



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**2023**

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