The Grapevine

Dividing Daylilies
While we have been roasting over the last week it’s hard to get up the energy to go out and do anything in the garden however, with fall approaching it’s time to start thinking about dividing perennial plants. After iris the next perennial we can divide is the daylily. Most of our other perennials should wait to be divided till sometime in September. Daylilies should be divided every three to four years for the best bloom production. After a daylily is finished blooming for the year they go dormant which usually is right about now. Daylilies can also be divided in the spring but dividing then will reduce the amount of blooms that you have for that year.

Prior to dividing daylilies it’s best to cut the plant back to about half their normal height to make them easier to work with. Once you have cut the foliage back it is easiest to dig up the entire clump of daylilies to divide them, especially if it’s been awhile since they were divided last. Daylilies have a very tough root system which makes it hard to dig up just part of a clump of plants that are well established. To break the daylily into smaller pieces, take advantage of the natural breaks in the plant by using the garden hose to wash the soil from the clump and then roll the clump back and forth till it starts to break apart. You can also use a sharp knife or your hands to pull the daylily bunch apart. A good-sized clump for replanting is one that has approximately 5 “fans” of foliage, if the clumps are larger they will need divided more often than smaller groups but they will have more blooms. Once the plants have been divided set the clumps about 24 to 30 inches apart (depending on the size of the daylily) and plant at the original depth. Be sure to water the newly planted daylilies regularly till they get established.

The first year after being divided there will be fewer blooms as the plants get established but they should bloom beautifully for you for years after that. Best of all you now have more plants to share with your friends or fill in those empty spots in your flower bed. For more information on dividing daylilies or to watch how to do it check out this video: https://kansashealthyyards.org/all-videos/video/dividing-daylilies If you have extra plants or cuttings of houseplants bring them to the plant swap being held by the Butler County Master Gardeners on October 14th from 8 am to noon at the Butler County Community Building. Bring any disease and insect free perennial or houseplant to share and swap for other goodies. We can’t wait to see you there!!!

Hummingbird Migration
One of the most popular species of bird to watch in Kansas is the hummingbird. These small, but mighty birds pack a ton of spirit into a tiny body. Hummingbird activity in Kansas really starts to get going in early July and the birds tend to hang around till the end of September when they start to migrate through on their way to their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America. Over the last week or so many birdwatchers have noticed an increase in the number of hummingbirds that have been visiting their feeders as some of the hummingbirds get a jump on the migration from further north. If you want to attract hummingbirds to your location now is the time to make sure your feeders are cleaned and stocked up for the migration south. It’s important to change the nectar every couple days at minimum however, when it’s hot when you should change the nectar every day as mold can quickly grow in the feeders which could hurt the hummingbirds. Don’t use red dye in the hummingbird nectar, just plain sugar water is the best for hummingbirds.
**Aphids on Vegetables**

While we may not like the hot weather there are several insect pests that do including this week’s insect: the aphid. Aphids are small, soft bodied, pear-shaped insects with two tailpipe-like appendages called “cornicles”. The cornicles are unique to aphids and excrete defensive compounds. Aphids come in a variety of different colors and can be winged or wingless. These insects overwinter as eggs on woody hosts and hatch in the spring, producing only females. The spring green peach aphids then feed on the new growth of woody plants, and when mature, give birth asexually to live female offspring. One female can have up to 12 nymphs per day for 50 to 100 total offspring. After about 2 to 6 generations on the woody plants the aphids grow wings and migrate to other plants, including perennials and vegetables for the summer. As temperatures cool aphids again form winged offspring, both male and female, and return to the woody plants where eggs are laid for overwintering.

Aphids feed by sucking sap from the plant tissues. This feeding distorts and stunts the plants while the honeydew aphids produce supports sooty mold growth. While the damage caused by aphid feeding hurts the plants aphids also are a vector for multiple viruses as well. It’s important to monitor your vegetables for aphids a couple times a week. Often aphid infestations start with just a few scattered colonies throughout the field so be sure to check everywhere not just around the edges. With the heat, aphid populations are increasing faster than their natural predators can keep them in check. You can attract natural predators by planting yarrow, alyssum, herbs and other plants with small attractive flowers for beneficial insects. If you find just a few aphids on your plants, it’s best not to treat until you reach threshold levels as small populations of aphids will support the beneficial insect population and keep the population in check overall. Once your levels reach the threshold for your vegetable then you can start treating. On small plants when the aphid population is increasing a general threshold level is finding aphids on 50-60% of the leaves or if aphid populations remain at 8 to 10 or more per leaf for two or more weeks. On cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower start treating as soon as 1 to 2% of plants are infested. If you see just a few aphids you can spray the plant down with a strong stream of water which washes the aphids off and kills them. Other control options include insecticidal soap and horticultural oils are options to treat aphids before the populations reach high levels. Once populations reach higher levels, products containing malathion, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin or pyrethrin can be used to control the insects. Be sure to thoroughly cover all parts of the plant and all sides of the leaf. Be sure to read the label and make sure it lists the vegetable you are treating along with the number of days after spraying before you can harvest the produce.

**Catalpa Sphinx Moth**

These hornworms are native to the Eastern United States and can be found anywhere that catalpa trees grow. Typically, catalpa worms are only a minor pest of catalpa trees however in some years there can be an outbreak that can defoliate trees in a relatively short period of time. Because these caterpillars are native to the US there are a host of beneficial insects that serve as natural predators of these hornworms so usually control is not needed.

Catalpa worms are a member of the hornworm family however unlike most hornworms these caterpillars are rarely found individually and usually are found in groups. Young larvae are mostly white with black spots and a black “horn” however, as they get older their colors can range from yellow to almost entirely black but most of them are yellow with patches of black along their back and a dark black “horn”. Adults are heavy bodied with large wings that are grey to brown in color with irregular dark markings and a wingspan of approximately 3 inches. The pupa overwinter at the base of the tree and the adults will hatch in the spring before laying eggs. This species is a boom or bust insect with some years they are almost impossible to find and other years they are numerous. If there are outbreaks they usually occur for a couple years before they disappear again. Control is rarely needed due to the numerous natural predators however they do make an excellent fishing bait if you find them and are sometimes raised for that purpose.
Video of the week: Pesticides: When can I Harvest?
When gardening, losses to pests can be reduced with proper production and pest control practices. If chemicals are used, follow the label instructions and pay attention to the pre-harvest interval (PHI) to determine when it's safe to harvest your vegetables. Watch the video here: https://kansashealthyyards.org/all-videos/video/pesticides-when-can-i-harvest

Grilled Romaine Salad

INGREDIENTS
- 2 heads romaine lettuce, halved
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup fruit or vegetables, sliced
- ¼ cup red onion, sliced
- ¼ cup nuts
- ¼ cup fat-free cheese
- ½ cup salad dressing (optional)

DIRECTIONS
- Preheat grill to medium. Cut romaine heads in half, lengthwise. Brush both sides with olive oil. Grill romaine, cut side down, 2-3 minutes on each side or until lettuce starts to char. Remove romaine from the grill and arrange on a serving platter.
- Top the romaine heads with the fruit/vegetables, onions, cheese and nuts. Lightly drizzle with your favorite dressing if desired.

Salad Combinations
- Grilled romaine, strawberries, red onions, feta cheese, almonds
- Grilled romaine, tomatoes, red onion, bleu cheese, bacon
- Grilled romaine, apples, red onion, feta cheese, pecans
- Grilled romaine, sweet corn, red onions, cotija cheese, bacon
- Grilled romaine, grapes, red onions, feta, pecans
- Grilled romaine, lemon, red onions, parmesan cheese
- Grilled romaine, beets, red onions, goat cheese, cashews

(Source: https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/recipes/grilled-romaine-salad)
Reminders-  
• Never fertilize warm season grasses after August 15th.  
• Sharpen your lawn mower blade.  
• Seed carrots, beets and beans.  
• Remove suckers and watersprouts from fruit trees.

Upcoming Events  

• **August 2nd at Noon** - Integrating Native Plants into your Home Landscape  
  Native plants are growing in popularity in the home landscape. Dr. Sharon Ashworth, Douglas County Horticulture & Natural Resources Extension Agent, will discuss the ecological benefits of native plants and how to successfully integrate natives into your landscape. Learn about what defines a native plant, which native plants work best, and what maintenance is required to grow a beautiful landscape of natives. 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/](https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/)

• **September 6th at Noon** - Seed Saving from your Garden  
  Seed saving is a fun way to enjoy gardening without breaking the bank. Most plants produce seeds that can be saved from one year to the next, however, not all seeds are equally suited for saving. Jesse Gilmore, Wildcat Extension District Horticulture Extension Agent, will discuss the merits of seed saving, the different types of flowers and seeds, and which plants are most suited to seed saving. 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/](https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/)

• **October 4th at Noon** - Putting your Garden to Bed: Winter Garden Prep  
  The growing season is nearly over, but your garden work may not be done just yet. Join Anthony Reardon, West Plains District Horticulture Extension Agent, as you learn about all of the various gardening tasks that can help your landscape throughout the winter and prepare your garden for the growing season to come. 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/](https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/consumer-horticulture/garden-hour/)

• **October 14th from 8 am to Noon** - Houseplant and Perennial Plant Swap  
  Have your houseplants grown like crazy this year and need a trim or did you divide some perennials and have extras? Bring your plants to the Plant Swap hosted by the Butler County Master Gardeners. The rules are simple: 1) Bring at least one plant, cutting or seeds to trade or sell, 2) All swaps must be labeled with plant name, 3) All plants must be pest and disease free. This event is free to attend, just bring your favorite plants to share with plant lovers in your community!!! Register so we can have enough tables: [https://forms.gle/ddB6As2f53Cf9PZa9](https://forms.gle/ddB6As2f53Cf9PZa9)

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