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GETTING HEALTHY WITH HERBS

Learn how to grow and use them!!!

On Thursday, May 3rd, at 6:30 PM in the Butler County 4-H/Community Building at 206 N. Griffith in El Dorado, KS we will be presenting our annual Herb Program. 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, and her volunteers will be preparing different items 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 27th**. 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. 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!

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.

Peaches, nectarines and apricots: Most trees may not have fruit due to cold weather over winter. Fruit buds on peaches and nectarines are most often killed if the temperature reaches -10 degrees in the winter. The tree is fine but there will not be fruit any year with temperatures this low. Some apricots can also lose fruit buds at -10 degrees. These fruits are also very susceptible to late frosts. As trees go from bud swell to full bloom, they become much more sensitive to frost damage. Temperatures at 28 degrees and lower will harm buds that are in full bloom. 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. If a specific problem develops such as borers, peach leaf curl or gummosis, see our listing of common problems at <http://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/info-center/plant-pest-problems.html>. Look under "Peach" for possible problems and what to do about them.

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 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.

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.

Controlling Weeds in Strawberries

Strawberries are one of the most popular fruits, but gardeners often have problems with weed control. Strawberries form a mat of plants, which makes hoeing difficult. Gardeners must pull weeds by hand or use herbicides. In small plantings, hand weeding is usually sufficient as weeds become less of a problem when the plants canopy over to block sunlight to the soil. In larger plantings, herbicides may prove helpful. Although there are no weed preventers available for homeowners to use on strawberries, Poast (sethoxydim), a grass-killing herbicide, can be used after weedy grasses have emerged. It can be sprayed directly over strawberries without harm but should not be applied within 7 days of harvest. You can find Poast in Fertilome Over the Top II, Hi-Yield Grass Killer and Monterey Grass Getter.

Termites or Ants

Both termites and ants are able to swarm and may have wings during part of their lives. Since these insects are close to the same size, people often misidentify flying ants as termites. Since flying ants do not attack wooden structures like termites, it is helpful to be able to tell the difference.

Fortunately, there are several differences that can easily distinguish the two. For example, ants have a thin waist; the waist of a termite is thick. Also, ants' antennae are elbowed, while termites' are not. Thirdly, termites have two pairs of wings that are of equal length. Ants also have two pairs of wings, but theirs are of unequal length. Homeowners who find signs of termite activity should shop for a reputable pest control firm.

Know the Difference Between Roundup & Roundup for Lawns.

There is a huge difference in the active ingredients in Roundup compared to Roundup for Lawns. That is why it is so important to know what you are applying. Every homeowner needs to know the difference! Roundup has moved into the arena of multiple products for lawn care, no longer do they just offer a Glyphosate herbicide that kills EVERYTHING! They are now making a product for use on lawns to kill weeds without harming the turfgrass. I will make a prediction, due to the confusion with the names of these products, I will get at least one phone call this year where someone has killed their entire lawn with glyphosate because they thought they could use Roundup on their lawn and they put out the wrong product. Always remember to READ THE LABEL for the correct rate, turfgrass tolerance, and specific instructions before application!!!

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