**Female Narrator:** [00:00:00] Welcome to the Lawn and Garden Podcast with University of Wyoming Extension specialist Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck, originally aired on KGOS and KERM in Torrington. Join Jeff, Jerry and their special guests as they talk all things gardening in Wyoming. Our Lawn and Garden Podcast helps you improve your home garden or small acreage.

**Jeff Edwards:** Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden Program. Good morning, Jerry. How are you today?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Good morning, Jeff. I'm doing great. Thanks.

**Jeff Edwards:** Warming up after a fun week?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh my. [LAUGHTER] Rebounding is what I'm looking forward to.

**Jeff Edwards:** Excellent. Our guest today is Donna Hoffman from University of Wyoming Extension in Casper. We're glad to have you here with us, Donna. Good morning.

**Donna Hoffman:** Good morning. It's always good to join you all.

**Jeff Edwards:** We will take a few moments and listen to our sponsors and we'll be back right after this.

**Female Narrator:** You are listening to the Lawn and Garden Podcast presented by University of Wyoming Extension, extending the land-grant mission across the state of Wyoming with a wide variety of educational programs and services. Visit us at wyoextension.org.

**Jeff Edwards:** Good morning, everybody. Once again, this is Jeff and Jerry for the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden Program. Our guest today is Donna Hoffman and we are talking about fall stuff, [LAUGHTER] particularly the wild and wacky week we've had this week and possibly discuss the things that we did this last weekend in preparation for weirdness. [LAUGHTER] Lots of snow. Donna, you sent me a picture this week of your yard. How much snow did you get on Tuesday?

**Donna Hoffman:** I didn't measure it, but I'm guessing we had about three, maybe four inches in our yard.

**Jeff Edwards:** It was nice to see your greenhouse.

**Donna Hoffman:** Still up? Yes. [LAUGHTER] My marriage survived the construction of that little apparatus so that's a good thing. [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Even better. You mentioned that you put a heater in there to keep it warm, a propane heater. How did that work out for you?

**Donna Hoffman:** Seemed to keep things about 40 degrees. We put it on the lowest setting possible and it's one of those that my husband has had and used when he would ice fish in a hut and keep the edge off when it gets pretty darn cold outside in the wintertime. With the enclosure in the greenhouse, it stayed just above freezing, which is all we really needed.

**Jeff Edwards:** Usually with a propane heater, it gives off, what is it, CO2 and water vapor. Did you notice that there was accumulation of moisture on the inside?

**Donna Hoffman:** There was some moisture accumulating on the inside. We probably didn't have maybe as much as a greenhouse that was sealed up really well because [00:03:00] we put roll-up sides on the side of this one. One of the reasons we decided to put the heater in there is there was a bit of a gap.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Donna Hoffman:** We left one side rolled up all summer long and when we unrolled it, it didn't roll all the way to the ground on one end. So there was a gap. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** That's poor planning.

**Donna Hoffman:** Poor planning, yeah. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Once your temperatures rebound, you can rectify that by resheeting or gluing on or sewing on?

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Adding a piece.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Adding a piece of plastic.

**Jeff Edwards:** Maybe after some counseling. [LAUGHTER]

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah. It's funny how this job and activities that we do in this job and in the gardens sometimes requires mediation between two, [OVERLAPPING] you'd think, responsible parties based on a garden that's supposed to be all fun and games.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, exactly.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We talked about this before several times on several different issues. Yeah. You should have a game plan and be okay with a game plan or just allow the other one to just go, "Hey, I see you, you're worthy. Go ahead and take charge and I'll just weed eat. One way or the other."

**Jeff Edwards:** That's called obedience. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** In our marriage, it was never honor and obey, it was aid and abet. [LAUGHTER]

**Donna Hoffman:** I did tell Mark that when we were getting married there was going to be no obeying in our [LAUGHTER] marriage vows. That one's not going to happen. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** How's that working out for you, Donna? [LAUGHTER]

**Donna Hoffman:** There are times when I find my quiet side and I just wait and watch till the decision making is done.

**Jeff Edwards:** Jerry, before the program, I was harassing you a little bit. You were supposed to have a rototilling event this weekend.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, that got pushed back.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I did get a bunch of my seeds that I wanted to plant and the weather pushed it away and then some other activities pushed it away. My rototilling event is pushed into the near future.

**Jeff Edwards:** The rescheduling of the rototilling event.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Rescheduling of the event.

**Jeff Edwards:** By Friday last week we knew that this weird thing was coming, which allowed us to not only enjoy a Labor Day weekend, but enjoy a labor weekend. Saturday, which was the plan anyway, we [00:06:00] rented a aerator and went through and aerated all of our turf, which it definitely needed that. Then I was able to get down some fertilizer over the top of that and [OVERLAPPING] reseed a little bit in some places where our turf has struggled, [LAUGHTER] which is hard to believe, but I got [LAUGHTER] areas that are rough.

**Donna Hoffman:** Jeff, your turf that you installed was originally sod, right?

**Jeff Edwards:** I have a mixture, Donna. The very first bit that we put in, we actually grew from seed and I think I'm trying my darndest to kill it [LAUGHTER] one way or another. Then we had three other locations where we put sod in, and so yes, there are some definite differences between the two, and I'm still learning. [LAUGHTER]

**Donna Hoffman:** Are you patching spots that were originally seeded or originally sodded?

**Jeff Edwards:** Originally seeded. The sod has done quite well [OVERLAPPING] I think. It's a nice full mat. All the seams have filled in really nicely and so the sod has worked out really well. I have to be better at adjusting my sprinkler heads. There's some work that I need to do this fall to make sure that places are getting adequate water. But it's one of those things I look at it and go, [NOISE] I'll get it next week. [LAUGHTER] It's really low priority for me [OVERLAPPING] and then when it shows up brown and dying, I go, "Crap, I should've worked on that a month ago." [LAUGHTER]

**Donna Hoffman:** If you just put it on your to-do list and get it done, you'll be happier.

**Jeff Edwards:** I know. [OVERLAPPING]

**Donna Hoffman:** The investment of the half hour to an hour of your time. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Either that, Donna, or else you have just an extremely long list.

**Donna Hoffman:** That could be too. Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** That's what June is like for us is a bunch of long lists. I've got one head that, for whatever reason, it keeps backing out of the threaded mount.

**Donna Hoffman:** Do you have visitors in your yard? [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** We'll find it in the middle of the yard, just blown out and it's like, "How does this happen?" [LAUGHTER]

**Donna Hoffman:** Have you tried some Teflon tape or some Teflon? My husband has used some Teflon liquid stuff. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Right now I'm choosing to ignore it. [OVERLAPPING] Everybody needs a geyser in their yard. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Did you blow your sprinklers out yet this year?

**Jeff Edwards:** No. I didn't blow them out but I did drain the risers. I turned off all the water, took all the hoses off, the spigots, that type of thing, and then on the automatic sprinklers where the riser comes up to the anti-siphon valve I drain them, but I didn't blow anything out because it was supposed to get cold but it didn't freeze hard enough to [OVERLAPPING] affect thing on the ground.

**Donna Hoffman:** I don't think anywhere near zero.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Now rebounding temperatures, yes.

**Jeff Edwards:** [00:09:00] Before we jump to that, I have a wives' tale that we would like to re-discuss. [LAUGHTER] The cicadas. We talked about the first time that you hear the cicadas, other people call them locusts, which are incorrect they're cicadas [LAUGHTER] was July 9th. If you think July, August, September 9th. That day that we had the really cold weather [LAUGHTER]. So that's eight weeks, right? Is there some truth to that? I don't know but it worked out this year. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** There might be because a lot of those old wives. They knew how to do poultices, they knew how to break fevers, they could tell when the cow needed to be milked, the calves to be dehorned, all of that stuff. That's why they made the Farmer's Almanac and I think they credit old wives in there. I don't know if they [LAUGHTER] do or not but they should.

**Jeff Edwards:** Anyhow, it was odd and just maybe slightly disturbing that [LAUGHTER] the cicadas might've indicated this cold snap.

**Donna Hoffman:** Because I am not in an area where we get cicadas, I am unfamiliar with the wives' tale. The wives' tale indicates that once the cicadas appear, then you've only got eight weeks to go?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** When they start singing.

**Jeff Edwards:** When you first start to hear them, and I can't remember if it's six weeks or eight weeks, but if it happened to be eight weeks, it's right on target.

**Donna Hoffman:** Right on target? Interesting.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah. I've never lived in a place where they sing. I've only visited those places.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, they can be quite annoying.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, and my wife is always, "Did you hear that? That's a Cicada," and I go, "Yeah." I think it is six weeks.

**Jeff Edwards:** Is it six?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Six weeks or eight. [OVERLAPPING] I'll have to do some consulting.

**Jeff Edwards:** We're going to have to look that one up again.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Now, since you've talked about cicadas, I heard that there was some zombie cicadas, with the blue bees and the monster bees.

**Jeff Edwards:** They're calling them the murder hornets, which is more accurate.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Murder hornets?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, apparently this fungus gets into a cicada and rots out their brain and they do a slow death and that's why they call them zombie cicadas.

**Jeff Edwards:** So they have fungi that affect ants the same way and wasps, but you got to remember Jerry, insects don't have brains like we do. I don't know how much physiology you actually you want to get into today. How do I want to even get into this? Each body segment has like a little brain in it, but they do have a main brain in their head. But [00:12:00] yeah, it totally affects their nervous system.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** So they have neural bundles throughout their body.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes. Sure. Right. And they have two nerve cords.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** That's interesting.

**Jeff Edwards:** We only have one they have two and it also resides on their belly, not on their back. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Okay.

**Jeff Edwards:** How much physiology do you want to discuss today? [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I like to hear that because you just think that insects should be like you are, but they are not.

**Jeff Edwards:** They are totally unlike us. So when the nerve cords get into their neck, then it divides, it goes around their esophagus and then it combines in their brain and their heads. So it goes up and around the back when they get into their head.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, cool.

**Donna Hoffman:** I've got an interesting physiology discovery last week. I've had praying mantis in our yard on a pretty regular basis this summer, which is a new thing for me. I've seen one or two of them here and there in the past. But one of them fell in our pond and met its demise, they don't swim well. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** They dog paddle. [LAUGHTER].

**Donna Hoffman:** I think I tried to save the same one a few weeks earlier and it scurried off, but maybe it was destined to drown. Anyway, it's the same pond and same area of the pond where it fell in but I took it out and brought it to the office thinking I was going to pin it to put in my insect collection, which did not go well. Because they have such a large body mass. I ended up asking Scott Shell for suggestions on pinning it. I was trying to pose the legs and such, I had pretty good luck with that and then opened the box up the next day and the whole thing had turned black. I did not realize that entomologists who collect insects also do some taxidermy.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes, they do.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah, anyway, needless to say that one did not get saved for the insect collection because I did not know this in time.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. So they will actually cut them open and clean them out and stuff them full of cotton, if they're a large bodied insect.

**Donna Hoffman:** The one I watched was for a walking stick and he put a pipe cleaner [LAUGHTER] for the cotton that was stuffed in the body.

**Jeff Edwards:** Cool.

**Donna Hoffman:** I didn't watch one on the praying mantis, but I did watch an entomologist who has very interesting collection. I think he's a professor somewhere, but he cleaned out one of the ones that's looks like a leaf.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure.

**Donna Hoffman:** That was a large body cavity and he [00:15:00] did stuff that with cotton by the time he was done. He also dumped alcohol on it and something else, now I can't remember. One was to dry it out and one was to preserve the color. Probably an alcohol or ethyl alcohol. I can't remember the other one, but it was to help dry it out.

**Jeff Edwards:** I got to admit that entomologists are a weird breed. [LAUGHTER]

**Donna Hoffman:** We need people to teach that stuff. I have a master gardener this year who when he was much younger wanted to become an entomologist until he discovered that entomologists kill insects. He didn't want to kill them, so he became a civil engineer, but he's now the one here in our office that gets to do most of the insect identification and he's getting them right down to species for us.

**Jeff Edwards:** Excellent.

**Donna Hoffman:** He's very accurate at his work, but he was not into that part of the process.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, very good.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Now Jeff, didn't you tell me before that most insects the way you kill them is to freeze them, if you're going to take them.

**Jeff Edwards:** When I was in college, the way to kill them was using a kill jar that had cyanide in it and so we've moved away from that, the kill jars now if you want to use ethyl acetate, I think that's what it is. The product that people use for fingernail polish remover, is that ethyl acetate? Acetone.

**Donna Hoffman:** Acetone.

**Jeff Edwards:** Acetone. So if you have a jar and you dip a cotton ball in acetone and put that jar in there and then you can collect an insect in it, it will kill it. But really the easiest way to kill them is, put them in a plastic bag or a jar and throw them in a freezer, a couple of days later you can go back and then if you did want to pin them, you could do that with them at that point in time.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** But still if they are big enough bug, you have to clear out the cavity, the abdominal cavity?

**Jeff Edwards:** Sometimes. Fortunately, for those of us in Wyoming, if your insect you're trying to pin hasn't drowned, it's usually dry enough that most of the time you can get away with pinning them, but if you don't preserve them correctly, they will lose their color or they will dry up in a weird way if you don't position them how you want them to dry. How did we turn this show into the bug show?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I don't know. [LAUGHTER].

**Donna Hoffman:** We've talked about physiology, but one of the things that was really interesting about that video was that he was able to harvest eggs out of the abdomen of the one insect and he said he was going to save them and hope that they would continue to hatch later on. I'm really curious about that. I haven't gotten into any research about how you save and harvest eggs from an insect and have them [OVERLAPPING] in an unnatural, not the typical way. But very curious [00:18:00] about how that works.

**Jeff Edwards:** The only way I can see that happening is if it was cockroaches. [LAUGHTER].

**Donna Hoffman:** No, it wasn't. Anyway, I was curious about if they did hatch, so I'm tempted to go back and look at the video and ask the guy again how that worked. Anyway, it was really interesting to learn some more in-depth information about entomology because of my attempt at using those techniques.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, I'm glad it turned into an entomology show. Some of our listeners probably won't be, but that's okay.

**Donna Hoffman:** Maybe we need a hazard comment at the beginning. [OVERLAPPING] Some of the comments in this show are disturbing.

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING] squeamish.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Kids will sometimes press like butterflies in a press or they press leaves and they press flowers and that sort of thing. I was thinking of making my kids a press for Christmas.

**Jeff Edwards:** A plant press?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, and it's interesting to know that you should use only flat insects if you're going to press them and dry them out.

**Jeff Edwards:** Insects don't necessarily need to be pressed, but plants do. Insects should be pinned and there are some rules governing all of that. How they should be pinned and then displayed, but plants can be pressed and if you're interested in building a plant press, it's pretty easy to do. Basically four pieces of all thread, couple of pieces of lumber, and then a whole bunch of cardboard-

**Donna Hoffman:** Newspaper in between.

**Jeff Edwards:** -newspaper in between to collect the moisture. If you had all thread and then some big wing nuts to tie that. It's two plates, I guess. You build a wooden plate on the bottom and the top plate and then you line them up and then just would compress them together with the wing nuts and let it sit. That's a really good way to preserve plants. You open it up and then you would glue them onto what they consider to be mounting sheets and then you can use them, [OVERLAPPING] put them in a poker. Yeah.

**Donna Hoffman:** Mine doesn't have all thread on it. It has too little straps with the little clips that slide together and clasp across it. It's actually belong to the educator who was here before me. Who was one of the major educators involved in range camp when we were in high school. I'm sure it's the one he used when we were in range camp those same decades ago.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, and you could use ratchet straps too instead of all thread and you get the same type of thing, just crank it down really tight.

**Donna Hoffman:** Any way to get pressure on it.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** When you're doing that should you have your leaf a little dry [00:21:00] or that's for the newspaper?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. The newspaper will collect any of the moisture. When you're putting it in the press, you really want to lay it out so it displays the leaf or the shape or the flower. You open it up and set it so you can see the inside of the flower.

**Donna Hoffman:** Moisture like rainfall or sprinkler water on it you want it fairly well-hydrated so that you can position it way that you want, so that you get fairly true colors and that when you display the flower, if it opens up and shows all of the features of the flower or the leaves or whatever it is. If it's begun to dry out already, sometimes you'll get them to curl and you'll probably get crinkling and cracking, possibly breaking in the leaves. So usually collect them just in their natural habitat and put in a press right away.

**Jeff Edwards:** My senior year book looks funky because I used it as a plant press book [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Sorry Mildred.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. It's all crinkly and it's got some weird stains in it from plants that have given up their life for my interest there.

**Donna Hoffman:** Interesting.

**Jeff Edwards:** Weird weather week. Things that we need to watch out for, I believe with our plants, but before we get into that I think we should probably take a little break and list our sponsors and we'll be back and talk more about how this weather might affect the things to come.

**Female Narrator:** [MUSIC] Looking for the best way to keep up with all the news from University of Wyoming Extension, the College of Agriculture, and Wyoming Ag experiment stations. The uwagnews.com website features real-time education, research, and extension events, and feature stories from across the state. Bookmark uwagnews.com today and subscribed to our monthly email newsletter. Uwagnews.com, growing people, knowledge, and communities.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay everybody. We're back. This is Jeff and Jerry with the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden Program. Our guest today is Donna Hoffman from Casper. I think for the second half of the show we might want to talk about the weird cold weather that we had this week and the effect that it might have on plants as we go into the future. Particularly on our trees and shrubs and things that weren't ready for this cold snap. Donna, we get a lot of phone calls in the springtime where people will mention my plant doesn't look so good or it's just not greening up like it should or it's got these dead zones in it that weren't there the year before. If I get those phone calls next spring, I'm going to go, ''Well remember September ninth or eight or whatever day it was, that it got really, really cold?'' Because the plants aren't ready. They worked [00:24:00] in their normal cold weather type of stuff. What types of things do we need to be looking for now after we've had this cold snap and it warms back up, what are we going to probably be seeing?

**Donna Hoffman:** Well, it's probably different dependent upon how far away from Torrington you are, how close to the mountains you are or are the heaviness of the snowfall that occurred. Here in Casper, I'm already receiving calls of people needing our arborists for broken branches. When I walked into our building here, one of the oak shrubs in our backyard of the extension office was splayed out open and there was a big clump of snow right in the middle of it. So I suspect that one is going to have some trouble standing back up again, then we may have to reshape it, shorten the length of the branches so that it's tolerable for everybody to walk past again, but it got severe enough that branches were weighted down and have to be removed or cut back because they broke. I would hesitate to have people do much of that work by themselves if they're very large trees if they're fairly young trees and you can reach most of it without climbing on a ladder with motorized pruning equipment maybe you can do it yourself. But if you are in need of an arborist due to the safety, I would recommend getting an ISA certified arborist do that work for you so that you don't have further liability issues that might appear on your homeowners insurance policy.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure.

**Donna Hoffman:** If something goes array, here in Casper we have a licensing program so that arborists have to have insurance before they can work on homes or trees around homes in city limits, but there are other places where that's not the case. So do a little bit of homework. Neighborhood where my husband has a house in Rawlins that just about ready to go on the market, thank goodness, Saturday they got enough wind that a tree in another neighbor's yard blew over and part of the tree went through the roof right above the guys bedroom. Luckily it wasn't at nighttime and it landed on a bookshelf, but not in the middle of someone's bed. But things can happen with trees because they are so massive.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Donna Hoffman:** But you want somebody who knows what they're doing and has insurance in case of catastrophic occurrences related to those those problems. But I'm sort of digressed again. Anyway, [LAUGHTER] we can have small problems like the tomato rows, or in my case, I bought 22 new dahlias this year. The first one had bloomed on Sunday and Saturday and then froze on Monday night. So I didn't really [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** You got to enjoy one of them.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah, I really didn't get to enjoy them. However, [00:27:00] I'm hoping that the bulbs have stored up a lot of energy because they didn't bloom. Next year I better get a really big show of all wonderful dahlia.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Donna, are you going dig your dahlia bulbs?

**Donna Hoffman:** Yes, yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. You'll see that if it gave it a good enough freeze, it'll blacken everything above ground, but not below ground. So your dahlias should be okay.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah, yeah. I'm hoping that with all the covering that I did that I'll have some that maybe made it through and probably being a little bit optimistic on that. But we probably have some array of damage from the tomatoes and the dahlias froze to tree branches broke. It just depends on how much snow and potentially how much wind those plants had to deal with, in the midst of all the cold that came.

**Jeff Edwards:** So Donna if it gets cold enough, can things like bark splitting, can that occur as well?

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah. Usually, we see that in the middle of winter when things warm up and then cool down and get below zero. That's because there's still water in the cells of the plant and that water warms up and then freezes and ice crystals form in it and the ice crystals rupture the cells. We can see some freezing, thawing damage. I suspect that we'll see foliage over the next several days, just like Jerry mentioned with the dahlias just turning black because it's frozen. That's because the plants had not even had any indication that that fall was coming and they still had as much water in them as they probably did on July 4th. So we're going to have a lot of freeze damage with plants that just were not prepared for cold. Like what happened with that freeze in November of 2014, of course, that was much later in the season, but we've been so warm, especially those that have been watering to maintain plants because we've been so dry environmentally here. That we'll probably going to have a lot of freeze damage and some of that may not leaf out again this fall and we won't know it until next spring.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, and the buds for next year could be damaged too.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I think we're going to see a lot of effects of this next spring.

**Donna Hoffman:** Right.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** But being human, we've tend to forget what happened six months ago. [LAUGHTER] We have to remember that this is going to have an impact on next year.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah, so think like lilac tend to have well, they do, their buds are formed all summer long and they're just primordial, miniaturized forms [00:30:00] of whatever the leaf or the flower buds until spring comes. Since the plant has spent all summer forming those little tiny buds, we may find that those flower buds were damaged this week and we never get lilacs that bloom next spring. This spring we had some plants like that, that were damaged in that spring frost. A lot of the apples here in the Casper area didn't really bloom. Some of them that were later blooming ones did go ahead and bloom and I've noticed that there are some crab apples around but have a really good crop on it, but I haven't seen anybody that's got a really great apple crop. I think that's because most of those apples bloom just a little bit early than some of the crab apples.

**Jeff Edwards:** Here's the weird thing about blooming plants. One of our church members this Sunday came in and said, "Come pick peaches. I have peaches that are killing. It's so heavy, so loaded that it's busting up the tree." But again, in Torrington, apple production is really low, other fruit production is really low. But here, we have this peach that survived and was doing really well [LAUGHTER] prior to the freeze.

**Donna Hoffman:** It must be a really late-blooming variety.

**Jeff Edwards:** It must have been, yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [OVERLAPPING]. It was just loaded.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It was right behind the restaurant, correct?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes, yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yes, yes, yes.

**Jeff Edwards:** Did you come yourself?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. [LAUGHTER] After permission was given?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** All right. So there you go. It's always bad to be picking fruit off someone else's tree without permission. But yes, and we had been watching that particular peach tree. There's not too many peach trees, I don't think in Goshen County. There was a pear tree that was just north of our office, no pears on it whatsoever this year. Yeah, of course, the early ones, the apricots, we've talked about apricots. They really freeze quickly. It's just peculiar that we've been talking about preparation for coldness in response to the pumpkins. My neighbor got a good cover and a coat on his pumpkin. Yeah, it's early freeze and unexpected freeze from when the temperature is a 100, going down to 26 or so. We cry for ourselves, but the ranchers and farmers they're the ones who are really losing out on that.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, that next week things are just going to turn black.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** More than likely.

**Jeff Edwards:** If the corn wasn't quite mature enough, it's going to affect a lot of people. So what do we do? Just deal with it, I guess.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well-

**Donna Hoffman:** You go on and-

**Jerry Erschabeck:** -you just have to.

**Donna Hoffman:** -work for the best and work through all that tough [00:33:00] stuff.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yep. Okay. Let's not get depressed in the radio program.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** All right. Here we go.

**Jeff Edwards:** Other stuff. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** My lawn guy brought me some lawn clippings and some leaf clippings. I've indicated a nice spot for that to go in and that'll be nice to roll the tin in when I do my event. But I would like to say that I think that there's something the way God wants us to eat tomatoes.

**Jeff Edwards:** Green. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No. Either in a BLT, bacon, lettuce, tomato, or this recipe that we discovered this weekend. It's frying your bacon and rutabagas together. You chop up your rutabagas like potatoes, fry them with bacon and onion, and then you add in thin slice cabbage. I'll tell you what, that's really good.

**Jeff Edwards:** I'll bet that is really good. That sounds really good.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** So I think God wants us to eat tomatoes two ways, in cabbage and in BLTs. [LAUGHTER] That's what I got to say.

**Donna Hoffman:** I won't have any rutabagas to use in that way. I suppose I could go purchase them, but I bet parsnips would be another good substitute for me.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I'll bet that would. That's the first time we really use rutabagas, Mardas used them before and she goes, "Here, peel it, chop it up in like a potato. Put that end first with your onions and your bacon."

**Donna Hoffman:** You can [OVERLAPPING] spread them like hash browns too.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Could you really?

**Donna Hoffman:** I would, yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** They're firm enough, you could. I mean, they're they're really firm.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Interesting.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** So just my little take on it.

**Jeff Edwards:** So our version of BLT is a BAT, bacon, avocado, and tomato.

**Donna Hoffman:** Oh, yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh, yeah. [LAUGHTER], and a little garlic pesto, correct?

**Jeff Edwards:** I hadn't thought about that, but sure.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Sure.

**Donna Hoffman:** You could bake aioli sauce to go with it then.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. Okay. Now, you're making me hungry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Excuse me, while I go get a sandwich. I have my garlic and my onions drying in a small wheelbarrow. So I was able to take those and put them in a nice big flat and take those into the garage, as well as all the rest of the things that was outside that didn't want to get frozen. So my onions did not get as big as I would have hoped this year, they're just underneath a softball and I'm really looking for onions that are, I mean, a hardball.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh, okay.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** They were just under a hardball. I would like to have them as a softball.

**Jeff Edwards:** All right. Just grow more of them, Jerry.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Okay. Well, you know, even a small onion, if it's a keeper, they're just as good as a big [00:36:00] one.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure. Yeah, but if you want more onion, just grow more onion. If you can't grow softball size. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, just grow more of them.

**Jeff Edwards:** That's right.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** So the people that do not like onions, you have to wonder what their karma is. Then you said that one spigot on your watering thing, maybe that's just karma because you don't like onions.

**Jeff Edwards:** It could possibly be. [LAUGHTER] But also we're taken care of this year, so at least during this cold snap, but I don't know about the next. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Donna, the last time we spoke, Noah had said that it was the third hottest June on record. I'd like to hear what they have to say about our past freeze.

**Jeff Edwards:** September?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Donna Hoffman:** Great, yeah. I did hear over the weekend, it hasn't happened since the fall of 1985. So it hasn't happened since some of us were in college. I don't recall a big snowstorm in the fall of '85. But anyway, that's when I had heard that the last occurrence, very similar to this, had happened.

**Jeff Edwards:** So here's the deal. People who planted trees since then, fruit trees, whatever, probably been doing really well.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yes.

**Jeff Edwards:** Now, [LAUGHTER] since we live in an environment where we're not supposed to be growing trees. [LAUGHTER] Hey, 25 years later or 30, whatever it is, you get to start over again.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We've all taken off the hoses off of our outside faucets. Donna, what are your recommendations for now fall watering. I mean, there's probably some water in this storm that happened, but what's your recommendations moving forward?

**Donna Hoffman:** Well, I would say just to protect the faucets, we've taken our hoses off the faucet. But I would not put them away for permanent storage, because if you don't have a sprinkler system that you just drained the risers.

**Jeff Edwards:** The anti-siphon valves. The risers, yeah.

**Donna Hoffman:** Those you can just start them back up and use it again once temperatures get up and your lawn needs water again. Those of us who drag garden hoses, I would say get them back out. I just left mine coiled up on the hose rail on the outside of the house. I strung some of them in our backyard. We have a slope, so I just laid them out so that they ran downhill, but disconnected them from the house. I hook them back up [00:39:00] and I'll continue to be watering until we really do get winter weather. But it's a good idea to keep a hose somewhere handy so that even in the winter time, you can do some winter watering. Because we do tend to have winters that are open and dry enough that the plants, especially the trees, need water because we think of them as being dormant and asleep. But they still need a drink of water periodically. They aren't in a hibernating state like a bear where they don't need a drink of water, but they do need to maintain a level of moisture. If they get desiccated and freeze, that's not a good happening for a tree for the long term. I would keep hoses handy so that they can be used throughout the fall and winter.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Now is this a good time to start clipping your apple trees and pruning?

**Donna Hoffman:** A good time to prune? Yes. Especially if there's any damage, you want to get that cleaned up right away and then you know where you're going to start from come spring. I have a tree here at the extension office that the branches have got rather long, and I'm going to be shortening some of those branches so that they're not leaning one direction, or looking on the left side inside. It's a good time to work on the shape of the tree and doing any kind of pruning work to improve the aesthetics of the tree, as well as removing anything that has been damaged or might be a health concern for that tree in the future months.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I took an assessment prior to the freeze and even some of the roses. I had one particular rose that had three or four canes, and they were thick, about the size of my thumb, and seven foot high, seven foot tall. [LAUGHTER] That's all it was. It was three or four of them that just shot up and out. I'm thinking that they needed to be trimmed off, trimmed back down to maintain the support of the root, correct?

**Donna Hoffman:** Yes. Now, if that was a grape, we'd call it a bull cane. You definitely would want to remove a bull cane. I've never heard of that occurring on roses. I'm guessing it had no roses on it.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No, just leaves.

**Donna Hoffman:** I would probably take that whole thing back to the crown of the plant and remove that bull cane because it probably won't ever be floriferous.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Interesting. I'll do that. I'll do that on my rototilling event [00:42:00] weekend.

**Donna Hoffman:** Be careful with the whole plant that way.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Amen. You should not rototiller near your roses because there have the roots that go out as well as down.

**Donna Hoffman:** Yes. Most plants, woody ornamentals, have roots in the top about 6-18 inches of the soil. With trees and shrubs, the distance out from the plant is up to three to five times the height of the plant.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Wow.

**Donna Hoffman:** That peach tree that you-all were talking about, I don't know how tall it is but think about three to five times the height of that tree and anything in the top, six, eight, 10 inches can do a lot of damage to that root system on a particularly precious tree. [OVERLAPPING] [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** They put a cement sidewalk on it, and it's next to a parking lot. I think that that has to be one of the oldest peach trees in Goshen County.

**Donna Hoffman:** Maybe in the state. Since it's one of the warmer plains in the state.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I know when they were doing the project site for our prison, it came out that Torrington was consistently the warmest area in the state.

**Donna Hoffman:** That doesn't surprise me at all.

**Jeff Edwards:** Until we might have a weird event like this that kills [OVERLAPPING].

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Until we have a weird event. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** But I think that hit the whole state, didn't it?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Donna Hoffman:** I haven't heard of any of the areas of the state that got missed.

**Jeff Edwards:** I think Torrington was supposed to get snow four inches at least. Looking at some of the other maps, I think it pretty much hit all of the state. Although I don't know about like Kemmerer that end of the state.

**Donna Hoffman:** I heard that part of IAD around Evanston was closed, so I think we got a pretty big percentage 100 percent. [LAUGHTER] I keep watching the radar map on Monday, watching it go into South Dakota and praying that it would just keep going into South Dakota and miss us, but it was some pretty severe optimism on my part. [LAUGHTER] [NOISE]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I have a friend on the East Coast and she always goes, "We're going to get that in about three days." I'm afraid so.

**Jeff Edwards:** Jerry, I think we're coming up close to our end time here. Anything going on in the county this weekend that folks should be aware of.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Other than now walking through and doing an assessment, like Donna said, look at your trees, get an arborist, it looks easy. They make it look real easy. All you have to do is climb a ladder with your saw. Not so much. I've [00:45:00] fallen off of a ladder, broke my elbow. I've fallen off a ladder and jacked up my knees. It's not for those who are subject to fall anyway. [LAUGHTER].

**Jeff Edwards:** Have poor balance.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Or those that really need to stay on the ground. I've become one of those people that need to stay on the ground. I was wanting to drive by the standing gardens, the vertical gardens to see how they fared out. But I did not get an opportunity or a chance to do that. Again, it's going to rebound, our weather is turning nice again, and so just keep your eye to the sky and watch that temperature gauge.

**Donna Hoffman:** I'm curious because you guys have one of the biggest pumpkin contests down there. How do you think the pumpkins for the contest are going to fare?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well since it's so early, we're a month out but it's October third that we have our contest. If you had not been watching the weather, there's a good chance that your canopy would be dead. But if you've put a coat or a blanket over your pumpkin, it should be okay. Then like I said, as the temperatures rebound, you need to keep that coat on it from sun scald and that sort of thing because there won't be any canopy left. But you'd still water it. I think that perhaps we'll have fewer contestants as a result of this early freeze.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, with all those things in mind, I think it's probably time that we say goodbye for another week. It's time to re-evaluate, get out, take a look at your yard, take a look at your plants. If you need assistance, find an arborist, find others that can help you, those types of things. Wish we could end on a happier note, but things will improve. The weather will get better [LAUGHTER].

**Donna Hoffman:** There's still things to do in the garden and there's still activities to do, so don't give up on your gardening. If nothing else, this gives us an opportunity to take better care of our tools and equipment going into winter. Every shovel in the state will probably be very sharp by the time [LAUGHTER] the season goes. Or somebody's going to find that they have time to paint the house before winter sets in now that they are not going to be spending their energy in the gardening area.

**Jeff Edwards:** Other things to do. Thank you all for being here today. Thank you all for listening. We do appreciate our listeners. Seems that we get compliments and constructive criticism [00:48:00] all the time. Thank you all for being there. We'll see you next week.

**Female Narrator:** You've been listening to lawn and garden with the University of Wyoming Extension Specialist, Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Catch next week's episode Tuesday at noon on Spotify or Extension's horticulture page.