

## HERB PROGRAM DEADLINE LOOMS!

Oooh, how ominous sounding, right? But the registration deadline for next weeks herb program is Friday. Don't forget to give us a call so you don't miss out.

On Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in the Butler County 4-H/Community Building at 206 N. Griffith in El Dorado, Kay Neff, owner of Neff Family Farms, will share her vast knowledge of all things herbal. Kay will not only be giving tips on what herbs grow here and how to grow them, she will also be sharing recipes and have a good selection of herbs for sale for those in attendance.

Barb Roths, Butler County Family and Consumer Science Agent, will be a co-presenter. She will cover a lot of the nutritional aspects of including herbs in your diet. Barb will also be preparing different dishes that are relatively easy to make. So before, during and after the program people will be able to taste the different offerings to see what might interest them.

We are asking that you please pre-register for this event, this will help insure that we have enough materials for all attending. The cost to attend is **\$5.00 per person**, and the **registration deadline is Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. To register, come by or call the **Butler County Extension office at (316) 321-9660**. Or you can e-mail the Butler County Extension office using [slewis2@ksu.edu](mailto:slewis2@ksu.edu). Put "Herbs" in the subject line and include your name and phone number in the body of the e-mail. So please come and join us for information on buying, growing, preserving, using and cooking with herbs!

### Fruit Tree Sprays and Rain

A spreader-sticker should be used in fruit tree sprays to improve the distribution and retention of fungicides and insecticides on fruit and leaves. However, even with a spreader-sticker, a rain can reduce the length of time the materials are effective. Less than one inch of rain since the last spray will not significantly affect residues. One to two inches of rain will reduce the residue by one half. Reduce the number of days until the next spray by one half. More than two inches of rain since the last spray will remove most of the spray residue. Re-spray as soon as possible.

### Pest Control on Fruit Trees

It can be a challenge to know how to spray fruit trees for pest control. Spray schedules will vary depending on whether the trees have fruit or not. Following are hints on what to spray this year for our most common fruit trees.

***Peaches, nectarines and apricots:*** Some trees do not have fruit due to the December 18 cold snap and/or a late frost. If there will not be any fruit, there isn't any need for being on a spray schedule. If there is fruit, use a product that contains captan or myclobutanil (Immunox, Fertilome F-Stop Lawn and Garden Spray) from now until about two weeks before harvest. Spray about every 10 days.

***Cherries:*** We often have good fruit on cherries without spraying.

However, a wet spring can lead to problems with brown rot. Myclobutanil (Immunox, Fertilome F-Stop Lawn and Garden Spray) or Captan will give good protection. Cherry fruit fly may attack the cherries with the maggot causing damage to the fruit. Malathion (check label), Bonide Fruit Tree & Plant Guard or Sevin can be used for control.

***Pears:*** Pears are often able to escape damage without spraying. If trouble does arise, use the same recommendations given for apples.

***Apples:*** Apples are the crop most in need of a spray schedule. Unless you have disease-resistant trees, cedar-apple rust is a perennial problem. The larvae of the codling moth is the insect most likely to damage fruit. Control can be a challenge due to changing labels and an extended spray season. An insecticide will need to be sprayed after petal drop to prevent damage from codling moths that cause wormy apples. Methoxychlor or malathion have been used in the past but labels are changing and these products may no longer be labeled. A new homeowner product with the trade name Bonide Fruit Tree and Plant Guard is labeled and would be effective for all common insect pests on apples. It also contains two fungicides. The active ingredient for insects is lambda-cyhalothrin. The fungicides are Pyraclostrobin and Boscalid. The fungicides only suppress cedar-apple rust and so are not as effective on cedar-apple rust than Immunox. In order to protect bees, DO NOT use any insecticide during bloom. An organic control with the trade name Cyd-X is also labeled but will control only codling moth. Although gardeners may continue to use myclobutanil throughout the season, certain other fungicides are more effective on summer diseases such as sooty blotch and fly speck. Consider using Bonide Fruit Tree and Plant Guard after petal drop as it contains both an insecticide as well as two fungicides. However, you are limited to four applications per year.

### **Fertilizing Cole Crops**

If you planted cole crops such as cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower earlier this spring, they will need a little fertilizer boost. These plants need to mature before summer heat arrives, so they must grow quickly while the weather is cool. A sidedressing of fertilizer about 3 weeks after transplanting helps plants continue to grow rapidly. Use fertilizers high in nitrogen for sidedressing such as nitrate of soda or blood meal at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 feet of row. You may also use lawn fertilizers that have close to 30 percent nitrogen such as a 30-3-4 or 29-5-4 but the rate should be cut in half to 1 pound per 100 feet of row. Do not use lawn fertilizers that have weed killers or preventers. Fertilizer must be watered in if no rain falls.

### **Fertilizing Strawberries and Brambles**

Most garden soils in Kansas have adequate levels of all nutrients other than nitrogen IF the area has been fertilized in the past. However, it is recommended that a soil test be done to be sure of the nutrient needs of your fruit planting. If the soil test recommends phosphorus and potassium, use a 10-10-10 fertilizer instead of what is recommended below but triple the rate. For example, instead of ½ cup per 10 feet of row, use 1.5 cups per 10 feet of row.

**Strawberries (June-Bearing):** June-bearing strawberries are not fertilized in early spring as this can make the berries soft and more prone to rot. Fertilize at renovation and again in late August to early September. In most cases, strawberries need primarily nitrogen, so the recommendations are for a high nitrogen fertilizer such as a 27-3-3, 29-5-4, 30-3-3 or something similar. Though recommended for lawns, these fertilizers will also work for strawberries as long as they don't contain weed killers or crabgrass preventers. Apply ½ cup for every 10 feet of row.

**Strawberries (Everbearing or Day-Neutral):** Fertilize in the spring as growth starts and again in early August. Use the rates recommended for June-bearing strawberries. Everbearing (dayneutral) strawberries are not renovated.

**Brambles (Blackberries and Raspberries):** In most cases, brambles need primarily nitrogen, so use a high nitrogen fertilizer such as a 27-3-3, 29-5-4, 30-3-3 or something similar unless a soil test directs otherwise. Though recommended for lawns, these fertilizers will also work well as long as they do not contain weed killers or crabgrass preventers. Apply ½ cup for every 10 feet of row. Fertilize in spring as growth begins.