**Female Narrator:** [00:00:00] Welcome to the Lawn and Garden podcast with University of Wyoming Extension specialists to Jeff Edwards and co-host, Jerry Erschabek. 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. Welcome to the KGOS, KERM Lawn and Garden program. Today is a sad day, special day. [OVERLAPPING].

**Jerry Erschabek:** Sad day, sad day.

**Jeff Edwards:** Whatever you want to say, it is the end of our traditional radio season. So with me today is my co-host, Jerry Erschabek. Good morning, Jerry.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Good Morning, Jeff. It is a sad day for us, anyway. I don't know, maybe some people are sick and tired of hearing us, but I think that it's a sad day for me. I really enjoy this.

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER] Yeah. It shows, Jerry, we're really happy that you enjoy the program and I hope others enjoy the program. I know that over the course of the summer, we've had some folks approach me and let us know that, "Hey, you know, every once in a while, we learn something on the program. You guys are pretty entertaining." You maybe laugh a little more than you should." But that's too bad, we like to have fun. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabek:** That's what they tell me is, what they come to here is us laughing and they laugh along with us.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, that's good. At the end, I suppose that could laugh at us to which is [OVERLAPPING].

**Jerry Erschabek:** Yeah, and learn a few items.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. To start off, I want to say it is fall. We have to admit that the freeze that everybody was talking about that happened two weeks ago wasn't nearly as dramatic for our area as it was in other parts of the state, which is fortunate. I think it has to do with the fact that we didn't get a lot of snow with it. The communities that got a lot of snow, it ended up busting a lot of trees. I think I've seen pictures of Green or Rock Springs area where they've got trees that they've been cutting down and taking out. I think Casper was hit pretty hard again, but it's always the day after the clouds go away. We were worried about, what was it, Tuesday, Wednesday, and I think it was Thursday morning that the temperature that we got really cold and threatening. Pretty much, if you were able to cover up your garden, things should have survived. How's your pumpkin doing?

**Jerry Erschabek:** My pumpkin actually isn't quite that big, but it survived. I've been doing a couple of experiments on my little property. I didn't cover my pumpkin. I didn't do [OVERLAPPING] anything to it. It's still looking pretty good. I went out with a hatchet the other day and cleaned off all the vines, and dinged my pumpkin, just a hair. [LAUGHTER] Didn't go in there [00:03:00] too deep, but just a hair. I'll still take it to the pumpkin contest on October 3rd. It's not very large, it's only about like this.

**Jeff Edwards:** There are benefits to not having a humongous one. [LAUGHTER] You can actually get it there without a forklift.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Oh, yeah. I've got a wagon we can put it in. But my neighbor, we're going to have to garner some more help, and he has a pretty fair pumpkin.

**Jeff Edwards:** Excellent.

**Jerry Erschabek:** I've seen some other folks that have had some pumpkin. So it's going to be interesting this year of who comes in and how big our pumpkins there are.

**Jeff Edwards:** So Jerry, I know we've talked about this quite often, but the pumpkin contest is October 3rd,.

**Jerry Erschabek:** October 3rd.

**Jeff Edwards:** What time does it start?

**Jerry Erschabek:** Well, I just happen to have a flyer right here, and it starts at about, I have to show up at 11: 30. Let's see.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, now that you said that people are going to start showing up at 11:30. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabek:** Well, I hope so. Our preliminary events start around noon.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Prettiest pumpkin, largest squash, that sort of thing. Hot chocolate, cider, all that kind of stuff. Pumpkin painting for the kids. At 1:30, we'll do the check in for the giant pumpkins and the weigh in to follow, and [OVERLAPPING] as well as, probably all the rest of the contest and prizes. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** In the past, you've done giant cabbages, haven't you?

**Jerry Erschabek:** Yeah, we did. Gretchen Wohler sponsored that with her garden center and [OVERLAPPING] we went out of that. Now this year, we just put in largest squash. So I've got a zucchini that's this, [LAUGHTER] well, you can't see it on a radio, I know. But we'll have two of them. I'm not sure if I want to take one off or to allow the other one to get bigger, or just let the both of them grow.

**Jeff Edwards:** If you didn't take it to the contest, what would you do with it?

**Jerry Erschabek:** Probably, put it in your car. [LAUGHTER] If you didn't have your door's locked, I might approach your car with some caution and perhaps slip it in the back seat, [LAUGHTER] put a seat belt on it.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. It's always possible, right?

**Jerry Erschabek:** Oh, yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** I think you need to have the child carrier for it.

**Jerry Erschabek:** [LAUGHTER] Oh, yeah. Or the dog leash so you can hold it right in place.

**Jeff Edwards:** What? T the dog halter?

**Jerry Erschabek:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. So that takes care of the pumpkin contest. The other thing that we probably need to mention is Saturday. Tomorrow is the waste pickup day at Wigan Fest, beginning at 9:00 AM, I believe. I might be wrong there, but I think [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabek:** 9:00 to noon.

**Jeff Edwards:** 9:00 to noon.

**Jerry Erschabek:** I think they're they're picking up all kinds of stuff: [00:06:00] paint, [OVERLAPPING] batteries, TVs, computers.

**Jeff Edwards:** Pesticides, unused.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Pesticides.

**Jeff Edwards:** Things that you've found laying around that should probably get rid of.

**Jerry Erschabek:** What a great deal. I don't think that there's a charge, but I'm not sure.

**Jeff Edwards:** There is no charge.

**Jerry Erschabek:** No charge.

**Jeff Edwards:** At least there wasn't the year that I went through. Things get change. Budgets change. We don't know what that is, but usually fairly quick process. They have lots of people there to help. It's just kind of drive thru. What do you got, unload it, and keep moving, kind of thing. So it's a really good deal for our community, for them to do that for us.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Oh, yeah, I've got paint from 1914. [LAUGHTER] I don't know why I just don't throw it away.

**Jeff Edwards:** Was that same year you took a little trip?

**Jerry Erschabek:** I think so.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh, wait. That was 1814. Sorry. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabek:** Down the Mississippi.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, that one.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Yeah, that one. But no, I've had some paint get done early. Maybe it's 10, 12, 15 years old. Once in a while I open the can and shake it, or I open the can and stir it up, and see if it's still viable and if it is, I keep it, maybe transfer it into another can. I don't know how many more times I'll do that. [OVERLAPPING] Or put all the greens into one color.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh yeah, nice. Maybe it's time to just give it up, Jerry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabek:** Give it up. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** That's another thing. All the pesticides that I purchase, I always put the purchase date on the top. I'll take a [OVERLAPPING] permanent marker and write on it when I bought it. So I have a good idea how old it is. That would be a good idea to do with your paint, I think, when you purchase it. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabek:** I think so.

**Jeff Edwards:** If you don't [inaudible].

**Jerry Erschabek:** Once I've started, I number the can.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Number 4, number 5, whatever the number I choose to put on it. I see what color it is and I write a description of what it is, and I carry the notebook. [LAUGHTER] Yeah, I know.

**Jeff Edwards:** So you have a notebook full of old projects that you have recorded what number paint you've used.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Because what happens when you have just a little spot to clean up there in the bathroom or down the hallway or down the stairs? All you have to do is take it out and dabbed it, and there you are, you've got a fresh coat of paint.

**Jeff Edwards:** That's a really good idea, because sometimes you pick the wrong shade of beige to try to match and keep looking at that spot gone. Well, that must have been the wrong one. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. That monster in the room. [LAUGHTER] Sometimes it behooves us to keep a few things around. But like pesticides, I don't know, I'm sure that they still have some viability but the viability decreases as it ages.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure. They can time-out. [00:09:00] There's certain things. If your storage practices aren't the best, if they go through heat and cold cycles, those types of things, and I mean really hot and freezing temperatures, they can break down and not function like they should. I actually had a product that was insecticide that was flowable product that I had for a number of years and went through a series of moves with me, and went to use it, and I could not get it back into suspension. You know how paint settles out, this is the same type of thing but I just couldn't get it remixed up. That one went to the weed and pest pickup day. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, there you are. A lot of those things too. If you've had them for a awhile, like you said, if it's not in a climate controlled, so it goes through a freeze, some of those are just dead on arrival [OVERLAPPING] after being pros.

**Jeff Edwards:** The other thing too is, if you store things for an extended period of time, if you have a container of pesticide, the caps are usually made of a different type of plastic, and sometimes those caps will disintegrate. It's a good idea to make sure that they're on tight, and when you go to shake it, that they're not leaking. If that's the case, that product needs to go.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [OVERLAPPING] Paint cans are really notorious for a rusty lid.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. Yeah. You know you've had them a long time if the lid has rusted Jerry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I think this is one of the best things that we weed and pest could do. You clean up a lot of waste hazard in a couple of heartbeats.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. It might not be yours. It might be something that you inherited that you don't know what to do with, and they'll take those things too.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** My sister-in-law gave us like three gallons of extra paint, and Berner says, "Where is that?" Well, we looked around. [LAUGHTER] We could never find those three gallons of paint. I looked up in the attic, I looked in the garage, looked in the well shed, and I swear we brought it home. But nonetheless, not to be found.

**Jeff Edwards:** [OVERLAPPING] It didn't have the number code on it, so you didn't already use it.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [LAUGHTER] Must have made its way to weed and pest. That's where we are hoping it made its way to.

**Jeff Edwards:** The one thing that I forgot to do at the beginning of this program, Jerry, is take a moment for our sponsors. It's not too late to do that, [OVERLAPPING] so let's go ahead and take a moment for our sponsors and we'll get back into our program.

**Female Narrator:** [MUSIC] 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. [00:12:00] Visit us at wyoextension.org. [MUSIC]

**Jeff Edwards:** We're back everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabek for the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden program. It is just Jerry and I today, and we were reminiscing about pumpkins. The other thing I'd like to talk about, we've had a series of really good guests this year, we've hopefully learned a lot of things, and since it is the fall, one of our guests, Lucinda Mays, horticulturists from Chadron State, recommended some plants for us to possibly use to enhance our landscapes. Diane actually went out and found some Crandall's clove currants, which was recommended because they have a nice yellow flower and apparently the scent out of that flower is very pleasing. She ordered them and we received them on Sunday and got them planted Sunday evening. Actually, they arrived on Friday and we weren't here. [LAUGHTER] We planted them on Sunday when we got back. Hopefully, in a couple of years, maybe next year, we'll get to enjoy them as they are and have some fruit off of them eventually. But [OVERLAPPING] That was the time to do that kind of stuff.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Isn't it nice to have other people tell you, "Hey, plant some sedum. Plant some of this stuff. Hey, it smells great. These roses are wonderful. They're just so easy to take care of." That's what I've really appreciated about our guest. We've had Chrissy Lan talking about trees. We've had Amy Schuyler. I think she's one of our most popular guest, Amy Schuyler. Tom O'Curry goes, "Put me on that day with [LAUGHTER] Amy because we want to talk about trees."

**Jeff Edwards:** They want to talk about trees. [OVERLAPPING] I also want to be on that program when we talk about birds.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Birds, birds, birds.

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I saw that. I said, "Hey, are you singing the song?" He says, "What song?" Of course, everybody knows that song, right?

**Jeff Edwards:** I don't know what song.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Bird, bird, bird.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh yeah, that bird. Yeah, that song.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** He goes, "No, I'm not going to sing that song." I said okay. [LAUGHTER] Put me on, coach. [LAUGHTER] He was nicknamed the what? The announcer in training?

**Jeff Edwards:** Co-announcer in training. Yeah, sure. Something like that.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I wanted to tell him that I was the enthusiastic gardener. [LAUGHTER] That was my moniker. Well, I think I still have it.

**Jeff Edwards:** Exactly.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We've also had go Gary Stone, and he's just a plethora of knowledge. We talked about blue, blue bees.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Those blue-

**Jeff Edwards:** The thing about Gary, [00:15:00] if he doesn't know it right off hand, he supplies us with fact sheets from UNL, [LAUGHTER] which is a good thing. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I've got five or six things from Gary. All on a row, we talked about moles and voles, we talked about pumpkins and cucurbits and some of their diseases. [NOISE] He's just a plethora of information. We've had him on a couple of times.

**Jeff Edwards:** Donna Hoffman as well, horticulturist for University of Wyoming from Casper. Again, learned lots of things from her as far as tree care and shrub care.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Especially when the snowfall came down, and what do you do about your trees? I've done this before as well, if you're home, you take a big rake or a big leaf rake and go out and shake your trees if you can. But some of those trees are too large to do that and you just sit and wait.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. Which is unfortunate, but hopefully we'll have a nice long fall and won't affect us as much. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We sure have been having a nice fall. Last Tuesday was the first day of fall, if you missed it.

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

**Jerry Erschabeck:** If you haven't, well, there it is. We are in to, "Fall".

**Jeff Edwards:** [OVERLAPPING] It must have been the smoke haze that we've been dealing with in the state that messed me up. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We've had an air quality alert for some time now, and we just hope and pray that some of these fires will extinguish either naturally or by man. California especially, it's just burning up. Fires surrounding us just West of, not Rob Roy, but the one on West.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, I thought it was a Rob Roy, but it is in the Snowies.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [OVERLAPPING] No. It is Rob Roy. That supplies Cheyenne with some of its water.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Interesting. All sorts of stuff. Now, if it is officially fall, then that means that it's those work in the yard, prepare your yard for winter stuff.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I'm here to tell you that that lawnmower, when you put that lawnmower up as high as it'll go, you can cut down a lot of stuff. My corn didn't do very well because I didn't have a high tunnel, number 1. Number 2, I planted it late. But you can tip the lawnmower up a little bit and ease it onto a cornstalk and just bring that sucker down to six inches. You can really do a lot with that lawnmower.

**Jeff Edwards:** Quickly.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I took the machete and took down a lot [00:18:00] of our sunflowers because we like to grow real tall sunflowers, and we have some sunflowers that just come up from seed from previous years, they have multiple heads. This year I noticed that there was a lot of wasps hanging around those sunflowers. They didn't seem to want to chase me, since I was hacking them down fortunately, and then I hacked down my horseradish as well. [OVERLAPPING] This year, I'm tired of hearing, "You never do nothing with that."

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** This year, I'm going to get my neighbor to help me and we're going to grind some horseradish. Wish me luck.

**Jeff Edwards:** You're going to mix it with sunflowers?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** The wasps actually visit sunflowers to harvest some of the resins.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** The sunflowers are really resiny type plants, and so they'll harvest some of that. I don't know exactly what they use it for, they might use it in some of their nest making, but it might also assist them in their winter survival. I don't know.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. Anyway, I put them all in a pile, letting them dry down. When the fire burn lifts and we have the okay and we call in and say that we're going to have a small gardening fire, you just have to do those things to not promote people being scared and calling in and saying, "Hey, there's a fire at Erschabeck's.

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

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [LAUGHTER] Right after his rototilling event.

**Jeff Edwards:** Did you do that? Have you had that event?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. It did well, but I have so many weeds. We went to a green pathway instead of a dirt existence in the garden. Myrna kept weed eating the weeds down, so it was just a nice little patch. I'm wondering if we should have a grass appearance and just mow through the alleyways, but she says no, we want to have a dirt exposure. [OVERLAPPING] So I'll have to rototiller again just to plant my seeds and to finally get a lot of those weeds killed.

**Jeff Edwards:** The issue we had with having grass alleyways in our garden is that every single grass species we ever plant likes to spread. You begin to fight the grass eventually. It's just one of those trade off things.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I think that it's a good option putting down a plastic weed barrier, but it now invites voles to camp underneath that. You put shrub or you put compost or mulch on top of it. [00:21:00] Boy, that's just a great area for those voles because they're only under the surface maybe two and a half inches, two inches, [OVERLAPPING] two inches. They go, "My gosh, this guy just loves us."

**Jeff Edwards:** Home, sweet home.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [LAUGHTER] Home, Sweet Home Alabama, man.

**Jeff Edwards:** We are working in a lot of musical themes today in our conversation. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I'm sure trying. [LAUGHTER] We have to work it in because, hey, this is the last episode of the season. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** This is the last regular episode now.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Not forever, but we're going to go on once a month now. It'll be in once in October, once in November, once in December, January, February, March, and then we'll be back to regular scheduling.

**Jeff Edwards:** The end of April, yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah- Can't wait.

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER] We'll try to keep it interesting and exciting. I see that it's probably time to take a break and list our sponsors. We'll be back in a minute.

**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 subscribe to our monthly e-mail newsletter. Uwagnews.com, growing people, knowledge, and communities.

**Jeff Edwards:** Good morning, again, everybody. This is the KGOS KERM Lawn and Garden program. I'm Jeff Edwards, along with Jerry Erschabek. We are having an end of season program today, talking about previous programs that we've had and the guests that we've had. Then we might talk about some linearization things, things that you need to consider before you give up your garden for the winter.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** You know, Jeff, one of the ones that stands out for me, one of the programs was the young woman talked about crows. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes. That was Abby Perry [OVERLAPPING]. She's University of Wyoming Extension educator in Carbon County. She was assisting a specialist in researching crow behavior and how they will rob eggs from sage-grouse nests, amongst others. Very interesting project that she had.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. The crows are just so intelligent that they learn different behavior. They saw them coming out with the cameras, and I don't know if they posed [LAUGHTER], but they had to change up their schedule because the crows were showing up at the same time that they were setting their cameras up.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. They were not only setting the cameras, but baiting the nests. I think they were using chicken [00:24:00] eggs so that the crows were scavenging them immediately after they were- [OVERLAPPING] because they knew where to go.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It's 9:30, let's eat.

**Jeff Edwards:** Learned behavior, right? [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Learned behavior. Just, again, the intelligence of those crows.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. That was [OVERLAPPING] another program that Tom should've been on.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. He would've liked that one. Well, he should have been on with Zach. Man, oh man, I've never had someone so enthusiastic about talking about birds or any subject, but I think that it was hard to get a word in edgewise because he was so enthusiastic about talking about birds.

**Jeff Edwards:** There's nothing wrong with that. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Not a thing. He was so informative. He's the one that told us to clean out our bird feeders.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. I think Tom might have been on that program too. We talked about the bird feeders. Tom might have been on that program. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** He might have been, yeah. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** A lot of our guests, we recycle them from year to year. I think we'll probably have many of these on next year as well.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. We try to obtain guess from our community as much as we can, and then we just run out, or someone else is busy. We've invited some that had said yes, they would love to be on, but just seemed to be busy for awhile. But once they're on, they see that it's a fun deal and it's not intimidating, so much. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** We try not to be intimidating.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We try not [LAUGHTER]. Then we all try to learn something.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. Exactly. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Let me ask about this. I was in the garden and I saw that I had a jalapeno that still looked pretty darn good. Have you ever tried digging up something out of the garden and putting it in the high tunnel or putting it in the garden or in a garage where you have a source of light or a grow lamp?

**Jeff Edwards:** The high tunnel is just one-. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It's not heated, is it?

**Jeff Edwards:** No, it's just one layer of protection. You might get another 30 days, 45 days of growth out, but when it gets to be 10 degrees at night, it's going to be 10 degrees in the high tunnel. Pepper plants, those types of things would not survive well past freezing, or more much past freezing. Actually, I don't know that they are as productive because they need the day length in order to produce the fruit, so they're not blooming like they should, and those types of things. You could keep them [OVERLAPPING]. Go ahead.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Couldn't you keep that alive, though, with the day length of a grow light?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, you could, but it probably wouldn't be in a high tunnel. You could maybe do that in a room in your house. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Or a garage.

**Jeff Edwards:** Or your garage, if your garage was insulated and heated, and those types of things. I had a random thought the other day. We've [00:27:00] got some tomato plants that we really like that are in the high tunnel this year. I've thought, why not take a cutting of that tomato plant and try to get it to root, and then save that little plant and keep it productive throughout the winter. Then what would happen if you replanted it next year out in the high tunnel or in your garden?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. [OVERLAPPING] That's why I was thinking about this pepper. You could cut it back, you wouldn't have to have it long or tall. You could cut it back so that there's just a little greenery on it and give it that 12-hour day. What would you think, 12? Fourteen-hour day? [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Twelve would be good, yeah. But, again, it comes back to wavelengths of light, right? You have to put a grow light on it. There's some LED kits that are red and blue that, apparently, have the right wavelength for plants to grow. They'd be lower temperature, less energy requirement.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** What do you think? Would you put the grow light close to them?

**Jeff Edwards:** I am sure that there are recommendations on the box. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** So we have this elephant ear bulb that we planted in a cardboard planter, and it just never really took off. It was slow to start, so we're thinking of putting that into the garage as well under the grow light.

**Jeff Edwards:** Is your garage warm enough?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yes. It's insulated. It has a little heater. It's a just a big enough a garage to put a Volkswagen in. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Or lots of plants. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Or a bunch of plants. A friend of mine helped me. This garage was just on its way out. It was one of those leaners. So we stood it up and he says, "Hey, let's insulate it." I said, "Okay." So we insulated it, sheet rocked it. All I have to do to heat it was one of those little oil bath heaters. It's like a radiator.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. A radiant heat. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It keeps it pretty nice. Those propane heaters, the Mr. Heat, or something, with the little spot on it, if it's really cold, I'll go in there and put that on for just a little bit, but not for a long time. I don't like to work with that on because it sucks up all my oxygen. If you just do it just to take the chill off of everything, it does well. But I store my paint in there, so we want to keep it so it doesn't freeze.

**Jeff Edwards:** Very good. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It's really a nice deal to have someplace that doesn't freeze, that's not in the basement of your house and taking up a lot of extra room.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. Nice little heated storage space.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** [00:30:00] I can't remember if I mentioned what we did on Labor Day weekend, but we rented an aerator and aerated our lawn, and fertilized, and threw out some grass seed. I got to tell you, the lawn has responded.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Good. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** It's greener, looking healthier, it seems to be filling and a little bit. I think it was good timing on that because it was right before the storm, got a half inch water on it. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Good timing. When you can get those seeds down into the ground, and then, when you do aerate, all it takes is just one little watering and your holes are now filled back in by the plugs. A lot of people are really worried and thinking that, "My gosh, look at all these plugs on my lawn. That's going to look ugly." [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Looks like dog poop.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry:** Dogs came too. It only takes just a couple of days in order for that to just to melt and disappear. Then your first mowing will suck up and put those clippings back down into your soil.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Jerry:** I think it was our shared, not shared. The one that gave me crap about rototilling.

**Jeff:** There's been numerous ones that have given you crap. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry:** [LAUGHTER] No. I'm talking about the one that really [OVERLAPPING].

**Jeff:** Kaitlyn Younghush.

**Jerry:** Kaitlyn Younghush. She recommended that we mulch because it puts on was that half a pound of nitrogen or?

**Jeff:** Yeah, something like that.

**Jerry:** Pound of nitrogen just because you recycle your grass clippings.

**Jeff:** Yeah.

**Jerry:** That was really a good deal. Sometimes we don't even fertilize our lawn.

**Jeff:** Yeah. Well, I was trying not to, but I needed to it was yellow. It was yellowing up and needed a little extra. Plus, our soil is very sandy, so I feel that we have to water probably excessively in order to keep it wet enough throughout the heat of the summer.

**Jerry:** Doesn't that make all your nutrients just filter down [OVERLAPPING] far away?

**Jeff:** Yeah. They get out of range.

**Jerry:** Out of reach?

**Jeff:** Out of reach. I think for us, we'll probably do a spring fertility and a fall fertility program just to try to keep things green and growing and healthy and filling in.

**Jerry:** Now, is that why a lot of farmers go to sunflowers because sunflowers can actually pull a lot of that material back up because their roots goes so deep? Does that work in that way?

**Jeff:** Yeah. There are plants that will pull nutrients back, can't tell you if it's sunflowers or not. I can't recall. Yeah, you threw me one, Jerry. [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry:** Okay. [LAUGHTER] Finally.

**Jeff:** [00:33:00] But I know that if you rotate, you are able to pull some nutrients back up. It just depends on your system and your soil type and how you irrigate and those types of things.

**Jerry:** Is this the time you take away all of your tools and you put them in a shade or put them up for the year?

**Jeff:** I'm probably the world's worst at putting away my tools because I seem to be using them all the time. I don't say, "It's October 15th, I need to put my tools away." [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry:** Let me show you this picture.

**Jeff:** Yeah. Hey nice.

**Jerry:** Do you see that?

**Jeff:** Yeah, you have a moth on a screen.

**Jerry:** He was on my screen here at work.

**Jeff:** Okay.

**Jerry:** He let me get up so close to him. You know what kind he is?

**Jeff:** How big was he?

**Jerry:** He was about three inches long.

**Jeff:** So it would be a hawk moth.

**Jerry:** Yeah.

**Jeff:** One of those hummingbird moths, those things [OVERLAPPING] that compete with hummingbirds, yeah. For our listeners, it was a nondescript gray and black moth. [LAUGHTER] Large. Did it flatter its wings at all?

**Jerry:** No.

**Jeff:** Okay.

**Jerry:** He was just hanging out and did so all day long. First was in the sunshine and then it was overcast and then of course shade. When I left for the evening, he was gone.

**Jeff:** Okay. Sure. They are dusk active and if it's warm enough, dawn active. They might also be active during the night too. [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry:** What the heck is this? [LAUGHTER] Of course [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff:** It's a big bug, Jeff will know.

**Jerry:** Yeah, I tried to show Marylyn, of course, she's wanting to bat at it and I go, "No, it's not doing nothing. Lets just look at it." "No, I don't want to." [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff:** [LAUGHTER] Fantastic. Jerry, you asked me, are you one to take all your tools and put them away and clean them up?

**Jerry:** One year, I took all the tools and I sanded them off and I put linseed oil on them and I thought, man, this is a great procedure to do. Then that was like three years ago and [LAUGHTER] now we are putting the tools in a shade at least so they're not being exposed to the winter weather.

**Jeff:** When you said linseed oiling them, was that the handles?

**Jerry:** Yeah. Then you can always put a bucket of sand and oil. It doesn't have to be used oil, it could be brand new oil. But put a quarter oil in your sand. Like a shovel especially, you can go up and down in there a couple of three times. When you're going to go to [00:36:00] sharpen your tools again, it sure makes it a lot easier not to have to put a, some kind of a brush or a rotary brush onto your tool to get the rust off and then you have to breathe that stuff. Wearing a mask is good when you grind or when you use a rotary brush.

**Jeff:** One of the items that I inherited from my grandfather is a container of rust inhibiting grease it's just called RIG, rust inhibiting grease. But I keep thinking if you put a light coat of grease on any metal, wouldn't it all be rust inhibiting grease? [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry:** Perhaps. You can put Vaseline on your battery cable to keep it from a lot of that eroding, and that's just plain simple Vaseline and you can buy pretty good grease to put on your battery cables. I would think that all grease would be rust inhibiting.

**Jeff:** I don't know. I have no idea how old this product is. It's in a glass jar, it's got original label on it but rust inhibiting grease.

**Jerry:** You bet. [LAUGHTER] You keep a hold of that and use it once in a while.

**Jeff:** I do use it every once in a while on some things that tend to go rusty. Particularly my irrigation repair equipment, I use it on that.

**Jerry:** Yeah. Now, do you have big irrigation stuff? Do you have a pivot?

**Jeff:** No, I don't have a pivot. I have subsurface drip irrigation, which I think we've talked about in the past, the plastic pipes, the drip tape. Gophers really like that stuff.

**Jerry:** Yeah.

**Jeff:** Probably the end of August, I spent several days repairing bites and I'm always trapping gophers on our property that try to prevent that kind of stuff. Yeah. Little turkeys. [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry:** Little turkeys. Now, I know all of our tree people that we've talked to come on and they've suggested to try to water your trees through the winter when you can, when the temperatures are what? Just above freezing or [OVERLAPPING] in the 40s and 50s?

**Jeff:** If you can run water through your hose, you can water your trees. It may ice up overnight. Hopefully, you've got enough water running, but the area where you're watering may ice up. That's okay because eventually it'll melt and go back down into the soil. But rule of thumb, I think is four to six hours pencil size diameter of water running through your hose on your tree and in multiple spots. If you think of the hands of a clock, it would be noon, 3:00, 6:00, and 9:00. At the drip line and what we're talking about is out far enough away from the [00:39:00] canopy, on the edge of the canopy of the tree, that's where those feeder roots are at that should be taking in the water. I had a conversation just this week with an individual about their tree row and wondering why there are trees that were planted the same time the tree row was that are up by their house are much bigger than their trees in their tree row. What's happening is when those trees are first planted, you usually get an emitter on a water line right next to the tree. Over time, you have to remember that as the tree is growing up, it's also growing out. You need to add more emitters to those lines at the edge of where the tree is growing, at the edge of the canopy. Then if the tree row has been there for quite a while, you might want to take a look at the weed barrier, if there was weed barrier installed, because that stuff does not disintegrate. If the hole is not large enough for that tree, it'll start to girdle the tree and actually will eventually kill that tree. That's one of the things folks need to be aware of who have planted trees in tree rows using weed mat and irrigation line. They need to keep watering. Trees don't get so big and then can't fend for themselves, especially in our neck of the woods. [LAUGHTER] We need to continue to water them. It becomes pretty obvious if you have trees that were planted in a little more conducive environment that are outperforming or outgrowing what was planted in the tree row at the same time.

**Jerry:** In Cheyenne, they're having a lot of trouble with, is that Emerald ash borer?

**Jeff:** Emerald ash borer is not in Cheyenne.

**Jerry:** Okay, not yet. They're putting traps. But the ashtray-

**Jerry Erschabeck:** One of our tree people said, I asked him, how do you protect your tree? Just keep it healthy. Are you watering it on a regular basis? I said, "With the rain [LAUGHTER] because where it's planted it's where the rain water comes out of the gutter and waters." She said, ''No, that's not quite enough.'' Then it becomes a regular monthly habit then to put water into those ash trees and they have responded quite nicely.

**Jeff Edwards:** Drought stress trees are probably the number one reason why we have insect, pests in Goshen County and in other places in the state of Wyoming. But those trees are in trouble, the insects recognize that and they start attacking them. So watering our trees in our country is very important. You mentioned emerald ash borer it's not here yet I think it's just a matter of time. One of the other pests that we've been talking about is over the course [00:42:00] of the summer is the Japanese beetle. Unfortunately, the Japanese beetle has been found in Wyoming, in Sheridan. That means it's moving in from the North. I believe there was a population in Billings who knows how they get transported on vehicles and trucks and those types of things. But this particular pest, the Japanese beetle, I think is probably worse than the emerald ash borer because the Japanese beetle feeds on everything. As immatures they will infest your turf, they are white grubs. Okay. We've talked about white grubs on the program before, but they'll just go through and they will clip the root system of your turf. Then as adults they have about 200 plants I believe in their host range, probably still counting. But for those of us who like roses, those of us who like hibiscus, all your fruit trees, these things will feed on them. One or two is not a problem but what happens is their numbers just explode and there are thousands of them and they're just very difficult to control, and so doom and gloom, things to look forward to, they're going to get here eventually. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** What do we do about them?

**Jeff Edwards:** They're really difficult to control. You can control them in the larval stage when there are white grub in your turf with emitted Cloprin, we've talked about that product before. But it has to be applied, the timing has to be specific to try to control them or to try to get the best control. The adults you can spray something in the morning and you'll kill the ones that are there and by the afternoon you will have more there. So it's just really difficult insect to control.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Do they get under the bark?

**Jeff Edwards:** No, they do not. They're surface feeders.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Surface. We should probably think about when we're camping buy the wood locally and burn it or leave it at the camp site.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. Leave it there.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Leave it there, don't take it home.

**Jeff Edwards:** That would help with the spread of the emerald ash borer, but the Japanese beetle it can come in potted plants. The larva itself it's a root feeder it'll feed on turf and other plants. If there are nurseries that are not using products to treat their soil, you can get that insect that way. Or as an adult it can fly really well and it may attach itself to a vehicle as it's traveling down the road and just crawl out some place later on. So good times. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I hate to think about ending our session here on gloom and doom. Hey, if you have roly polys they are that crustacean, [00:45:00] help me out, they're the crustacean.

**Jeff Edwards:** They're the only terrestrial crustacean in the world.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Real crustacean, so they're the poor man's lobster?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes, but it might take a lot of them to eat.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Might take a lot of them.

**Jeff Edwards:** You might have to be really hungry. [LAUGHTER] I'm guessing they'd be really crunchy because you can't peel them to eat them.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. On another good note, man, very, very few mosquitoes this year.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I'm happy for that. They like to ding on me especially when I'm picking zucchini.

**Jeff Edwards:** I've been relieved I guess, because I'm the victim in the family they Gavin because of me, that there have not been a lot of mosquitoes this year. We are starting to see a couple more. Well, one now that is just absolutely huge so you can see them coming. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh, is that that crane? Oh, no, that crane fly is not a mosquito.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. A crane fly is not a mosquito. The adult is big. It looks like a mosquito but they do not have piercing sucking mouth parts like a mosquito.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We've had some really odd insects pop up or spring up. The killer bees?

**Jeff Edwards:** Killer, okay so they're calling them.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** They're murder.

**Jeff Edwards:** They're calling them murder hornets.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Murder hornets.

**Jeff Edwards:** I thought you were trying to get off doom and gloom, Jerry.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No.

**Jeff Edwards:** But they're actually giant Japanese hornets is what they are. They're in the Seattle, Washington state area. I don't know if they'll get here or not. Let's hope not.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. We've had the zombie cicadias.

**Jeff Edwards:** Zombie cicadas. Not to correct you but zombie cicadas. Yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Zombie cicadas. Yeah, the blue bees.

**Jeff Edwards:** Blue bees. Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** A lot of different little odds and ends that they have popped up this year that we have never seen or heard of before.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well and that's the same thing that Zach was talking about, some of the birds that have shown up this year that aren't common to the state. It could be a variety of things, the smoke could be pushing them out of some place and driving them our direction. So it could be any number of things.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** A wind, the [OVERLAPPING] storm, they looking for food. I was really surprised that they had seen so many red cardinals. That was one of my mom's favorite birds and whenever we had a trip to Illinois or East, we'd always really enjoy watching the cardinals that the feeders.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. Cardinals and darn those little yellow birds, gold finches. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Gold finches, they are pretty as well.

**Jeff Edwards:** I learned a lot. Those little yellow birds. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Those yellow guys. [LAUGHTER] [00:48:00] Well, you may not know the name, but you can sure describe them and enjoy them. I think that's probably more important than knowing the name of them and know what they like to eat.

**Jeff Edwards:** We have some friends that live North of Torrington and they are big bird watchers and so they always talk about Bird TV at their house.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Is that their picture window?

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

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Do they have a lot of feeders?

**Jeff Edwards:** But they do have a lot of feeders and they have a wide variety of birds that show up. When we go to visit them, we chat and we watch Bird TV. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh, look at that one.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. Exactly.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh, yeah. When we go out on the West porch in the evening, we liked it and that's where our bird feeders or address is out of back. We like to hear the birds especially the blue jays screech they screech if they're young, they screech at the doves. I don't know, they just screech and talk and a lot of people don't like them because they're aggressive and I don't know, I just like them and if you really [OVERLAPPING] Yeah. If you have peanuts and unsalted I've learned over the season. Unsalted, you break them in half and you watch those blue jays they are so much fun to watch. Maybe they'll hop over your fence and then come right back. Or maybe they'll get six or seven in their mouth and I'm not teasing, six or seven of these peanuts in their mouth and fly away just over the ridge or just over the fence and I think they bury them and then they come back for more and a lot of activity with those. Tom John likes those raptors or any of the hawk birds or the owls and about 4.30 we have one cruising up and down our road. Just looking.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yesterday I was driving through Torrington and noticed the turkey buzzards hanging out on the red and white tower that's in town, and the sunning themselves and hanging out. We have quite a resident population of buzzards in Torrington. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh yeah. They're are good and bad. Bad because wherever they roost, good, gosh, they make a mess.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Good, because they are God's clean up area. Anything that's dead, they'll put their neck and head into it and clean that up and before long it's just some bones and before long then it's just dust. So they really do a good job of cleaning up and my brother likes them.

**Jeff Edwards:** Ending on the circle of life Jerry, hakuna matata. [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [00:51:00] Oh yeah, that circle of life it goes right on time and hakuna matata to you.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. Great. Well, I think we have burned up another hour of your time. Thank you for listening, thank you for joining us every week this summer. We will be joining you once a month now through April, and we'll get some guests on and it won't just be Jerry and I.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Thank you so much.

**Jeff Edwards:** Thanks Jerry. Talk to you later.

**Speaker 3:** Thanks for listening. Catch next week's episode Tuesday at noon on Spotify or Extension's horticulture page.