

THE GRAPEVINE

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MARKET GROWER & VENDOR WORKSHOP

Locally grown vegetables are fresh, delicious, and can boost the local economy. The 8th annual Central Kansas Market Grower & Vendor Workshop, sponsored by Sedgwick, Butler, Harvey, and Reno County Extension and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, will give both beginning and experienced vegetable growers new skills to improve their production methods and marketing skills for selling their local vegetables, while meeting an increasing demand for locally grown produce. The workshop is combined with a regional farmers' market vendor workshop done by Kansas Department of Agriculture. The workshop will be held Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in 4-H Hall at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center at 21st and Ridge in Wichita. Cost of registration is \$20 by January 27th and \$25 after that. The registration deadline is Thursday, February 2nd. Register online at <http://sedgwick.ksu.edu> <http://2013ckmvgw.eventbrite.com/> or by calling 316-660-0100. The workshop topics include *beginning high tunnels, morel mushroom identification certification, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program training, Pollinators & Organic Insect Management, growing mushrooms and uncommon fruits*, and more. The Keynote speaker will be Tom Buller of Buller Family Farms and the Kansas Rural Center speaking on Building Healthy Systems for Profitability. For more information, please call Rebecca McMahon at 316-660-0142.

Beginning Beekeeping Program

Bees and other pollinators play a significant role in our well-being. Without them and the work that they do we would live in a much different world. Not every plant or crop is reliant on bees and other pollinators, but the list starts with Apples and goes through Zucchini. It is difficult to overstate their importance to agriculture and feeding the people of this world.

There will be a Beginning Beekeeping program on Thursday, February 16th, at 6:30 PM, at the Butler County 4-H Bldg at 206 N Griffith in El Dorado, KS. Sharon Dobesh, K-State Entomologist, will be presenting on what you need to know to get started in Beekeeping. There will be a \$5 fee for this program and light refreshments will be served. To register please call the Butler County Extension office at (316)321-9660 by February 10th.

Conservation Trees from the Kansas Forest Service

The Kansas Forest Service offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in conservation plantings. Plants are one to two years old and sizes vary from 5 to 18 inches, depending on species. Orders are accepted from now through the first full week in May each year, but order early to insure getting the items you want. Orders are shipped from the second week of March through May 5. Approved uses for these plants include windbreaks, wood lots, riparian plantings, wildlife habitat and Christmas trees. They may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or grown for resale. All items are sold in units. Each single species unit consists of 25 plants. For example, a unit of Eastern red cedar has 25 trees per unit. Though a single species unit is most commonly purchased, four special bundles are also available including a songbird bundle, quail bundle, pheasant bundle and wildlife mast bundle. Order forms are available on line at the Kansas Forestry web site and also from the Butler County, K-State Research and Extension office at 206 N Griffith in El Dorado.

Plants Deer Don't Like

With rising deer populations, damage to landscapes has increased because of browsing. But deer have preferences and will avoid some plant species if more desirable food is available. Following is a short list of plants deer normally do not bother. Even so, remember that feeding habits can shift because of changes in food supply. Also, some deer may have different preferences than most of the group.

Rarely Damaged Trees: Blue Spruce and Russian Olive, Smoketree, Tree of Heaven Note: The deer may be on to something here as I don't like Tree of Heaven or Russian Olive either. Blue Spruce is beautiful if you can keep it alive in Kansas.

Shrubs: Barberry, Boxwood, Redosier Dogwood, Mahonia, Yew, Russian Olive, Rose of Sharon, European Privet, Vanhoutte Spirea Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs: Yarrow, Ageratum, Columbine, Snapdragon, Lily of the Valley, Purple Cornflower, Lavender, Sweet Alyssum, Daffodil, Russian Sage, Marigold, Lamb's Ears, Thyme, and Yucca.

Leaching Houseplants

Everyone knows that someone stranded in the ocean should not drink the water. The salt content of that water will make a bad situation worse. What many people don't realize is that this same principle can harm plants. Fertilizers are salts. They must be salts in order for the plant roots to take them up. However, salt levels can build up over time and eventually may harm plant roots leading to scorched leaves and unhealthy plants. Though this can happen under field conditions, especially in low rainfall areas, it is particularly critical with houseplants.

Houseplants have a certain soil volume that doesn't change until a plant is repotted. Salt build-up can be a crucial concern especially if plants are fertilized heavily. Leaching an overabundance of salts can be an important practice to insure the health of our houseplants. Leaching is not a complicated or difficult process. It consists of adding enough water to wash out excess salts. How much water is enough? Add the amount of water that would equal twice the volume of the pot. This, of course, would need to be done outside or in a bathtub or sink. Water must be added slowly so that it doesn't overflow the rim of the pot. If salt has formed a crust on the surface of the soil, remove it but don't take more than 1/4 inch of the underlying media. This may also be a good time to repot the plant.