**Female Narrator:** [00:00:00] Welcome to the [MUSIC] Lawn and Garden podcasts, with University of Wyoming Extension specialists, 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 podcasts 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. Today, our guest is Lucinda Mays. She is the public horticulturists for the Chadron State College, and we're very happy to have her here. Good morning to you both. How are you-all today?

**Lucinda Mays:** Good morning. Good.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Good morning, Jeff. Good morning, Lucinda.

**Jeff Edwards:** Glad to have you here. We are going to take a moment for our sponsors and we'll get right back into our program.

**FEMALE\_1:** [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. Visit us at wyoextension.org. There, you can find your county office, browse our many programs, and access dozens of free publications on gardening and so much more.

**Jeff Edwards:** All right, everybody. We're back. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS KERM Lawn and Garden program. As I mentioned, our guest today is Lucinda Mays, and we'll be talking about gardening and growing your landscaping and those sorts of things, so let's get into our program. Lucinda, what would you like to talk about today?

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, I just think as I looked around the campus this morning, somethings are just really thriving and looking green and just like we'd like them to look, and other things need a little bit of help. That's a way it always is in a garden or a landscape. When we live in this part of the country, doing those kinds of garden tasks that take care of the garden results in a really strong landscape, and that's what we were doing this morning and it wasn't very glamorous either. It was pulling weeds at the base of the tree. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** On these cool mornings, that's exactly what we have to do. We have to get out and take care of those types of things. I too, we were harvesting parts of our garden this morning and out pulling weeds and trying to get things taken care.

**Lucinda Mays:** It's part of it. My neighbor next door is just now getting interested in putting in landscape plants in their front yard, and she's thinking about which plants look good in the nursery and what would I like to have and what color. I think once she's been after it for awhile, she's going to start thinking about how can we make the soil better? How can I keep the water in the soil and keep my plants from drying out, all of the stuff that comes up. The practical parts, the [00:03:00] not glamorous parts of gardening are to me the most satisfying because I know over time, they're going to pay off.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure. Diane and I, prior to living where we currently live, we've never lived in a place longer than five years, and so we've been here now 12-13 years. It's a whole different level. Instead of just staying in some place short term, where you have trees that die and you have to take out, or you have shrubs that are spreading the places that you don't want them, or you have volunteer trees that are growing where you don't want them. It's a lot of things that are like, "Hey, I didn't intend for this to look like this," so I've got to get after it and do something a little bit different.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Or it's time to leave and move on to somewhere else. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING] But hopefully, you don't have that in plan.

**Jeff Edwards:** The the third option, Jerry, would be for you to get your rototiller out and just totally nuke everything. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, because I don't want to move.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, I tell you what, you got to be careful with those rototillers. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Lucinda, you got to know, Jerry is a recreational rototiller. He has events. He calls his rototilling events. Since he's been on the program with us, I have to say, he's been of somewhat reformed. I don't believe he rototills as much as he used to, but he still has some annual things that he thinks he must do, so we're working on it. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, let me try and help a little bit with the education of Jerry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** You didn't know you're going to get this today, did you, Jerry?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** You know, I think you two collaborated while I was off on the other area.

**Lucinda Mays:** No, the word rototiller is a trigger word for me, [LAUGHTER] I tend to leap into action. To me, there's a time and place, I guess, for rototilling, but I wouldn't encourage you to think about the biology of the little tiny critters living in your soil and give them a break.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, but they get chopped up good. [LAUGHTER] No, I understand the microorganism idea about leaving them alone for a little bit, let them hang out, letting them multiply. I do understand that part. I try to throw some some mulch in to feed them. I have a lawn mower guy that gets me his leaves, and in the fall, when he's starting to clean up, I really appreciate that. This is my first year of doing that, but of course, you're rototilling in.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, all of those other things are music to my ears because those were all soil building [OVERLAPPING] activities, and that is what gives us some longevity with our plants. I'm here on campus this morning. When I go out [00:06:00] my door, the Nebraska State Champion Colorado Blue Spruce and the Nebraska Champion, Black Hills Spruce, are couple of 100 yards from where I'm sitting right now, and the soil around the bases of those plants is just absolutely gorgeous. The trees are going well.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's totally different than anything else around that, right? [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** You know it is, [OVERLAPPING] but what I want to say is by that soil being grown with mulch added every year, a right amount of water. These trees were planted by somebody. I don't know who. The records don't say in the 1930s, and there they are. Great, big, 80 foot tall, big hunk and gorgeous trees, and Jerry, they haven't had a rototiller around them, ever.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I wouldn't put a rototiller around a blue spruce, but let me ask you this.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** You know, all of our pH soils around here, 82, 84, 89, could you put blue spruce or pine needles on your garden and do well?

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, let me answer that completely, so it's going to be a long tail. All of those spruce needles and pine needles, as they break down, have a pH similar to other regular shaped tree leaves like oak and elm. [OVERLAPPING] So the pH isn't that different. They're not more acidic, but what they are is, they take a lot longer to break down in the soil because of the rosins that are in the leaf. It doesn't hurt anything, it just takes longer. So if you have big clumps of pine needles, that isn't giving you the soil maybe that you want right away.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Right. But you know, there's nothing that grows underneath a pine tree, unless you put something rather specific under there.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah, and a lot of that has to do with the fact that it's dry shade. Pine trees have their roots all around underneath them, up in the top root zone. They have roots that go out into the top several inches of soil, and then there's shade year-round, so that tree, while it doesn't have an extensive root system, has a root system that takes all the moisture right around it. [OVERLAPPING] Then it is self mulching and that it drops its needles right in the drip line of the tree at will, and because they take longer to break down, then you have mulch and dryness. Sometimes, I think people think there's something bad about those needles. There's not. They are really a good mulch. They're tricky to get broken down enough to work into the soil.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, I've had people say, "Yeah, I've spent my whole weekend raking and bagging up all my pine needles because of fire." You know, it's a fire hazard. That's [00:09:00] what they've said, and so I said "Okay, so that's why your back hurts?" and go, "Yeah, I've been putting all my pine needles in these bags and breaking them up." [OVERLAPPING]

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, let me tell you about a couple of little boys in our neighborhood go to our neighbor's yard. She doesn't want her pine needles in there, so she pays those boys to break those pine needles, and they bag them and they bring them to me and sell them to me. [LAUGHTER] So they've got it figured out.

**Jeff Edwards:** That's double dipping, that's good thinking. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Surprising young people. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah. But you're right, they're not particularly a fire hazard, and what they do is they mulch and conserve the moisture that's in the soil for that tree to have. I don't know, leave those pine needles in place, here on campus in September, which is when we usually have needle drop, not that we did in 2019, we had our needles drop in October and November. But usually, in September, the crew that works with me were running around ahead of the guys on the lawn mowers, raking up those pine needles and begging him and stashing him. So we have them for the flower beds.

**Jerry Erschabek:** Oh, yeah.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah. They're good mulch.

**Jerry Erschabek:** In Cheyenne, the urban forest division is spraying spruce trees for beetle infestation. Do you see any infestation for beetles on your spruces?

**Lucinda Mays:** I never feel that I am very good at identifying what is going on if I have a problem in my spruce. But frankly, we don't have any problems that we can see. Here's something people can do, here's a neat trick. How do I know if my spruce tree is in good shape or not? Of course, what we usually see is things that are at eyeball height. We see the needles that have turned purplish, that are close to what I am looking, for example. But that's just one part of understanding the general overall health of that spruce or any other tree. If you can get into the habit of looking up to the canopy of your tree, you'll begin to notice if you have multiple leaders, or you'll begin to notice if the canopy is starting to thin out, and why is it thinning out? There's all kinds of reasons, and it helps to have the tree pathology people in your back pocket on your phone, and every state has those resources if we just know how to contact them. So when I think there is a potential problem or a problem with any of my trees, like cut up pieces of it, box it up and ship it off to North Platte, which is where the forester that does the plant pathology, the problems with trees. That's something any citizen can do.

**Jeff Edwards:** I just had a call from an individual yesterday who lives in Northern Ocean County, and apparently, his property butts up against Platte County, I think. But [00:12:00] he says that where he's at, the pine trees are starting to die and he'd like a little diagnostic help. So I ask him to send pictures, and that's first step and then we can go from there, but he says it's more widespread than just his own property. I'm interested in seeing what those pictures are going to show, and if I need help, I will submit it to someone else. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, that's the thing to do too, is there are certain things I can tell. For example, well that is drought or Scots pine, and God, intended it to die. [LAUGHTER] They don't last very long. It's like growing your own fence posts, I think.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, I recommend that people not plant victims. We talk about victim plants all the time, and so it's one of those things that everything dies. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, I hadn't heard the phrase victim plants. I like that. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabek:** I think that that should be done for grasshopper kill, is grow a hedge row of weeds or certain plants that you don't want and spray the crap out of it with grasshopper spray. So those are a victim plants intended to kill grasshoppers. So they have to come through that barrier first, sure. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING] All of my grasshoppers seem to be flooding in. There's no stopping them, it seems.

**Jeff Edwards:** You're correct. There is no stopping them. You can slow them down, but you can't stop them, at least, on an individual level around your own property, it gets very difficult to manage.

**Jerry Erschabek:** I don't have a big enough property to do an airplane drop. [LAUGHTER] He can't dip in and dip out.

**Lucinda Mays:** This is the discussion we have at our house every single day because the grasshoppers are coming for us and they're going to take us and they're going to take every raspberry I own. But really, I think, my solution to this is to say, this is a grasshopper year.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, I agree and I think that in some instances there are reasons to spray, particularly if you're trying to protect your garden, but there are places where I'm choosing not to do anything about it. I did plant a new tree row this year and I'm trying to protect that, so that they don't consume all the trees that I have out there.

**Lucinda Mays:** Is it possible to protect them?

**Jeff Edwards:** To a certain extent. I've applied it twice on the tree row and the grasshoppers in that area are not as severe as they are in other areas. So I think I've helped maybe a little bit. But another thing that the University of Wyoming developed, the acronym is RATTS. It's R-A-T-T-S, I think, and [00:15:00] it's promoting not entire broadcasting of insecticide over wide swaths of land. It's applying a strip of treated area and then skipping a strip, same width of untreated, so that the grasshoppers are moving back and forth, and eventually, if they get in the treated area, they'll consume or come in contact with the insecticide and eventually die, but you're not just broadcast spraying a lot of insecticide out there. That's what I do with my applications.

**Jerry Erschabek:** It's not like my victim plants, you spray the insect spray on the victim plants and you don't care about them. Isn't that the same technique?

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure, but if if you let them hang out in the victim plants and not spray, it's probably a little more ecologically sound decision than just going out and spraying. I think your quote was spray the crap out of them, Jerry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabek:** Yeah. [LAUGHTER] I did say that, didn't I? [LAUGHTER] Yeah. Let me back that off just a little bit, a gallon or so. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** We all have our own preferences about how we take care of grasshoppers, and their life cycle is cyclical. After the 2012 drought, everybody felt they totally went away while there was still a population out there that's been slowly building. I think this year, next year and maybe three or four years after this, we're going to probably have those grasshoppers years you talked about, isn't that?. [LAUGHTER] It's probably going to be more than one year, so brace yourselves.

**Lucinda Mays:** Okay. Well, that's good to know. These are the questions that we all have for taking care of yards and gardens and landscapes, and so there's no perfect answer on the grasshopper. There's no perfect answer on any of these things, but there are answers where we're building the living system, that is a landscape, that is our environment. So if we can keep doing good things in there, even during a grasshopper year, it ultimately pays off over the long run, I think.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, and I agree.

**Lucinda Mays:** Mulch is huge.

**Jeff Edwards:** Mulch is fantastic. Diane and I purchased mulch from a company and it's shredded pine, locally-sourced shredded pine. In our environment, you have to have something that doesn't blow away, and this stuff, you put it down, it locks itself in place, so it's great. As it breaks down or as we're building our soil and suppressing the weeds and protecting the non-victim plants. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Clothing the moisture in and casting the pH to the betterment of [00:18:00] the soil. All kinds of good things. The mulch that we use here on campus is the pine needles, of course, that we scurry around and gather. But also, our campus is heated by a wood fire plant, heating and cooling plant. So we have 23 buildings, I think, on this big oil boiler system. Have you ever seen it?

**Jeff Edwards:** I don't think the last time I was there that we went to the boiler system, so no, I don't think I have seen that.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, it's just absolutely fascinating. We have some folks that harvest pine trees as part of a thinning operation, and as they harvest them, they run them through a chip or end of the truck. They bring these trucks and they are usually 20-24 cubic yards of pine chips. They put them in the hopper at the heating plant or they put them in a stockpile, and guess who gets into the stockpile for mulch? [LAUGHTER] It's limitless mulch. [LAUGHTER] I've never had limitless mulch in my life before. We mulch till the cows come home because it makes all the difference in the world.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh, yeah. In our marriages, we have disagreements with our spouses. My parents were constantly discussing the benefits of mulch or not mulching. Well, my dad won and it was no mulch.

**Lucinda Mays:** No.

**Jeff Edwards:** But since he's passed away, my mother has started to mulch a little bit, which has helped her out a lot.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, it would, it saved water and everything that way. For Mother's Day, I got half a truck load.

**Jeff Edwards:** Wonderful. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** That's a nice gift.

**Lucinda Mays:** Ten cubic yards of mulch. Hello, I'm happy. [LAUGHTER].

**Jeff Edwards:** Do a little happy dance where you got dumped out at.

**Lucinda Mays:** A gift only a mother could love, maybe. I don't know. [LAUGHTER] Moms for mulch, I don't know. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, Lucinda, I know the grounds at Chadron State are just absolutely fabulous. You have some things that grow up there that people don't normally think of the possibility of growing in areas of Wyoming or western Nebraska. Are you interested in sharing some of those things [OVERLAPPING] that are maybe unique to your area but would transfer well to other places?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yes. In fact, it's been Wyoming, and New Mexico, and Idaho and the western states that have helped me diversify the plantings on campus. What works in eastern Nebraska has very little to do with what works in northwest Nebraska.

**Jeff Edwards:** That is true. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** It is.

**Jeff Edwards:** Two entirely different environments.

**Lucinda Mays:** I grew up in Kearney, Nebraska, which is south central Nebraska along the Platte River. Great topsoil, corn-growing [00:21:00] country. Every now and then, you'd hear these tales about western Nebraska wanted to secede to Wyoming. [LAUGHTER].

**Jeff Edwards:** I don't think those tales have gone away. [LAUGHTER] I think they still exist.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, I think my garden is on Wyoming. I know I have a Nebraska zip code, but it's high plains, it's high pH. We call our parent soil butte rock. It's siltstone. It's what everybody has in this neck of the woods. The plants that do well here, I find, take a while to establish, but once they get their roots in the ground, boy, they're just wonderful. Some of my all-time favorites are things that come from western parts of the country. There's at the main gate, I wish I had a picture to show you, we have these big Ephedra plants, sometimes called Mormon tea.

**Jeff Edwards:** [OVERLAPPING] I don't know that plant.

**Lucinda Mays:** You've got to have it. [LAUGHTER].

**Jeff Edwards:** Ephedra.

**Lucinda Mays:** Ephedra. It's evergreen. It looks like a big bunch grass, but it's not a grass at all. It has yellow flowers, but the reason I grow it is I'm looking for evergreen, something besides pine and juniper to mix it up texturally and to give six months of the year while we're dormant. I want to have something that looks alive. [LAUGHTER] Ephedra is a top notch dry high plains plant, but takes a couple of years for them to get their roots in the ground.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. That's what we've found here. We've done a lot of landscaping on this property, I think 3-5 years before. Once you put them in, before they go, "Hey, I like this new spot." [LAUGHTER] Then something happens, right?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** So I think people might get frustrated when they first start planting things and go, "Well, I don't like that plant. It's not doing what I want it to do." They maybe take it out or put something new in, or get discouraged altogether. It is something that takes patience when you're establishing things like that that may be pushing the edge or just a little different than what you're used to.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, if it's a plant that is going to do well, come what may in our part of the world. Taking these wild temperature drops, or the seven years of drought, or the three years of rain or the wind that doesn't stop, it better have good roots. It takes a while to develop good roots.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's like those things that live in the intertidal zone and in the ocean. They have to be really tough to live there. [LAUGHTER].

**Lucinda Mays:** Do we live in an intertidal zone? I'll have to think about that now. [LAUGHTER] That would give me something to think about when I'm waiting. But [00:24:00] truly, the truth- [OVERLAPPING] Well, yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We used to live in an intertidal area. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Long time ago when we weren't here, right, Jerry? [OVERLAPPING]. [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, yeah.

**Lucinda Mays:** You remembered? [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, no, I see my dinosaur right here. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Keeps you humble, doesn't it?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Lucinda Mays:** But the trick, I think, for people who get discouraged or impatient is to put the plant in the ground, making sure that you've done the soil preparation because that's critical, that you got adequate water to get the thing started because that's critical, that you've mulched the whole land of that water. Then, you need something to take your mind off that plant and go do something else and come back in three years.

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

**Lucinda Mays:** Three years seems to be the magic number. That's how long it's taken me. We have a cross-country running trail on campus. What, 10 kilometers, 15 feet wide, buffalo grass. Well, irrigation? No. [LAUGHTER] No irrigation, but the sections of trail that we planted first and we went off and paid attention to the other new sections filled in while we weren't looking. If you can distract yourself, self-distraction. Another really, really, really cool plant is called desert holly. Have you grown that?

**Jeff Edwards:** I have not grown that one either.

**Lucinda Mays:** Oh my gosh. It's had some botanical name changes. But it's a Berberis. It's a native barberry. Berberis fremontii is the blue-gray one, and Berberis haematocarpa is the sage green one. Takes a while to get their roots in the ground.

**Jeff Edwards:** So it is a version of barberry?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah. It used to be called Mahonia. It was a Mahonia, then they changed to Berberis. But it's sold as desert holly. Takes three years to get its roots in the ground. Once it's established, and for me, establishing shrubs and grasses and ornamental plants that are ultimately going to be tough enough not to require extra irrigation, I think they need three years of establishment watering. Then, after that three-year period of getting fairly regular water during the growing season, then I just leave the drip system in place because that's how we apply water to all of our plantings is blank waterline that we punch emitters into and then the water drips out at the emitters. I leave those emitter systems in place for things like, I don't know, 2012, and you could turn the water on.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh, Crap, we need to turn the water on this year. [LAUGHTER].

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah. [LAUGHTER] But we have landscapes on campus that are all native plantings of a drought-resistant, I haven't irrigated since 2006.

**Jeff Edwards:** Wow, that's awesome.

**Lucinda Mays:** Now, [00:27:00] here's a caveat. They're right next door to things that do get irrigated. Water travels underground, so who knows what those plants are doing underground?

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure.

**Lucinda Mays:** But what I mean to say is that whole building probably has a half an acre of landscape that I don't irrigate.

**Jeff Edwards:** When we were on campus last time, isn't there an artist rendering of the roots of a plant that's commonly found in the prairie. Was that a grass that that was?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah, little blue stem.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. How many feet long was that root system?

**Lucinda Mays:** I used to have that figure in my head.

**Jeff Edwards:** But it's multiple stories, right?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Where it's depicted, it's like two or three stories long.

**Lucinda Mays:** If you Google it, you'll be able to see National Geographic root systems. If you look at their photo essay that they have of the root systems of our native grasses, it'll blow your mind. [LAUGHTER] It's just incredible. But around here, when we have a new construction project in town or on campus, we'll take the students to look at the soil profiles. When they're on the edge of town where it's been all prairie grasses, you can see even with the butte rock or the siltstone that we have, those roots go to China almost. It seems like they really get down into the soil.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, pretty amazing.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah. The piece of art is made all of beads.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh, that's right.

**Lucinda Mays:** It hangs in a stairwell at the new range land agriculture center up at the campus on our east end of Chadron State, and it's really beautiful.

**Jeff Edwards:** Thank you for reminding me. Like I say, it's been several years since I've been [OVERLAPPING]. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** It's time for you to come back. You need to bring another tour group.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, that would be a good time.

**Speaker 1:** I remember one group you brought, the wild plums were ripe in one of the plantings. You remember this?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes, I do. We chat about it every time we get together I think. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Funny. I thought Oh my God, they're going to be sleeping or sick all the way home, they took many plums.

**Jeff Edwards:** Now you have volunteer plums growing everywhere. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, that's true too. Yes, we do.

**Jeff Edwards:** We're at a point where we need to take a little bit of a break and listen to our sponsors, and then we'll be back and we will continue our discussion with Lucinda Mays.

**Male 1:** Hey, Wyoming, have a question? Ask an expert. Go to ask.extension.org. Ask an Expert offers one-to-one expert answer from Cooperative Extension, University staff, and volunteers with participating land grant institutions from across the United States to give you real-time, real-life answers to your hard questions. If you have a question? Just ask, we're here to help.

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**Jeff Edwards:** Hey, everybody, this is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabek for the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden program. Our guest today is Lucinda Mays. She's the Public Horticulturists for Chadron State College. We've been chatting about landscaping, and gardening, and all types of fun things, and encouraging people to go visit campus at Chadron State. It's a really neat place to visit. Lucinda, one of the plants that I am really pleased with that we've incorporated in our gardens or landscaping after living in the East for a while, viburnum. There's a lot of different types of viburnum. I can't tell you which one it actually is, but we've planted some two years ago, and those plants are almost five feet tall already, so adequate water, doing very well, and I understand that they do very well under aggressive pruning; is that correct? That you can prune them pretty aggressively and they'll come back?

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, first, Jeff, there's lots of viburnums.

**Jeff Edwards:** I know, I need to be more specific. I apologize. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Another thing is- we grow several viburnums here on campus. Every viburnum that I've ever grown did well if it was planted in well amended soils, good organic soils and adequate water.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. Okay.

**Lucinda Mays:** So it's that kind of a thing, then I would add to that, some of them sucker like crazy, and so if you want a dense thicket of viburnum, but the nannyberry viburnum, the lentago is my favorite. If you want to grow a screen, that's why you might plant that one.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's a spreading version.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, it just runs like there's no tomorrow, it's crazy.

**Jeff Edwards:** Have you ever planted the Korean spice variety?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah. Carlesii, I have grown in Georgia.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Lucinda Mays:** It says it's okay for our zone. [LAUGHTER] I do know that it likes a pH of about 5.6-5.8.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. You're ruling it out pretty quickly. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** But I mean, the fragrance is absolutely glorious, I mean, that's right. But you know what has a glorious fragrance is crandall's clove currant?

**Jeff Edwards:** Crandall's clove currant?

**Lucinda Mays:** It's a selection [00:33:00] of ribes aureum. It's been around since the turn of the last century.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Lucinda Mays:** But intense, oh my goodness, and tough as nails.

**Jeff Edwards:** Doesn't spread?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yes. It's not what I'd call an aggressive spreader, but what it'll do is, it'll flop a branch down at a root. A friend of mine who is growing this as a hedge, keeps it thinned out and shapes the way she wants it. Mine, I let them just ramble all over the place. They're one of the first woody plants to bloom in the spring, so they're good for the Spring azures and the other pollinators.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Lucinda Mays:** Plus they make nice edible berries, currants.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Nice. Always good to know. Personally, when I'm pruning my shrubs, I prefer things that grow up instead of flopping a limb down and growing. So if I could keep it trimmed up, I think it would probably work out pretty well.

**Lucinda Mays:** If it's going to make you crazy, why plant it? [LAUGHTER] But I do absolutely love the fragrance. To me, it is not the same as the Korean spice viburnum, but every bit has fragrant.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. I might be able to find a spot in my landscaping where we could put it and just let it do its thing.

**Lucinda Mays:** Give it a little sun.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Lucinda Mays:** Once it gets started, it doesn't need any care to speak up.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. All right.

**Lucinda Mays:** So a good thing. Another, I suppose if I had to say top ten plants for where we live, for our part of the world in a landscape, if it can do multiple things like have fragrance, be good for pollinators, be early bloom.

**Jeff Edwards:** Provide food.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah, provide fruit, and it blooms. Here, Jerry, this is a bloom combination.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I think so. I think all of those bloom combinations are just fantastic, I like those.

**Jeff Edwards:** Jerry, you need to share with Lucinda your indicator plant that we see every year, and the story behind that, that happened this year. I think that would be a fun story for her to hear. Your forsythia bush.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh yeah. So you're talking about the things that bloom first thing in the spring, we had a forsythia that we're always looking at because it always was blooming on Main Street in this nice pot, and come to find out it's plastic. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Jerry was doing all of his timing and planting based on the blooming forsythia that he would see on Main Street.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Especially the pre-emergence that would come out. If you're spreading pre-emergence, you want a time frame. So when I see this forsythia blooming I said, "Okay, here we go." I called her and I asked her, I said, " Boy, that is just so pretty what happened to it?" She is, "Oh, I just changed it out because it's no longer [00:36:00] spring, now it's more in to the early summer plants." I go, "What do you mean, change it out, where did you put it?" " Oh, back in the garage." [LAUGHTER] She apologized that it was plastic, but it was a good one for us.

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER] It was. Something to discuss forever on the Lawn and Garden program. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Absolutely. Don't take things at face value, that's for sure. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** But dang, it was a beautiful plant.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [LAUGHTER] Yeah, it was really pretty.

**Lucinda Mays:** A very blue petal.

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER] It just came out blooming.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** One day, it was gone, one day, it was here, and then next day, it was gone. It went through their life cycle really quick.

**Lucinda Mays:** Jerry, I'm so sorry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, if she says it's fooled a lot of people so I wasn't the only one that was looking at it.

**Lucinda Mays:** It's great that you were timing your pre-emergent of it, though.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Absolutely. [OVERLAPPING] It was about the same time where you would put the pre-emergent out.

**Jeff Edwards:** We're going to have to find different indicator plants around town, Jerry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I'm telling you. Yeah.

**Lucinda Mays:** Maybe you need to plant a currant, that'll be about right.

**Jeff Edwards:** A currand?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah, plant a currant. You know what comes with the currents is daffodils.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Daffodils, okay.

**Lucinda Mays:** Daffodils come early, middle, and late season bloom. So which daffodil is another question. But a lot of the miniature daffodils, like jet fire or February gold bloom at the same time, and if they get their heads all covered up with snow which they inevitably do, it doesn't seem to bother them, they just pop right back up after the snow comes off.

**Jeff Edwards:** Nice.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I love those daffodils.

**Jeff Edwards:** Those Mother's Day storms that we get, right? [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Always. Seems like we get them a lot.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Going back to your shrub idea about planting them and leaving them alone for a while and just forgetting about them, we've done that with black lace, sweet almonds, and mock orange. Our mock orange must be nine feet high, and 7-8 feet wide. It's just almost like one day, you look and you go, "We have a big mock orange."

**Lucinda Mays:** Good for you, you got distracted with some other project, didn't you?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** A lot of other projects.

**Jeff Edwards:** Who knew shrubs can grow that big?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I know. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, now, there's a fragrant shrub too.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes.

**Lucinda Mays:** Many just call it mock orange.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I like them.

**Lucinda Mays:** There is a little dwarf one that they make. The ones that we have here that are about 10 or 12 years old probably don't get more than rib high, four feet at the most. That's nice too if you don't have room in your landscape for some of these bigger old shrub as you can still get those fragrant shrubs. It's called buckley's quill.

**Jeff Edwards:** It is a miniature mock orange?

**Lucinda Mays:** Uh-huh.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Lucinda Mays:** The flowers are bright, bright white. [00:39:00] They are the purest white flower I think I've seen on a shrub. They're just white. If you're planting your garden to enjoy in the evenings or the mornings because you're gone during the day, planting pale blooming things is a way to get that enjoyment a little bit longer because the pale blossoms reflect the lower light, they show up more. So if you're sitting out in your backyard at eight o'clock at night and you have something that's blooming white, you're going to be way more aware of the blooms than if it were a red blooming shrub. Because the red just disappears in the dark, but the white still reflects whatever light is bouncing off it.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Interesting. One of my favorite things is white iris and I love those. Then we plant moonflowers, and they have a real brill, big white trumpet bloom and a lot of pollinators like to come to it, and it's just vibrant in the moonlight or at dusky time.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yes, in your evening garden.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yes. We have to sit outside and watch the dragonflies come around and we only have three or four right now, but sometimes, we have a lot more.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah, we've had lots this year. Is the moonflower that you plant the bushy form or the vining form?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I think we have a little bit of both this year. We didn't ever have the vining form, we just usually had the bush form. It looks like it's morning glories coming up in our pot, but it's actually moonflower. Myrna says, "They came out of that package, maybe the package was misplaced." I'm glad to hear that there's two styles.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, there are two different plants entirely, but the ones that look like morning glories are the vining kind because the moonflower is a kind of morning glory.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh, it is?

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah, it's just a night glory, I guess. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Okay.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Any anytime we see that in a full moon, of course, they just seem to fluoresce.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah, they do, don't they?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Lucinda Mays:** Planting a white garden is a cool idea. It doesn't show up much at noon, but boy, at the end of the day or early in the morning, it's prime time in a white garden. A good idea keep in mind.

**Jeff Edwards:** Interesting. As we're coming to wrap our program up here, I guess, or very soon to doing that, Jerry, are there things going on in the community that we need to address or talk about?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, sure. I need to have that pesto scape recipe one more time because my garlics are now three, four days and they've all seem to have gone into the scape arena.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. I think it's 10-12 scapes, olive oil, parmesan cheese. The true recipe [00:42:00] calls for pinon pine nuts, but who has those laying around? We use either pecans or walnuts. Walnuts are good replacement and I unusually roast them a little bit.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Roast the walnuts?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We were thinking last night, why not roast the scapes?

**Jeff Edwards:** You could, but then it wouldn't be pesto anymore.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, if you just put a smoky on them. I'll put them on the grill and just smoke them?

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure. Try it, I guess.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Try it?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. I think it's salt and pepper to taste and lemon juice, and that's it. Mix it up in a food processor.

**Lucinda Mays:** Tell the crowd what a scape is?

**Jeff Edwards:** A scape is the blooming portion of garlic. It grows straight out, normally, and then by the time it's ready to harvest, it has a full 360 curl in it. For many, many years, Diane and I would go out and clip them off and throw them away. I had no idea that they were edible. We had a student stay with us from New Zealand, I believe, and we were getting ready to clip them again and she goes, "No wait," and she shared this recipe with us. But everybody in your household must eat it. [LAUGHTER] Because if you're the only one, you will be vanished. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** Fairly so.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Fairly so. [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** I want to find that recipe.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I have a tartar sauce recipe for you.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It's dill pickle relish, red onion, and some mayo, that three ingredients. So 15 ounces of relish, 15 ounces of mayo, and two medium red onions chopped. We're talking about food that we like to eat. Hot dogs. You asked me last time if there was one thing that I did not like and hot dogs is probably it. Coney Island, 4th of July, the winner, 75 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

**Jeff Edwards:** Is that the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest that they have every year?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Just can't fathom that.

**Jeff Edwards:** Nor would I want to.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Our farmers market is up and running.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's moved downtown, is that correct?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Moved downtown. I drove past and there were some vendors there, and so you're wanting fresh vegetables, that's a good place to get them.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's Thursday night.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Thursday night, 4-6, I believe.

**Jeff Edwards:** Four to six, okay.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Four to six. Just my last thing as I planted a red wing maple for my wife's and I anniversary. We did not use the rototiller to dig the hole, we dug it really big, the hole, to accommodate the tree.

**Jeff Edwards:** I'm proud of your, Jerry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Sometimes, right? [LAUGHTER]

**Lucinda Mays:** [00:45:00] That's good.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** That's a good thing. Honestly, I don't rototill it much anymore. There might be three or four events.

**Jeff Edwards:** We've shamed him into calming down a little bit on the rototilling, Lucinda.

**Lucinda Mays:** It's nothing like public shaming.

**Jeff Edwards:** No.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No. [LAUGHTER] I used to have my rows of my garden wide enough that I could put my rototiller down the rows. I didn't like to weed, but I did like to rototill. I've stopped that, and after chewing up your water system three or four times and [LAUGHTER] finding it was more trouble than it's worth, perhaps, I am so happy to have given you some laughter and enjoyment on today's show.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, I'm very pleased to hear about all of your techniques of using artificial for sissy [LAUGHTER] at the time of your pre-emergence and rototilling. It is alerting process, isn't it?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Absolutely.

**Jeff Edwards:** You're more than welcome to share that story with anybody like, Lucinda.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, as you say, it's already been out in the public.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Lucinda, let me just tell you one more story, and it has to do with that rototiller. When my wife and I got married, my friend said, "You need to buy her set of pearls." She says, "You know, I'm not really a pearl girl, let's buy a tiller".

**Lucinda Mays:** [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I knew she was a keeper right then and there.

**Lucinda Mays:** Yeah, I think so.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It's our anniversary present and it's still running.

**Lucinda Mays:** What's your anniversary are you celebrating?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** 28th.

**Lucinda Mays:** Well, congratulations.

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

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

**Lucinda Mays:** It is awesome.

**Jeff Edwards:** Lucinda, it's been a pleasure having you on the program today, we were very happy to have you with us.

**Lucinda Mays:** These conversations are marvelous. I always learn something new. Recipes.

**Jeff Edwards:** As do we. [LAUGHTER] We're always learning things as well. I think it's probably time to wrap up. Jerry, thank you again for being our host today. Again, Lucinda, thank you for being our guest. That's it. We'll see you everybody next week.

**Female Narrator:** [MUSIC] Thanks for listening. Catch next week's episode, Tuesday at noon, on Spotify. Episodes from previous seasons are now available in the archive. [MUSIC]