

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

Jeff Edwards: Hey, good morning, everybody. Boy, that music sounds familiar, doesn't it, Jerry?

Jerry Erschabeck: Absolutely. [LAUGHTER]

JEFF: So it's a little weird to be walking into the radio station with your coat on and getting ready to do the Lawn & Garden Program. We're going to call it the Spring Lawn & Garden Program because it's not spring yet, but good morning and welcome. **JERRY:** Good morning, Jeff, and you know, there's only three months left before spring [LAUGHTER] and warmer weather. [LAUGHTER]

JEFF: And longer days.

JERRY: Yeah. [LAUGHTER] But [00:01:00] hey, it's supposed to be right at 60 or 70 miles per hour on the wind today.

JEFF: Fantastic.

JERRY: Yeah. They call it Mariah, but I'd call it something else.

JEFF: Yeah. Well, you know, we have to deal with that, right?

JERRY: Absolutely.

JEFF: So this is the first time we've ever done this in January, setting a precedent. Who knows what's going to happen from there. Is it much better without the-

JEFF: Well, yeah. [OVERLAPPING] Apparently, we're getting a new system here at the radio [00:01:30] station and there's a little echo if we were listening with the headphones. **JEFF:** It's driving Jerry crazy, and I didn't [OVERLAPPING] even think about putting the headphones on today because- [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: I took mine off, I think it's much better. [LAUGHTER] Okay then, we're ready to go.

JERRY: Absolutely.

Radio Host: [You can use them.] [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: No, we're good. [OVERLAPPING] We'll just keep going on. So, we sat around, we thought, what are we going to talk about in January?

JERRY: Yeah, that was a five-minute email. **JEFF:** Yeah. Maybe we ought to talk about the format a little bit. We're doing this once in January, [00:02:00] once in February, once in March, and then twice in April, and then we'll go full-time in May.

JERRY: Yes. Then once in October, once in November, and once in December. [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: We think. As long as everybody can stand us. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: According to our new contract, [LAUGHTER] we're scheduled to be year-round. [LAUGHTER]

JEFF: If there's too much feedback, [LAUGHTER] too much negative feedback.

JERRY: I had people approach me that said, "Hey, there's still stuff going on in October, November, December, and you guys could talk about it," and I said, "Well, we'll give it a whirl."

JEFF: So here we are.

JERRY: Here we are.

JEFF: It was a seed that was planted in the fall.

JERRY: Yeah. So how did you come about being part of this show?

JEFF: Yeah. Well, when I started with Extension in 2008, I think there was a responsibility to do a five or a 10-minute update [00:03:00] once a week. What's happening in UW Extension and in the county as it relates to us. And I did my part of the program kicking and screaming. It wasn't something that I really thought that I would enjoy.

JERRY: So everybody wanted to or they thought that everybody should participate.

JEFF: Yeah. So, it was a rotational thing. We'd come in, we'd change. Whoever was in the office would come in and do their part once a week. So maybe it was a once a month type of activity on the radio.

Then Jerry Simonson was our horticulturist and heavily involved in growing things, in production, and the ag community itself and I think it was his brainchild and he said, "Hey, I think we need to do this.

We need to have a program on the radio." I, again, was hesitant and leery and kicking and screaming because when we [00:04:00] started, it was just he and I. So, we had to come up with all the program content and make it a decent program that we thought people wanted to hear. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: There's always that thought process that people enjoy what we talked about.

JEFF: Yeah, and I think the first year we actually did it as a once a month in the summer time type of thing and then I think it progressed. There was little discussion with Grant and everybody at the radio station and thought maybe we could turn it into a longer program. So voila, there we are.

JERRY: Yeah, and I got involved. I was invited. I think I had made a pest out of myself by calling in with a pumpkin report. [LAUGHTER]

Jeff said, "Hey, do you want to be my co-host?"

[OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: Why don't you just come in and [LAUGHTER] we'll spend time talking about things together.

Yeah. So this is our 10th, no, 2020 will be [00:05:00] the 11th year that we've done this. That's hard to believe that we've been doing it that long. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: So, there must be some interest in us.

We're in the program anyway.

JEFF: Maybe the positives are hushing the negatives.

JERRY: Sure. [LAUGHTER]

JEFF: So apparently, we're not going away and people have to put up with us.

JERRY: So, the other thing I've been asking, and God bless this radio station because they'd thrown out a promo and they just ran the crap out of it. [LAUGHTER] So, at the end of our promo is a Bill Murray clip. [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: From Caddyshack.

JERRY: Caddyshack and talking about chinch bugs and manganese.

JEFF: Manganese. So, people are asking Jerry, what are chinch bugs?

JERRY: What are chinch bugs, Jerry?

JEFF: So, Jerry has done a little research and insects being my background, chinch bugs are small, they're about an eighth of an inch in size, but they can be very numerous and very hungry.

You found [00:06:00] that they prefer Saint Augustine grass?

JERRY: That's what my research says.

JEFF: So fortunately, we don't grow that here or it doesn't grow as well here.

Radio Host: Knocked the phone off. [BACKGROUND]

JEFF: They are similar to boxelder bugs, right? We all know what boxelder bugs, they get in your house, those types of things. But these things are smaller. They have piercing-sucking mouthparts, and they are pests in turf, but they also like corn and sorghum. So could they potentially be a problem here? Yes, but they're more of a Midwest-South type of pest. Show up in really heavy numbers sometimes and can just demolish crops and turf.

JERRY: Any of those sucking mouthparts, critters, insects, they're hard on crops.

JEFF: Right. So the Bill Murray clip from Caddyshack, chinch bugs can [00:07:00] be a problem for turf on golf courses.

JERRY: Oh, absolutely. Especially down south because [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: It's way highly drought-resistant, holds up to traffic.

JEFF: Spreads fast.

JERRY: Spreads fast. You drive on it, walk on it.

JEFF: So, chinch bugs aren't necessarily a problem for us. But in Wyoming, we do have something that's known as false chinch bugs. They look like them. They are a problem in turf. We get calls about them all the time in Casper, it seems like, for whatever reason.

JERRY: False.

JEFF: False. Yeah, not the true ones. So, they're impostors, but they're related. But they aren't as much of a problem as the true chinch bugs.

JERRY: Yeah. There you go.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: So, thanks, Ryan, for putting that out there.

[LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: Putting our promo out there again. Yeah, and stimulating conversation. Of course, manganese, the other part of that is an essential [00:08:00] nutrient for plant growth.

But you don't need- [OVERLAPPING]

JERRY: Photosynthesis.

JEFF: Yep. Don't need a lot of it, but it's a micronutrient that is important.

JERRY: So, speaking of micronutrients.

JEFF: Yes.

JERRY: Yes. [OVERLAPPING] The Haney soil test collection day was sponsored on November 5th by the North Platte Valley Conservation District. I called Denise yesterday, and she said that she was going to be getting those out.

[00:08:30]

JEFF: The results?

JERRY: The results, and we were able to do, I think, a six-spot test in our garden, and the neighbor as well. So, we're going to see what we're lacking.

JEFF: Maybe we should bring her in as a guest.

JERRY: I think that's a great idea. [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: Have you been chatting about that?

JERRY: I have.

JEFF: Excellent.

JERRY: Yeah.

JEFF: Excellent.

JERRY: So, she's on our list of candidates for people to come visit us. [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: To torture in the radio station. [LAUGHTER]

[00:09:00] **JEFF:** I think you sent me an email saying something about, well, you were describing what we do in our format of our show and said it's pretty loose. We laugh and giggle and we interrupt the guest expert. To share what we pass for information and-

JEFF: Knowledge.

JERRY: Knowledge. [LAUGHTER]

JEFF: So since we're on that vein, our show today is just us, but our next guest, which the program date is the middle of February, I think. Is that Valentine's Day or is that the 13th?

[NOISE]

JERRY: Let's just- [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: Jerry is shuffling through the calendar. [NOISE]

JERRY: Right here. February, that would be Valentine's, yes.

JEFF: Valentine's Day, I believe.

JERRY: Well, how appropriate?

JEFF: Yeah. So, our next guest is Jacelyn Downey. She is from Audubon of the Rockies. I believe that she lives in Sheridan. So, she'll be [00:10:00] calling in. But we'll be talking about birds and how to attract birds to our landscape, and what to do to try to improve situations for birds.

JERRY: Do you feed birds, Jeff?

JEFF: Sure, but not intentionally.

JERRY: I understand. Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: So, we feed birds and gosh, it's a fun little deal to do and you don't have to know the name of every birds.

JEFF: It's kind of like Chicken TV.

JERRY: Okay?

JEFF: Yeah, people who raise chickens say that they have Chicken TV. [LAUGHTER]

So it's Bird TV?

JERRY: Bird TV, yeah. It could be Chicken TV or Bird TV. Of course, if you're feeding birds, squirrels seemed to come along with that and we get a variety of birds coming on just plain old sunflower seeds.

JEFF: They might be there a day and move on. Yeah. It's one of those things that you have to be watching [00:11:00] if you're feeding them.

JERRY: But yeah, that sounds like a good program.

JEFF: So that'll be next month. Right now, it's just general stuff, reintroduction of ourselves. I wanted to ask you, did you have a good Christmas? We haven't talked about that.

JERRY: Gosh, yes, we did. We had a really nice Christmas. Stayed home, family around here. We had a really nice Christmas.

JEFF: Do you decorate for Christmas?

JERRY: Well, ladders and I have had a poor history together. So when we do decorate, and yes, we do decorate a little bit, but it's just out on our deck or out in front of the office a little bit and what we can reach off the ground.

JEFF: Less is more.

JERRY: Less is more, [LAUGHTER] yeah. Because when you fall off a ladder and hell, let's segue into that.

JEFF: Been there. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: When you fall off the ladder, you really jack yourself up.

JEFF: [NOISE] Yeah.

JERRY: I'm one of those guys that I wouldn't die, I would just get more jacked up.

JEFF: You would bounce.

JERRY: Once. [LAUGHTER] Very little. [LAUGHTER]

[00:12:00] But more stuff has a tendency to tear and break.

JEFF: Sure.

JERRY: So, as all of us get older, I, myself, find that if I have a three-point stance, three-point stance means one foot, one foot, and then a hand on something. So, a walking stick works well, a hoe, a rake, a broom also works well, just to help do that extra steadying.

Here's the other thing I hate about getting older, all the noises that I make.

So when I'm shuffling or raking, it's [NOISE].

JEFF: All that grunting you do?

JERRY: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

JERRY: Terrible.

JEFF: Well, if you notice it, then try not to do it, right?

JERRY: Well, I try not to do it, but when I'm by myself, who cares?

[LAUGHTER]

JEFF: So, the the point of that discussion was do you use a live tree?

JERRY: My brother-in-law came from Colorado and Jeff brought us a small North Fork Pine,

[00:13:00] and it was probably three feet tall and and it's inside. He'd put bows on it around it, or it came that way, I don't know for sure. But no, we don't use a live tree because of our allergies.

JEFF: Okay.

JERRY: Now, back in the day, we used to buy live trees.

JEFF: Sure.

JERRY: My son was so allergic. **MYRNA:** was allergic, I was allergic.

JEFF: The tree went outside.

JEFF: Achoo, achoo.

[LAUGHTER]

So, I said, "Well, hey, why don't I just go?" I had the old truck then and we put the tree in the truck and went to the car wash and washed the tree.

JEFF: Good thinking. Did it work?

JERRY: That water ran so brown [LAUGHTER] and it was so dirty. People go, "What you doing?" [LAUGHTER] "I'm washing my tree."

"You're going to wax it too?"

I said, "Maybe.

JEFF: Only if there's needles left on it when I'm done.

JERRY: Maybe. [LAUGHTER] But that tree was so much better, and it stayed greener and again, all the dirt in it, and bird poop.

JEFF: Yeah, that's a really good idea.

[OVERLAPPING] I [00:14:00] hadn't even thought of that.

JERRY: Yeah.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: So, it's also a good idea to blow off your artificial tree. At least blow it with a leaf blower.

JEFF: Unless it's been stored in a-

JERRY: A sack or a paper sack.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: I had some friends that, [NOISE] they have the tree sack, much like a game bag and they would just uncurl it all from the top and make it part of the base, and then put a nice flower skirt on it.

JEFF: That's that fake snow stuff at the bottom.

JERRY: The flower skirt was already there. [LAUGHTER] Then they wired the lights on and wired the ornaments on. So zingo bingo, instant tree.

JEFF: Yeah, you're ready to go.

JERRY: Then instant clean up.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: So just pull the bag back up and there you are. So if you stored it in the dusty attic, good idea just to blow it off a little bit.

JEFF: Yeah. Excellent. We do not use a live tree, [NOISE] but for folks who do, you think about, "Well, what do I [00:15:00] do about it later? Afterwards, at the end, you know, it could be cut up for firewood, it could be put out in your landscape for your birds to hang out in.

JERRY: Absolutely. Well, dig a hole and put it in.

JEFF: Otherwise, the wind will blow it.

JERRY: Yeah.

JEFF: Yeah, it will be just turned in to another tumbleweed. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: There was a guy around west of Casper who couldn't grow anything out there. So, he asked for all the artificial trees and some of the live trees, [00:15:30] and so he planted all those and staked them down and he had an instant forest.

JEFF: Well, Jerry Simonson used to do that as well to make microclimates in his yard so he could get other things started.

JERRY: Started to grow.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: I will be darned.

JEFF: Yeah, so.

JERRY: Yeah. We've grown sunflowers in a row and in a hedge to do that same thing.

Then we got a fence.

JEFF: Right. Temporary fence.

JERRY: Well, that was a temporary fence.

Then we got a real fence. [LAUGHTER] But [NOISE] it [00:16:00] does, it really slows the wind down. If you've got anything to come between the wind direction and the ground and dirt. We used to have some really vicious drifting in our area, in our backyard especially. Once we did the sunflowers and then we did the fence, it really changed.

JEFF: Oh yeah. If you can change how the snow drops and blows around to try to help you not have to shovel so much, [LAUGHTER] those types of things you kind of got to think about and plan ahead and prepare for.

JERRY: Yeah.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: So shoveling, there is another one.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: Got to bend your knees.

JEFF: Slips, trips, and falls. We have a phone call. Are you ready?

JERRY: Set.

JEFF: Okay.

Radio Station: Do we really?

JEFF: Yeah, we have a phone call. [LAUGHTER] Greg's in disbelief. Good morning. You're on the air.

Caller MYRNA: You have a phone call, my darling.

[LAUGHTER] This is the first [00:17:00] one.

JEFF: Yes, you are the first one of the year. How can we help you?

MYRNA: This is Myrna: [Inaudible].

JERRY: Hello Myrna.

MYRNA: Hello. [LAUGHTER] I have infestation of crabgrass in one area of my backyard.

I was told by [INAUDIBLE] there's a pre-emergent to put down. My problem is I wasn't quite sure of when to put that down so that maybe it might kill it,

I'm not sure. [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: Yeah, so if it's an annual crabgrass, pre-emergent product.

It always depends on the year, right? If we have a really warm spring, you might have to put that pre-emergent down in March. If we have a cooler, longer spring, it could go out in April, it could go out in the first [00:18:00] part of May. So, you have to think about how long those products actually work.

Everybody says they have a half-life of about 45 days. So, it just depends on what the spring conditions are like. You have to take all of that into account. If you go ahead and put it out early, you may have to put it out again in order to try to get those under control.

JERRY: I have heard when the forsythia starts to bloom, it's a yellow bush, unmistakable because it is one of the first things as it starts blooming. When that starts blooming is the time to throw out pre-emergent.

JEFF: Pre-emergent products. Yeah.

MYRNA: So what do I do, just drive around looking- [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: Yeah.

JEFF: Yes. [LAUGHTER]

Our mayor has one that he puts out on his front porch. [00:19:00]

JEFF: If you drive to Scottsbluff and look, you're two weeks ahead. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: Really? They're two weeks ahead of us?

JEFF: It's about 10 days. It's a crazy thing.

JERRY: Oh my God.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: Just that lower elevation?

JEFF: Yeah. I'm sorry, Myrna. Go ahead.

MYRNA: Is there a temperature to think about?

JEFF: The soil temperature needs to be above 50 degrees for most seeds to germinate. I know a lot of people don't have a soil temperature probe. When we used to do this program in the past, Jerry Simonson said he had a soil temperature probe and he'd give a report and we may need to start doing that again. But soil temp 50 degrees is something you need to be concerned about and then timing of the product, and it can be anytime in the spring, but again, it depends [00:20:00] on the weather.

MYRNA: Okay. So what is one of the products that works?

JEFF: Well, there is a variety of products. There are some Treflan, Oryzalin-based products, which would be Surflan product- There is Surflan. Let's talk about the active ingredient, it's Oryzalin, O-R-I-Z. No, can't do it in my head. Hold on. [LAUGHTER]

I think it's O-R-Y-Z-L-A-I-N, active ingredient.

MYRNA: A-L or what did you say?

JEFF: O-R-Y-Z-A-L-I-N. Yeah. Then [00:21:00] there's another product out there that's pendimethalin, the active ingredient.

It's P-E-N, I believe it's D-I-M-E-T-H-A-L-I-N. So, when you're looking at products on the shelf, you need to look at that really tiny print that talks about the active ingredient and if you find one of those, it'll be a pre-emergent product.

They could be mixed with other things, so you want to be careful with that. It depends on where you're putting it. If you are applying specifically to turf, make sure that it says it can be applied to turf.

MYRNA: Okay.

JEFF: Okay.

MYRNA: All right. I'll give it a try then.

JEFF: Okay.

MYRNA: Thanks.

JEFF: Thanks.

JERRY: Thanks for calling in.

JEFF: Thanks for being the first one.

MYRNA: I know and I'm so proud.

[LAUGHTER]

JEFF: Anything else on your mind?

MYRNA: Nothing more, at 8 o'clock in the morning. [00:22:00] No.

JEFF: Okay. Have another cup of coffee and think about it.

MYRNA: [LAUGHTER] Bye.

JEFF: Bye, Myrna.

JERRY: So let's talk about a soil probe. You know our meat thermometers that we use at the barbecue?

JEFF: Yes.

JERRY: Wouldn't that work?

JEFF: Yeah. But I don't think they would go so- [OVERLAPPING]

JERRY: That low? Oh, yeah, that low.

JEFF: Yeah. Maybe some of them. Oh, sorry.

Greg is punching buttons for me. I don't think that the scale would be where it needs to be at. Those probably started a hundred degrees or so for a meat thermometer. But there are soil temperature probes available in some of the seed catalogs that we've been looking at, that we were going to talk about. I don't think they're all that expensive, but it's similar technology. You just poke it in the soil.

JERRY: Right, maybe we could do a seed temperature or a soil temperature right outside here in their flowerbeds.

JEFF: We could.

JERRY: We could?

JEFF: Yeah. We could do something like that. Jerry, So, what else do we do in the winter? Oh, [00:23:00] you know what?

Greg: Break for a commercial.

JEFF: Oh, man. Greg, really? Okay. So, we're apparently going to break for commercials right now. [LAUGHTER] [inaudible 00:23:12].

Okay. Yeah. All right. We're going to take a break. We'll be back.

Narrator: University of Wyoming Extension events will not be held in person through May 15th, 2020. Our educators are hard at work planning virtual education and activities.

We will continue with much of our programming digitally on our website and official Facebook pages. See what we're up to this week at wyoextension.org or visit your county Facebook page. [MUSIC]

Narrator: Did you know University of Wyoming Extension offers free online courses?

We offer an animal science course for 4H students, estate planning, and information on taxes and fad diets. If we haven't covered a topic you're interested in, contact your local extension office for help. Our course list is growing throughout the year. Head to wyoextension.org and scroll to the online course catalog. While you're there, check out our Facebook feed or watch our collection of from the ground up videos for seasonal gardening tips. [MUSIC]

JEFF: Okay, we're back. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck in the Lawn & Garden Program. I don't think I introduced this to start off with, did I? We just jumped into it.

JERRY: We kinda jumped.

JEFF: Yeah. Okay. All right. So, while we were doing our commercial break, we had a caller and they asked, do clematis roots stop or continue to grow and can they grow under a house? So, I'm trying to understand the question. I think the question is, do they stop during the winter? Do they stop growing during the winter? They slow down growing.

JERRY: They slow. [OVERLAPPING] They don't die.

JEFF: Clematis are perennial.

JERRY: Yeah, they don't die.

JEFF: Yeah, they [00:25:00] don't die back.

JERRY: You can cut them through the ground and they will return.

JEFF: So the other question is, "Can they grow under the house?" I would say, yes, they can grow wherever they think they need to. It's going to be drier under the house. They'll go to places where there's more moisture.

JERRY: More moisture. But can they grow under the house? Certainly.

JERRY: I think so.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: We have a Wisteria that's growing on the north side of our house and I think their roots are tremendously long.

JEFF: We've talked about your Wisteria in the past. I think you're leaving that one as a gift to the next people who own the house.

[OVERLAPPING] Yeah, Wisteria is an amazing plant.

I think it's a lot like grapevine. I mean, that's what I liken it too, in my brain. [00:26:00] Very viney plant. The roots go everywhere and you really have to want Wisteria.

JERRY: Yes.

JEFF: Otherwise, if you don't want them, they're very difficult to get rid of. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: Yup.

JEFF: You're very fortunate to have a Wisteria growing here because it is on the edge of Zone 5 as far as tolerance.

JERRY: A bloomer.

JEFF: Oh, even better.

JERRY: Even better.

JEFF: I know you've brought blossoms in before.

JERRY: It took awhile for that Wisteria to bloom. [00:26:30] But it finally did and by Golly, that is such the nicest little scent. [OVERLAPPING]

JEFF: Nice fragrance, yeah.

In the proper place,
they can be really nice plants.

JERRY: Really nice, yeah.

JEFF: But they can also be nasty invaders if you're not wanting what they want. So yeah.

JERRY: We will have to talk about moving them one of these days, but not today.

JEFF: Yeah. Okay. Lynn's back.

[OVERLAPPING] Oh, shoot, shoot, darn. Jerry was off the air for that whole thing.

JERRY: Shoot, I was off the air. [LAUGHTER] Okay, we were talking [00:27:00] about Wisteria very quickly.

[LAUGHTER]

JEFF: Quick recap.

JERRY: Quick recap.

JEFF: Let's move on.

JERRY: So, are you winter watering?

JEFF: I have not yet. Should I be?

JERRY: I think so.

JEFF: Probably, yeah.

JERRY: I have some ash trees that one of our tree people had said we need to do a steady watering on it. I said they weren't performing as well as I thought they should and greening up like they should and then he said, "Well, how often do you water them?" I go, well.

JEFF: What do you mean by water them?

JERRY: They're established and you go, "No, you got to water."

JEFF: Yeah. So the rule of thumb in the winter time is once a month and turn your hose. Don't put a sprinkler on it, but turn hose on and have it about the stream, about the size of a pencil, and let it run 6-8 hours, if not longer.

We're talking about the drip line. The drip zone [00:28:00] out where the edge of the trees' branches are. Is it outward the area where the feeder roots are of these trees? So, don't just lay the hose by the trunk of the tree. That hose needs to be laid out farther from where that is.

JERRY: You bet. Are we talking about days that it's not freezing?

JEFF: Well, so that's the thing, right? If your hose is able to run, and make sure you drain it when you turn it off, just take it off the hydrant, whatever, and [00:28:30] drain it.

Otherwise, it will freeze up. But on these warmer days when it's 40 degrees, when the wind's blowing, that is really pulling the moisture out of those trees even though they're semi-dormant at this point in time, right?

So, any moisture that we can put back in, whether the ground is frozen or not, eventually, it will, and hopefully, it will work itself into the soil profile and be available for those trees.

JERRY: You bet. [00:29:00] So, next Wednesday, I believe I saw that the temperature was supposed to be 53 degrees.

JEFF: It will be a good day to water.

JERRY: Good day.

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: Really a good day. Yeah. So, choose the tree to do 6-8 hours, maybe put it on the calendar that you've done it?

JEFF: Yeah.

JERRY: Kind of keep track and move it from tree to tree to tree.

JEFF: Yes. Try to do your best. Let it run. Okay.

JERRY: My ash trees will like it. Hey, those seed catalogs, what zone are we in?

JEFF: We are traditionally in Zone 4. However, we can get away with planting Zone 5 things on occasion.

JERRY: On occasion, yes.

JEFF: So, your Wisteria is,

JERRY: I believe, is a four, five?

JEFF: Barely a four, I think. I think it is a zone five. I think we talked about this last fall. I planted a fig tree last summer.

JERRY: How did it do?

JEFF: It came up, I think it's going to be a fig bush, multiple stems, not one stem, but I think it grew [00:30:00] four feet in this year. Now, will all of that be new growth next year or set up for new growth next year? I don't know. It depends on how- [OVERLAPPING]

JERRY: So, wouldn't a fig bush be better than a fig tree? You might have more capability to bear fruit.

JEFF: It depends. I don't know. I don't know anything about figs, but we're going to learn. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: We need to know more about figs.

JEFF: Exactly. [LAUGHTER] So, Jerry and I when we were talking about this, we talked about all the seed catalogs we get. They seem to start showing up right at Thanksgiving time.

It's kinda nice to sit down and thumb through them, and there is such a variety of seed catalogs that are offered. We have Johnny's Seed, Jerry's got a whole stack of them there.

I received one this week that was pine tree seed catalog. There's Harris Seed Company.

What's that? Seeds 'n Such?

JERRY: Seeds 'n Such, Johnny's [00:31:00] Selected Seeds, Totally Tomatoes,

Vermont Bean Seed Company, Michigan Bulb Company, Swan Island, Dahlia's, Young Seeds and Plants, Gurney's.

JEFF: So that's just a dozen right there that we've listed. And, you know, okay. So, the first one or two, you thumb through and you go, I need that and I want that. I want to try that plan. I want to try that tomato. You fold these pages down and you set that aside on the coffee table. Then about May, [LAUGHTER] we go, "Oh, where are those seed catalogs at? I think I need to get those ordered." Well, if you wait that long, unfortunately, some of those things that you wanted happened to be sold out. So, then you have to go dig through the other seed catalogs and see if they're available there.

JERRY: Just like any other company, they put stuff on sale and any of you order before January or whatever [00:32:00] the date is, we'll ship them free, and you'll get another 50 percent off. So, you buy on seeds. So, if you pay attention, you can buy seeds a little less expensively.

JEFF: So now, the other half of that is you order in January, [LAUGHTER] you get a nice box in a week or 10 days.

JERRY: Where was those?

JEFF: Exactly. So, about Easter time, you need to start finding them. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: What happened? Around our house, I have some out in the garage, I have some out in the well shed. I know that there's a couple of stuck in a drawer or two somewhere. So, I start trying to gather those seeds into one major box. We've learned not to put them in a plastic tote because one spring, we had a family of mice growing. Living in there.

JEFF: You were just feeding them.

JERRY: Thanks, Jerry. [LAUGHTER] This is a great place to live.

JEFF: [00:33:00] So, seed storage, we always seem to not plant the whole entire packet.

If you've got one or two or a dozen seeds of something left over, if you think, well, I like this one, I'll plant it again next year. So, if they're not stored correctly, the viability of them will go down. So, they won't germinate like they did previously.

JERRY: I had some marigold seeds that I'd had for years, and I planted a whole slug of them and none of them came up.

JEFF: That's what happened.

JERRY: None of them came up.

JEFF: They all died.

JERRY: I'm like, good gosh, these are marigold seeds.

JEFF: You can't store things forever in our conditions.

JERRY: No. But there are seed banks that are hermetically sealed.

JEFF: Temperature controlled.

JERRY: Temperature controlled, humidity controlled.

JEFF: Around the globe.

JERRY: Yeah. They're like the dead sea scrolls that they put them in and preserve and protect.

[00:34:00] **JEFF:** Exactly. Preparing for the future.

JERRY: Absolutely.

JEFF: So, one of the things that when you're scanning through these seed catalogs, you want to look for that USDA Zone information to see if they're going to survive here. You don't want to order more than you would probably plant in a year. Something to think about.

JERRY: A pound of seeds is a lot of seeds.

JEFF: —a lot of seeds.

JERRY: Of anything.

JEFF: So, if you do have a really nice collection of seeds, maybe it's time to get rid of them and start fresh. That's what we've decided to do this year. All of our old seeds that we've planted and have carried from year to year to year, 2020 is the year that we dump them, we're going to order all new.

JERRY: I, however, still have enough seeds that I could probably not order [LAUGHTER] and take my chances. Although last year, what were we growing?

We were growing some squash. They turned out to be a different [00:35:00] plant altogether.

JEFF: Something you didn't know that you thought you had. [inaudible 00:35:04]

JERRY: Yeah, right. But we're still— Talking about gardens, everything seems to revolve around the tomatoes. So, tomatoes need to be moved from season to season.

JEFF: Not planted in the same location.

JERRY: Location. Location, location, location. So, this year, we're going to plant it on the west side of our garden. About four or so, or five feet away from the west fence. Because the neighbor planted it in that same area, and his did really well, so we're hoping that ours do well.

JEFF: You're hoping some of the nutrients [LAUGHTER] have come across the property line?

JERRY: That's why we got these soil tests.

[LAUGHTER] We've talked extensively about soil testing and so I was so happy to be involved with these soil tests with the Conservation District. We're [00:36:00] hopeful that we have some useful information that will make our garden bigger, better.

JEFF: Soil sampling is always a good way to get information about your garden, about your lawn, what exactly it may or may not need. We've had a variety of guests on who, Caitlin Youngquist for one, who is, mulch your lawn, don't fertilize your lawn.

JERRY: So, to that point, we're mulching our honey locust pods. So, we even have, [00:36:30] we would probably need to go out with a lawnmower one more time and get that final pod.

JEFF: You're not allowing the squirrels to mulch them?

JERRY: They mulch. [LAUGHTER] They chew on them, some. But there's plenty. There's always plenty of honey locust trees coming up in the spring, and we have a lot of honey locust pods, and so we have mulched with them sort of, but we mulch with the lawnmower.

[00:37:00] **JEFF:** Well, I've got to get out and pick up my leaves still. That's one of the debates that we have every fall.

JERRY: Do you pick them up?

JEFF: Do you cut your lawn really short? Or do you leave it a little bit longer? I think you're a short guy, right?

JERRY: I like to do shorts first in the spring. But I've now three inches all year long, three inches except when it first starts that early growth, that growth spurt, I like to clean it up, I like to aerate.

JEFF: So, it's hard to deem when the last time you're going to mow your lawn is, right?

JERRY: So, they say, drain, run your lawnmower until it runs out of gas. And I be going, I'll be using it next week.

JEFF: So, we try to think, this might be the last one, so we'll mow it short.

Well, you can get whether that your lawn will grow still, and it'll get back to that three inches. So, I think that the fall cutting it short is probably a [00:38:00] good idea?

JERRY: Short, or not scalp.

JEFF: Right. But because it still is growing in the fall and you might not get out there before it snows or before the leaves come to get another cutting on it. So then in the spring, clean it up.

JERRY: There's also another debate whether you should clean out the leaves in your flowerbed or just let them dissolve in fertilizer.

JEFF: So, I'm a cleaner outer.

JERRY: So is my wife.

JEFF: I do mulch. We do mulch all of our flowerbeds. We think that the leaves, and of course, one of the reasons to leave your leaves behind, that's redundant, isn't it?

JERRY: A little.

JEFF: –is to provide habitat for worms and insects, and those types of things. Well, if you mulch, you've already provided that. So, then you can go through and clean up your leaves. You're already providing that nutrient level. [OVERLAPPING].

JERRY: Food level area.

[00:39:00] **JEFF:** Besides, when I pick my leaves up, I compost them. So, a lot of that goes back into the garden anyway. So, it's not as if they're going to a landfill or some place.

JERRY: You bet.

JEFF: Yeah. One of the things that Diane gave me to talk about, and we should probably mention – totally changing gears here – is alfalfa weevil.

JERRY: Oh, yeah.

JEFF: Can be a problem. Alfalfa weevils have been around for a little over 100 years.

They showed up in 1904. Well, since the '80s, we've been talking about the possibility of them being resistant to a lot of the products that are sprayed on them and more resistance is showing up and those types of things. So, if you're alfalfa producer, it's really important to be thinking about the possibility of alfalfa weevils this spring. But the best way to find out if you have them is through scouting.

[00:40:00] You can't just drive by and go, "Oh, that field doesn't look so good. I've got weevils, let spray it." So, it's one of those things that has to be looked at and monitored and then make valid decisions about it instead of spending money and not being able to control them.

JERRY: So, when do the weevil start to come on? Isn't it when the alfalfa starts to bloom?

JEFF: So, they're there ahead of time. The adults overwinter. As soon [00:40:30] as the alfalfa starts growing in the springtime, they're already laying eggs in it, and it's the larvae that cause the most significant dent.

JERRY: Can you see those without a magnifying glass?

JEFF: Yes. You can— If you go through your alfalfa with a sweep net, you can actually see them and count them and those types of things. But their maturity all depends on the number of degree days that are accumulated. So, there are degree day calculators out there that you can [00:41:00] take a look at to find out where the alfalfa weevil ought to be as far as in their lifecycle. Then go out, do some scouting, and find out if they're at the right stage to treat.

JERRY: The sweep net you're talking about, is that something is a handheld or you put it on the back of your tractor?

JEFF: Sorry.

JERRY: Sorry?

JEFF: That is an entomological tool that is available through a variety of different places.

I think Johnny's might actually sell them. But it was one of the first tools that my advisor taught me how to use when we were putting out spray plots in the '80s here in Torrington. But basically, you walk, you take 10 paces, you use this sweep net to sweep across the surface of the alfalfa as it's growing, and then open it up and you'll be able to count the number of weevils that are in it.

Thank you for asking me that question. So, you can actually see the number of weevils that are there and count them and get the number. [00:42:00] There's a formula for so many weevils per sweep, good time to treat, those types of things.

JERRY: I know that, you know, there's grasshopper counters and I think that they just take a square net and put it over a square piece of ground, and then shuffle around and get all the grasshoppers out and count those. Then there's a calculation.

JEFF: They'll use sweep nets as well. But then they will also throw out a hoop which is either square or round and then count the numbers inside of it.

JERRY: Yeah. My dad was a grasshopper counter for Platte County in Guernsey.

JEFF: All right. Awesome. Very cool. Diane was a grasshopper counter too I think for a while.

JERRY: I know two young women that are grasshopper counters.

[LAUGHTER]

JEFF: But anyhow, things to think about now is considering what's going on with alfalfa weevils this spring. If we have a really snowy winter that may be cold, there's still maybe a lot of adults [00:43:00] out. But if we have open winters like we do now, the mortality of those adults will be a little bit higher and hopefully, less of a problem.

JERRY: You bet. What's our grasshopper activity looking like?

JEFF: So, the last couple of years, the populations have been building. There's been some hotspots I think around Sheridan, I think around Lander, Fremont County area, and then a few others, maybe Weston County, have been having these little hotspots where they're showing up. I'm thinking in my mind that 2021 will be a bad grasshopper year.

They'll pick up again. There's a variety of things that I've been watching to keep track of that. Listening to Don Day and thinking about the weather and the way these populations are cyclical. That will probably begin the start of when they get [00:44:00] really bad again.

JERRY: Then they suddenly drop?

JEFF: Not suddenly. The only reason that we've had a crash recently was, do you remember the winter of 2012 and the summer of 2012?

JERRY: All winters are yucky and cold and snowy.

JEFF: So do you remember 2012 at all? [OVERLAPPING]

JERRY: No. [LAUGHTER]

JEFF: Okay. 2012 was really dry. I think we only had a total of six or seven inches of precipitation that year. That caused [00:44:30] a crash in the grasshopper population and since that time, they'd been slowly building [OVERLAPPING].

So that is probably one of the most natural reasons why there would be a crash, but management, we'll probably be relying on insecticides to keep them suppressed.

JERRY: I forget where I saw this. There was a guy pulling a, it was like a 14 foot one [00:45:00] on the back of his tractor. He had a propane tank there. Then behind the propane tank, some ways away was this wide, 14-foot swath of little funnels that would shoot out flame. It said it was 400,000 BTU and said, they used to do this a lot in the older days, but they declare war on weeds and pests.

JEFF: So that technique is actually called flaming and it is a viable option. A lot of organic producers are bringing it back. And it's like pulling a bomb through the field, [LAUGHTER] a propane bomb through the field. [Well, yeah!] But I actually have some really interesting photographs of that process happening at dusk.

They're really cool photographs. But people are using this technique, but it has to be timed correctly. [00:46:00] So it is only really effective before your crop emerges, right? You don't want your crop being burnt off, and the weeds themselves have to be really small.

JERRY: So, you'd chase a bunch of grasshoppers around with that?

JEFF: You'd probably get them. Probably get [OVERLAPPING] Four hundred thousand BTUs. You'd probably get them.

JERRY: That's heavy. [LAUGHTER] I mean, even the barbecuers will say "Oh, yeah, look at this," [LAUGHTER] but that's a lot of heat.

JEFF: Yeah. That's the point, is you just burn things off and be done with it. But that's not something you want to do out in the range land, right? You don't want to go with [OVERLAPPING].

JERRY: Heavens no. This would be row crop or some field that was, and never on a windy day. I don't know when you'll do that in Wyoming.

JEFF: Well, at the same time you spray. [LAUGHTER]

JERRY: Well, if you're flaming, you wouldn't spray, right?

JEFF: That's right. So well, you could at a later date. Greg is making noises [00:47:00] over here. I see that we are about out of time. He already made a comment that we needed to wrap up early and I didn't get to the rest of our ads. Do you want me to run those or what do you want me to do?

Greg: Go ahead.

JEFF: Run the ads, okay. So, we're going to wrap up. Thank you for joining us this first show of the year of 2020. Jerry, thank you for being here.

JERRY: My pleasure. Next time on the air is February 14th, and we're going to talk about birds and feeding birds.

JEFF: Okay. We'll see you then.

JERRY: Thank you.

JEFF: All right. Thank you.

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