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## THE GRAPEVINE



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### ***MUSHROOM PROGRAM ON TAP!***

Mushrooms, mushrooms, mushrooms! All things mushroom will be discussed at the **Mushroom Growing** program to be held at **6:30 PM next Thursday** at the Butler County Extension office in the **4-H/Community Building at 206 N Griffith in El Dorado**. Every year, without fail, I get several people asking me about this or that wild mushroom and whether or not it is edible. I cannot answer those questions, but we can grow our own so we don't have to take chances on wild ones. This program is not about how to identify Morel Mushrooms, but our instructor, **Pam Paulsen, K-State Research & Extension Horticulture Agent in Reno County**, does teach the Morel Mushroom Certification classes for KDA. Next Thursday night she will be presenting a program on how to grow your own culinary mushrooms right at home. This is a classroom presentation about what you need to know about the process and what you need to procure in order to successfully produce your own. Different types of culinary mushrooms are commonly grown by many, these include shitake, lions mane, and more. If you are interested in this informational meeting on how to do it and what materials are needed to get started, please call the Butler County Extension office at **(316) 321-9660** to reserve your spot. There is a **\$5.00 fee** for this program.

### ***Proper Timing for Crabgrass Preventers***

Crabgrass preventers are another name for preemergence herbicides that prevent crabgrass seeds from developing into mature plants. Many people have a somewhat foggy idea of how they work and assume they kill the weed seed. Such is not the case. They do not kill the seed or even keep the seed from germinating but rather kill the young plant after it germinates. Therefore, they do not prevent germination but prevent emergence. Crabgrass preventers are just that - preventers. With few exceptions they have no effect on existing crabgrass plants, so they must be applied before germination. Additionally, preventers do not last forever once applied to the soil. Microorganisms and natural processes begin to gradually break them down soon after they are applied. If some products are applied too early, they may have lost much of their strength by the time they are needed. Most crabgrass preventers are fairly ineffective after about 60 to 90 days, but there is considerable variation among products. (Dimension and Barricade last longer. See below.) For this part of Kansas, crabgrass typically begins to germinate around April 15<sup>th</sup>. April 1<sup>st</sup> is normally a good target date for applying preventer because it gives active ingredients time to evenly disperse in the soil before crabgrass germination starts. Even better, base timing on the bloom of ornamental plants. The Eastern Redbud tree is a good choice for this purpose. When the trees in your area approach full bloom, apply crabgrass preventer. A follow-up application will be needed about 8 to 12 weeks later unless you are using Dimension or Barricade.

Products that do require a follow-up application include pendimethalin (Scotts Halts - 8 weeks) and Team (Hi-Yield Crabgrass Control - 8 weeks), and Oryzalin + Balan (Green Light Amaze - 12 weeks). Dimension and Barricade are the only two products that give season-long control of crabgrass from a single application. In fact, they can be applied much earlier than April 15 and still have sufficient residual strength to last the season. Barricade can even be applied in the fall for crabgrass control the next season. Dimension can be applied as early as March 1. Because of the added flexibility in timing, these products are favorites of lawn care companies who have many customers to service in the spring. Though Dimension is usually not applied as early as Barricade, it is the herbicide of choice if it must be applied later than recommended. It is the exception to the rule that preemergence herbicides do not kill existing weeds. Dimension can kill crabgrass as long as it is young (two- to three-leaf stage). Dimension is also the best choice if treating a lawn that was planted late last fall. Normally a preemergence herbicide is not recommended unless the lawn has been mowed two to four times. But Dimension is kind to young tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass seedlings and some formulations can be applied as early as two weeks after the first sign of germination. However, read the label of the specific product you wish

to use to ensure that this use is allowed. Lawns established in the fall can be safely treated with Dimension the following spring even if they have not been mowed.

Note that products containing Dimension and Barricade may use the common name rather than the trade name. The common chemical name for Dimension is dithiopyr and for Barricade is proflumicafone. Remember, when using any pesticide, read the label and follow instructions carefully.

We recommend crabgrass preventers be applied before fertilizer so that the grass isn't encouraged to put on too much growth too early. However, it may be difficult to find products that contain preemergents without fertilizer. Those that don't contain fertilizer are listed below. I didn't find any products containing Barricade that did not also have a fertilizer.

**Pendimethalin** - Scotts Halts, Team (Benefin + Trifluralin) - Hi-Yield Crabgrass Control,

**Dimension** - Hi-Yield Turf & Ornamental Weed Stopper - Bonide Crabgrass & Weed Preventer, **Surflan** - Green Light Amaze (Surflan + Balan) - Dow Elanco XL (Surflan + Balan).

## **Apple Tree Sprays**

Apples are the fruit most likely to be damaged by diseases and insects of any fruit grown in Kansas. Two common diseases on apple trees are cedar apple rust and apple scab. Though some apple varieties are resistant to these diseases most varieties are susceptible. Fungicide sprays during April and May are critical to preventing disease on susceptible varieties. The first spray should go down when leaves appear. A fungicide that is available to homeowners and very effective for control of apple scab and cedar apple rust is myclobutanil (Immunox and F-Stop Lawn & Garden Fungicide). There are several formulations of Immunox but only one is labeled for fruit. Check the label. Sprays should be done on a 7- to 10-day schedule to keep the protective chemical cover on the rapidly developing leaves and fruit. These diseases are usually only a problem during April and May. An insecticide will need to be added to this mixture after petal drop to prevent damage from codling moths that cause wormy apples. We have five products that can be used. **Read and follow the label instructions - some products are restricted as to how many times a year they can be used.**

Bonide Malathion, Bonide Fruit Tree Spray, Bonide Fruit Tree and Plant Guard, Ortho Flower Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer, and Cyd-X, an organic control only effective against worms.

In order to protect bees, DO NOT use any insecticide during bloom. Wait until petal fall. Sprays are applied every 10 to 14 days. A hard, driving rain of about 1 inch or more will likely wash chemicals from the leaves and fruit. In such cases, another application should be made.

A typical schedule to go by looks like this -

**Leaves Appear:** Immunox or F-Stop Lawn & Garden Fungicide

**Petal Drop:** Add insecticide to the Immunox or F-Stop. The mixture is Immunox or F-Stop + one of the listed insecticides.

**June 1:** Drop the Immunox or F-Stop so you are applying only Bonide Fruit Tree and Plant Guard or Bonide Tree Fruit spray. Spray every 10 to 14 days until harvest.

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