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

**Jeff Edwards:** Good morning everybody, this is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden program. Our guest today is Tom McCreery. We're going to spend some time talking about lawns and gardens and weeds, and I think tobacco mosaic virus, or something like that, something on Tom John's agenda. But let's take a few minutes and listen to our sponsors and we'll be right back.

**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 uwadnews.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 email newsletter. Uwagnews.com, growing people, knowledge, and communities. [MUSIC]

**Jeff Edwards:** All right. Good morning everybody. Welcome to the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden program. I'm Jeff Edwards. Jerry Erschabeck is here as well. Good morning, Jerry.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Good Morning, Jeff. Good morning, Tom. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Tom McCreery is our guest and I think we're going to have a good program today, so let's get going, Tom, you had items that you wanted to talk about. Where do you want to start?

**Tom John McCreery:** Well, let's start with the tomatoes. I planted eight tomatoes and I pulled two of them because of leaf curl, what's the scientific name Jeff?

**Jeff Edwards:** A lot of different things can cause that. There's a virus, there's a blight that affects tomatoes, so it could be any number of things.

**Tom John McCreery:** Does blossom-end rot have anything to that equation, I mean, is it the same?

**Jeff Edwards:** We've talked about blossom-end rot before. Blossom-end rot is not actually a disease, it's the deficiency of calcium.

**Tom John McCreery:** Oh, that's really good to know because I've got a mess out there. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** It happens occasionally. [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** Five tomatoes. I mean-

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes. A lot of folks think that blossom end rot is a disease and you would think so by the name that it has, but it also will happen in peppers, and it's a calcium deficiency. Oddly enough, our soils are very high in calcium, but there is something that is preventing the tomato from getting the adequate amount, whether it's not being watered consistently, maybe a little too much water and it's flushing it out of the system. I don't know. It's kind of a weird thing. If you can find a way to add calcium [00:03:00] to your soil around your tomatoes, you probably will not have blossom end rot.

**Tom John McCreery:** Thank you. That really helps.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, well, that's what we're here for, [LAUGHTER] at least we think so.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Don't they also call that a vacationers disease? [OVERLAPPING] You're on vacation and somebody's not watering or they are watering and they're just kind of running the hose over it once or twice [OVERLAPPING] .

**Jeff Edwards:** They don't water like you do.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** That's right. [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** Does accumulated iron help to break down the calcium?

**Jeff Edwards:** That's a really good question. I don't know the full chemistry behind that. I do know that our soils, since they're high in pH that ties up the iron.

**Tom John McCreery:** Right.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sometimes we see iron chlorosis in a lot of our garden plants, and then by applying iron chelates, you can improve the color and the overall health of the plant. I don't know if that would release the calcium or make it more available.

**Tom John McCreery:** As far as the greenhouse plants, in the early spring that you get, could there be the virus tied up in the leaf curl and tomatoes could be tied up in the soil you're using?

**Jeff Edwards:** When you are purchasing greenhouse plants, the majority of the soil that they start with is, it's usually been sterilized in some form or another, unless you have a greenhouse that is recycling and they may not condition their soil like they need to.

**Tom John McCreery:** Right.

**Jeff Edwards:** But usually they start with brand new product each year. The likelihood of that being tied up in the soil of greenhouse plants is minimalized, I think would probably be the best word, and it's probably something that you have in your own soil or, viruses are very easily transmitted by insects with piercing sucking mouthparts. As you know from your days working with sugar beets, the leaf hoppers can transmit viruses in sugar beets. Same thing can happen in tomatoes. You might not ever see them, they might just be passing through, they might just take one little taste and move on, and that's enough to infect them.

**Tom John McCreery:** I think that's more of a soil problem. I've got to get the chemistry right before we go forward.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, and a lot of these diseases are soil-borne. If we continue to grow tomatoes and related plants over and over again in a small place, we have a tendency to build up those diseases. It's really important to rotate away from those crops.

**Tom John McCreery:** Every three years that's what we did when I was with [inaudible] beets normally [OVERLAPPING] two, some guys did four.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, normally it's a three-year cycle would be sufficient. Tomatoes are related to a lot of different things. You can't plant peppers there, can't plant eggplant there. Those types of things you need to avoid in the [00:06:00] same rotation, right?

**Tom John McCreery:** Right.

**Jeff Edwards:** Diane and I are constantly trying to rotate things around in our outside gardens. Then in our hoop house space, that's even more challenging-

**Jerry Erschabeck:** As well in a little small garden, it's very challenging just to put things in a different place.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. Well, let's get back to planning your garden. It's important to make yourself a map after you get everything planted, because come next year, do you remember where the cucumbers were at? [LAUGHTER] I have a pretty good idea, but I could be off a row or two and really mess things up. It's important to keep track of those types of things. Do I do it every year, no. Should I? Probably. If I was a better gardener, I would keep track of everything that I did and write everything down, and I'm not that guy. [LAUGHTER].

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Didn't one of our speakers talk about having a map? There's a extension woman from Casper.

**Jeff Edwards:** Donna?.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Donna Hoffman. She recommended to have a map of your home and location and where are the electrical was and where your sprinklers are, and a map of 2020 garden would be a great thing too.

**Jeff Edwards:** Put it in that file that says "in case I'm hit by a bus." [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** You never know when that buzzer is coming either.

**Jeff Edwards:** That's right. [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** [OVERLAPPING] we had sand and peat moss, and regular gardener soil, and I had this huge cooker. I throw a third, a third, and a third, and I cook it. I can't remember the temperature, it was like 200. I mean, it smelled to high heaven because of peat moss, I think.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, you were basically autoclaving it, or sterilizing it.

**Tom John McCreery:** Right.

**Jeff Edwards:** Trying to kill off anything. If greenhouses are recycling their soil, they're doing the same type of thing. That temperature should get rid of pathogens. I agree, diseases come from a lot of different places. If they're soil borne, and your sprinkle irrigating, and your splashing soil particles on to the leaf surfaces, and the conditions are just right, sure, you could potentially have problems.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Whenever you start to see a leaf wilt or that sort of thing from blight, do you pull the plants really quick? [LAUGHTER] Or do you wait until they're dead and you go, " All right, you're out of here."

**Jeff Edwards:** No. Whenever we get together as master gardeners, we tell people that they have to be aggressive gardeners and get rid of things that look like they're diseased and those types of things. I attempt to do that but I keep thinking, let's give it just a little bit longer. I have a good for instance. [LAUGHTER] This year, we had a [00:09:00] tomato plant. This was the first year that we purchased grafted tomato plants from the greenhouse. One particular plant which was a Roma, it just looked funny to me. The leaves looked like the whole plant was potentially diseased. I kept discussing with Diane, "That plant, that just doesn't look right." She agreed. But it had a healthy color, the leaves just didn't look right to me. We ended up leaving it, and I got to tell you, it's one of the best Roma tomatoes we've ever had. [LAUGHTER] It's just one of those, you got to develop a feel for it but if I know that they're diseased, then I will take them out and totally get them out of my garden, and those types of things. Bacterial diseases, particularly in tomatoes, if you clip a portion of the stem or a portion of the leaf, and you get this cloudy sappy ooze that comes out, that's probably about the best way to describe it, that is probably or highly likely a bacterial problem. To me, if I'm growing indeterminate tomato plants, I'm always clipping off secondary leaves, branches, whatever they might be. When you snip those, it's a very clean cut, usually nothing oozes out, and that's a good indicator that that is a healthy plant. No problems there.

**Tom John McCreery:** Do you use Clorox?

**Jeff Edwards:** I'm operating under the assumption that all my plants are healthy. This particular tomato that I spoke of earlier was the last one that I would trim, and then I would clean up my tools. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** My brother-in-law has an anecdotal here for leaf curl, and he said, "Oh, you got to put in bone meal in and around your plant." He says he did that and his leaves started looking better. I don't know. I haven't tried it.

**Jeff Edwards:** Bone meal would be primarily calcium, right?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Calcium, yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** He probably doesn't have endrive.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Right. Well, I think he was having a little of both, endrive and leaf wilt. He goes, "Boy, my tomato plant looks good now."

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. It's that seasonal change. As we get into August, and these days are really starting to feel like fall, I hate to say that, but the mornings, if you get up, it's really feeling fall-ish to me. This time of year, your tomato plants, the bottom leaves will start dying anyway and not looking the best. It's a normal progression of the plant to begin to put all of its energy into producing that fruit, and less energy into maintaining those leaves, and trying to complete its life cycle before the end of the season.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We like to grow a lot of sunflowers, and the same thing [00:12:00] happens there. Bottom leaves start to come off and it's producing more energy to that head.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, get ready for fall. Tom John, did we answer your questions?

**Tom John McCreery:** Yeah, really helped. Thanks, Jeff.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, you're welcome. There was something else that you mentioned that you wanted to chat about today.

**Tom John McCreery:** Tobacco mosaic in cucumbers.

**Jeff Edwards:** Tobacco mosaic in cucumbers. Okay.

**Tom John McCreery:** Maybe it's just the fall but in the afternoon, my raised beds are right next to a brick wall and it gets hot. I may be storing them for water.

**Jeff Edwards:** You're just cooking them. They don't have any virus problems, you're just cooking them early. [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** It looked like virus to me. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** That's a scald problem.

**Tom John McCreery:** Right. Exactly. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I saw a neighbor though that had some cucumbers that sure looked like it had been burnt on just three or four leaves. He goes, "What's this? I said, "Hell, I don't know." [LAUGHTER] "It looks bad to me." [LAUGHTER] "What would you do?" I said, "I'd take those leaves off."

**Tom John McCreery:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** But not pull the whole plant because the whole planet wasn't affected. Now, that tobacco mosaic is prominent in pumpkin patches as well, especially if you allow someone who smokes to come in and look at your pumpkins, and then throws his butt down. [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** I'm going to come out to your house and smoke a cigar. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** There you go. Put that virus right into my soil for years. I don't know if you rotate out of that virus or not.

**Jeff Edwards:** That, I don't know. I always thought tobacco mosaic was one of those that was transferred by leaf hoppers, but I could be mistaken.

**Tom John McCreery:** It could probably. Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I've always been told, "Don't allow a smoker into your garden."

**Jeff Edwards:** That is true.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** "If you do, pack in, pack out."

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, or put the ashtray on the edge.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Or don't come in in my garden with your cigarettes. [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** The thing is, guys, when I was at [inaudible] we did research plots, four of them or five of them. To get the beets sick, we just inoculated them by dropping soil into the crown. Man, did they get sick. [LAUGHTER] The soil we were using was [inaudible] .

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, that'd do it.

**Tom John McCreery:** It will do it every time. We inoculated the soil before we sprinkled it.

**Jeff Edwards:** If I was laying on the ground with my mouth open and somebody dropped dirt in my mouth, I wouldn't feel too good either. Not so much.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Hey, Jeff, I sent you a picture of a wasp. You said it was a predatory wasp?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes, it was a very interesting wasp, I got to tell you.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I couldn't get [00:15:00] a quarter next to him because he really didn't want his picture taken. I'd get set up and he'd fly. I don't know why but this one allowed me to take his picture. I know that they don't harm you because one landed on Myrna's ankle, and she tap danced like crazy. It didn't sting her, didn't do nothing, but it had a really long tail that when it flies, it flies with the tail extended.

**Tom John McCreery:** Was it black?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, it is.

**Tom John McCreery:** I've seen him.

**Jeff Edwards:** It had a really long abdomen. At first, I thought that was ovipositor but that was just its abdomen in sections. There's a website, it's called bugguide.net. I have an idea what family that particular wasp falls into, and I can send you a link to that so you can look at it a little bit more. They don't sting humans, they're parasites of other things, so they're beneficials to have around.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, they're fun to watch because when they land, that abdomen curls underneath them like a C as in cat.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Man, if you could have seen Myrna dancing, [LAUGHTER] because most of the time, that's when you get stung is when you're dancing away, swatting at the bee or the wasp or whatever, and they go, "Aw."

**Jeff Edwards:** Dancing like nobody is watching.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Like it's 1999. [LAUGHTER] Wish we could've had a video of that. They're nice. I really like those other predatory wasps that we have that make a little small dirt volcano. Some people like to sweep that out, and I've tried my best to leave that little volcano alone these days.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's really important to understand that those things are very effective predators on grasshoppers. Everybody complains about the grasshoppers, and then they complain about the wasps, while the wasps are doing us a favor by taking care of the grasshoppers. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. Do they sting them? How do they capture a wasp [OVERLAPPING] or a grasshopper?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, so they do have a stinger and they will paralyze the grasshopper. It's basically a live food item for the larva that they lay an egg on. They won't sting humans. I haven't ever heard of or had one of those sting, I'm fairly certain. But again, if you harass a wasp, [LAUGHTER] they could potentially sting you.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. I grew up on a small farm north of Guernsey, and we had a water tank for the cows and I would harass yellow jackets.

**Jeff Edwards:** Way to go.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I can attest, you harass a yellow jacket and he'll come after you, and there's a good [00:18:00] possibility of being stung.

**Jeff Edwards:** Have you ever looked at their faces close up, they just look angry. They just look like they're waiting to come after you. [LAUGHTER] It's like, "Leave me alone. I have an attitude." [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [NOISE] Yeah. They're an angry insect.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. It doesn't take much. All you got to do is lean back on them and they'll sting you pretty good.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We went to Thermopolis and my brother was drinking a soda out of a glass bottle, and, of course, he wasn't looking. He raised the glass bottle to his lip and he got his lower lip, and he cried and raised a fuss because it hurt.

**Jeff Edwards:** I'm assuming this was when you were younger or this was just last week? [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, last weekend. [LAUGHTER] No, it's when we were quite young.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Fifteen minutes later, he raised the bottle to his lip again and got his upper lip. [LAUGHTER] So both of his lips were just so big and swollen, and he always now covers his pop, especially around Thermopolis because he remembers that item.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's funny how traumatic childhood events impact the rest of your life.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. [LAUGHTER] Everybody remembers that event differently.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right. To you it was no big deal. To him, it was the end of the world, man.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Sometimes the event unfolds differently in one person's mind than the other, and when you repeat that story, "You were out in the front yard." "No, you were out in the backyard." We've had several of those events.

**Jeff Edwards:** Hey, so what do you guys got going on in your turf right now? Any issues?

**Tom John McCreery:** Well, I had a dog here for a month and a half.

**Jeff Edwards:** That could be an issue.

**Tom John McCreery:** It was a female dog. I got a lot of brown spots. I guess that doesn't count though. My lawn's looking good and looks well-fertilized.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure it does. People ask about brown spots caused by dogs and how to get rid of them and those types of things, and really it would be the same thing as if you excessively fertilized with nitrogen, only entirely highly concentrated in little bitty spots. What you can do is water those spots and try to work that nitrogen through the system. If you have a matting type of grass, it should fill in by the end of the summer if the dog's been removed. If you want a little faster response, I guess you can go back in with a seed and seed over that, and keep it well watered and it should clear up. Since we've been warm, turf has been a little bit stressed if you haven't been watering it correctly.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We've been watering our lawn and I think it's just been an invitation for these voles. V as in victory. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Victory.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. I want victory over the vole. I mentioned that to Gary Stone last week, [00:21:00] and he sent me some links. One is exclusion. You can put chicken wire around a plant or a particular plant that they may be going after. You can put poison in their runs. We talked about putting a plastic pipe in to their hole so that birds don't get it, your cats don't dig it up and eat it. But it also suggested coyote or fox pee.

**Jeff Edwards:** Really?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Coyote or fox urine. I'm thinking, isn't that how you attract coyotes is by using a urine?

**Jeff Edwards:** No, I don't believe that that's an attractant, I think that would be equivalent to marking your territory. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Anyway, I've asked several people in the predatory board, predatory area and trappers. Apparently, there's a trapping company, they'll sell coyote or fox urine, or they also said cayenne pepper. I think I'm going to plant a bunch of cayenne pepper next year and mix up my own spray. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** You're going to mix your own cocktail, aren't you?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. My own spray.

**Tom John McCreery:** Jerry, the ornithologists talked about using cayenne pepper to control squirrels, doesn't bother the birds, and so you get two birds with one stone. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Two rodents with one stone.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Two rodents. I think I'm going to water in cayenne pepper and we have periodic kids that come by our house, and we can just time that out by putting it on, and I think that'd be one of the things you just have to repeat that process. The urine is supposed to make them nervous that there's a predator around and they reproduce far less, and perhaps drive them over to the neighbor's house.

**Tom John McCreery:** Yeah, that's what you want to do, get them over to the neighbor's. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** You always want to send stuff to the neighbors.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** They talked about castor oil, putting castor oil on your lawn or I guess you could put castor oil and cayenne on your garden. Not so much about the urine on your garden. The urine was more of a border line around your property.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure.

**Tom John McCreery:** Jerry, at our house we never complained about a stomachache because my mother would give us castor oil, [LAUGHTER] so I was never sick.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** I'm fine.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** There's other childhood memories of that as well, yeah. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** No, I'm fine. I'm good. I don't need anything.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yesterday I had a- I'm good. [00:24:00] [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** I'll go to school. [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** [inaudible] .

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, so our turf, I have to say, has recovered a little bit after our inch or two, depending on where you're at, of rainfall that we got about ten days ago. I had some spots that were really struggling and they seem to be perking up, which is a good thing. I'm still contemplating if we have time this fall to do an aeration and fertilization in the fall to try to get things a little bit healthier before we go into winter.

**Tom John McCreery:** What about thatching?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, so in Wyoming where we live, dethatching, to me, is wasted effort and unnecessary. We've had other folks on the show that have talked about that as well. We don't have or don't generally build up large amounts of thatch where we are.

**Tom John McCreery:** Well, then the thatch is good, isn't it, Jeff? [OVERLAPPING] organic matter.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's good to a point in the Midwest where they have thatch and need to dethatch. In the end, if it's really thick, it actually prevents water from getting to the deep roots and then the roots start growing up higher and higher. But where we are, all that organic matter that you're putting back, you're actually putting back nitrogen into the system. Our organic matter content is so low anyway that anything that you can put back and your turf is a good idea.

**Tom John McCreery:** Jeff, when should I fall fertilize? I don't really know, I mean, it's one of those fields where I kind of go out for a spreader if it's going to rain.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. So fall fertilization is a tricky business to me, right? Because you don't want to stimulate a lot of growth and then we get a freeze, or we get a really cold spell or it's winter and yet we don't want to fertilize in the heat of the summer either. I think what I would do would be a really light, you know, not a normal, typical early spring type fertilization, but do a lighter version, probably the first part of September so that it has time to get in, your turf grows a little bit and it's good and healthy before you go into winter.

**Tom John McCreery:** Good to know.

**Jeff Edwards:** That's when I would do it. I think it comes down to personal business, your personal choice, I guess, but that's just me right.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Now, for all the perennial weeds, that fall fertilization is also the time to do your weed killing or spreading weed killer or spraying weed killer for dandelions and stuff?

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, yeah, dandelions. [00:27:00] So in the fall everything's going to seed right? So if you haven't taken care of it by September, you are not going to take care of it. Actually right now in August, after that rain that we had, those new weeds have germinated. They've only grown about two inches and they're blooming and putting on the seed. It's one of those things that you're probably not going to win at this point. But October would be a really good time and it's actually the best time to control dandelions in turf. Because what happens is that after there's a frost or light freeze event that dandelion is taking as much nutrients as it possibly can from the crown of the plant into the roots and if you hit it with 240 and the fall, it's taken all that material down into the roots and it's killing it. So dandelions are perennial and if you can take care of them then, it makes a world of difference next spring.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Would that be perennial weeds as well then, that show up in your garden or your lawn?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, to me if you have a perennial weed problem well, excuse me. Let's back up, so if you're talking last week, you are kind of mentioning some Canada thistle, and some of those types of things. A fall application for Canada thistle, when you're hitting those rosettes, it's a good time to apply herbicide then. But if you have perennial weeds that are shrubby, brushy, I guess a lot of different things fall in that category. If you wait for them to put on that new spring growth and hit them then, you're probably going to get a little better control. I don't know Tom, John, what are your thoughts on that?

**Tom John McCreery:** I don't have any. [LAUGHTER] I agree. I mean, the October thing when I took Master Gardener class, they talked about wait until October to, because you're absolutely right, Jeff, those plants are trying to get enough energy going for the spring and if you hit them, it's usually a pretty good thing.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. So I usually get a handful of phone calls. I got dandelions in my yard in the springtime, how do I take care of them, how do I get rid of them? Well, at that point, digging is going to be the best option, hand removal. You can spray them, but it usually just makes them mad and then they show up later in the year again and then if you waited until October and took care of them, you'd have much better control.

**Tom John McCreery:** Chickweed. I had a ton of it this year, it comes on late and I sprayed it in it. I've got a good kill on it, but you always have escape plants, so you've got to keep on it to get the lawn shaped up.

**Jeff Edwards:** So describe chickweed.

**Tom John McCreery:** It's a little tiny and I think it has a yellow flower, you should not spray it before it flowers or it just spreads seed.

**Jeff Edwards:** [00:30:00] It's a really tiny plant. Grows low to the ground.

**Tom John McCreery:** It's easy to control if you spray early or mid-summer, I think. Is that correct, Jeff, do you think?

**Jeff Edwards:** I don't seem to have that as a problem, so I don't know. I don't know what it would be, but it would be a broadleaf herbicide would take care of it. The one that I have issues with is prostrate spurge, which is a low flat, mowing doesn't work and it produces a whole lot of seeds. I think it's resistant to 24D. It's interesting, some plants are tolerant, some of them are resistant. So it's kind of one of those things. It's really difficult to get out of turf.

**Tom John McCreery:** Do they still sell Banvel?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes, they do. Is Banvel dicamba. Is it the same thing?

**Tom John McCreery:** I don't know, dicamba is bad stuff.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, so there are formulations of dicamba and 24D that you can apply to your turf that would take care of a lot of these difficult situations, but they are products that have been pre-mixed and specifically labeled for turf. The important thing is that if you choose to use pesticides, read the label and make sure that you're following and applying them correctly.

**Tom John McCreery:** When I was recalling, the guy would spray banvel and 24D on something and a guy to have a bean field next to another farm and you want to talk about damage, it volatilizes. Well, astron, the amine group, 24D. One, I can't remember which one, but it's real volatile.

**Jeff Edwards:** The aster.

**Tom John McCreery:** Yeah, okay and caused real problems with your neighbor.

**Jeff Edwards:** So, you know, in the news the last three years, the guys in the south and east have really been having issues with dicamba volatility and drift and those types of things, because the seed companies released dicamba tolerant soybeans. The primary reason that they did that was to provide another tool to control palmer amaranth, which is pigweed that is resistant to a whole bunch of different chemistries, but what happened is that there were millions of acres that were damaged by drift and on neighboring crops and non crop trees and those types of things. Just this spring, the EPA revoked all those registrations of dicamba to be used on soybeans, just because of that issue. So yes, dicamba, 24D, the volatility of those things. People don't think about this, but if something [00:33:00] volatilizes, it's changing from a solid to a vapor and in our wind and in our situation where we live, that vapor is still active and can travel for miles and impact things in our gardens miles away from where it was applied. So one of the things we have as gardeners, we will call the extension office and say, hey, my plants look kind of funny, my my bean plants, I don't know what happened to them and well, there could have been some type of 24D or product applied someplace and it could have volatilized and got into your crop, which is unfortunate.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, we've had that happen before with roses. The neighbor had sprayed and it came up and over our six-foot fans and then just dropped and we go, where did that come from? We looked across and all the weeds were dead and dying and we go Yep, that's it.

**Jeff Edwards:** Once again, blame the neighbor, Jerry [LAUGHTER] .

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, it works so much better if you blame the neighbor. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Wait a minute. Did you get along with your neighbors? I got to ask.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh, yeah. [LAUGHTER] For the most part, yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Tom John McCreery:** [OVERLAPPING] I have a situation where our neighbor came over to my house. You know, there are only about 10 or 12 oak trees in the whole town of Torrington. They're hard to get going and this was a beautiful tree, and, [inaudible] , he says, "My oak trees is dying", and you could see the squirrel.

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

**Tom John McCreery:** They will even feed just across the fence, and I mean, that tree was awfully dead quickly. So you've got to be real careful, when you're spraying that you don't [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. [OVERLAPPING] So the spiral that you're talking about, Tom John, is very indicative of that type of herbicide injury on trees. So what Tom is talking about is, if you happen to see a sick tree where it has a circle, or a spiral, of dead leaves going up to the tip, where it has intermixed with areas that are still green. Because the cambium layer, as it goes up the tree, it twists. Okay. Around that particular tree, and so if you have an area that's been poisoned of that tree, feeding a particular side of the tree, that damage will show up in a spiral. And a couple years ago, in Lingal, there was a pine tree that was right on the alleyway, and I don't know what the situation was, but it had a dead spiral going up it, and they eventually took it out, because it killed the whole tree. [00:36:00] But that is very indicative of a herbicide injury.

**Tom John McCreery:** It affects conifers and deciduous trees, it affects them all. I mean it's a really bad deal. So when you're spraying, make sure you look up and see where the drip line on that tree is. [OVERLAPPING] Even if it's the neighbor's tree, make sure you're not spraying the neighbor.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, and that's the primary reason why I'm not a big fan of Weed'n'Feed products.

**Tom John McCreery:** I'm not either.

**Jeff Edwards:** If you're going to control your weeds, control your weeds. If you're going to fertilize your lawn, [LAUGHTER] fertilize your lawn. You really got to be careful.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Also note the temperature. My dad sprayed on a very calm day, underneath the trees to the south of our house, and it killed the weeds. But it was such a calm day, but it was warm, and it was in the '80s. It was '85, '86, or something, and it just volatilized straight up, and it killed those trees dead.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. So '85 I think is about the cut-off, right? [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** You really got a cold morning, you got to go where the wind's not blowing. [OVERLAPPING] You've got to be a good neighbor, and realize that maybe some of these things might happen.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** There are some neighbors that reach across the fence to get [LAUGHTER] somebody else's weeds.

**Jeff Edwards:** To spray your roses? [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Thinking they're doing a good job. [LAUGHTER] It is what it is, and it happened, right?

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [OVERLAPPING] It wasn't me that was spraying my own roses, because I leave that spraying to somebody else that has personal protection equipment, [OVERLAPPING] on them.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Tom John McCreery:** I stopped spraying, you guys. I don't broadcast. There's no reason in the world, and I know I get more escapes that way, undesirable weeds in my yard. Even a slight breeze, mostly close to your garden, sure as heck don't want to [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Tom John McCreery:** That's just a suggestion. A lot of people like to do it, the other way, but I don't.

**Jeff Edwards:** Gentlemen, we've been on a little bit of a roll, and I've forgotten to take a break for our sponsors. So let's do that right now, and we'll be back, and continue our conversation.

**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. Visit us at wyoextension.org. [MUSIC] If you have an interest in gardening, and want to help your community grow, The University of Wyoming Extension Master Gardener Program, is for you. A new 14-week training session begins September 3rd. This session will be virtual, so anyone across the state is welcome [00:39:00] to join. To sign up, visit the Bitly link in this episode's description. Or visit wyoextension.org and click "Programs", "Master Gardener". Registration is $75. The Master Gardener Program; learn, give, grow.

**Jeff Edwards:** All right. Welcome back to the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden Program. I'm Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck, your hosts today, and our third host in training is Tom McCreery [LAUGHTER], who joins us today. In the event that one of us is not here, I don't know if he knew that or not, but he was going to fill in for me a little bit this summer, but my plans have changed. That still may happen at some point, Tom.

**Tom John McCreery:** Well, it's always fun being on this show, you guys. I have a ball.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Or [OVERLAPPING] if one of us get hit by a bus.

**Jeff Edwards:** Or if one of us gets hits by a bus. Yes. Yes. [OVERLAPPING] Way to bring that conversation, back around. [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** I have a request.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Tom John McCreery:** Zach, the bird guy, the ornithologist?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes?

**Tom John McCreery:** We got to have him back, and then, Amy, the Tree Lady, that I thought I knew a lot about trees and don't know squat. Both of them were just awesome.

**Jeff Edwards:** So good news, Tom. Amy, the Tree Lady, Amy Syler [OVERLAPPING]

**Tom John McCreery:** Right. Amy Syler.

**Jeff Edwards:** [OVERLAPPING] She'll be with us in two weeks.

**Tom John McCreery:** Oh, awesome.

**Jeff Edwards:** Zach, we don't have plans to have him back right away, but we do have one of his co-workers online for September 15th, I believe.

**Tom John McCreery:** Oh, good. Good. Good.

**Jeff Edwards:** Jacqueline Downey from the Audubon of the Rockies, will be with us again on September 15th.

**Tom John McCreery:** Super. That'll be great. I just thought I'd mention that. Not that I don't enjoy all the programs, you guys, but those [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING] something.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [LAUGHTER] Those are exceptional. [OVERLAPPING]

**Tom John McCreery:** I just thought, it's like lilacs, Jerry. I've been cutting the suckers off for years.

**Jeff Edwards:** I'm about ready to just kill my lilacs. Just get rid of them. [LAUGHTER] My plan to, aggressively prune them, to get rid of the pests that I have. I got so far and didn't work. Now I've got suckers that are coming up, and need to get in there, and trim them all off, and I don't know. I guess [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. Amy had told us that she likes to keep the suckers, and trim off the old dead, or the older wood in one of those bushes or trees.

**Tom John McCreery:** That was fascinating, I didn't realize that, and Jerry, you were right and it just irritates the crap out of me. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, I know how it irritates the crap out of you. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** That you were right?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. [LAUGHTER] He tries not to disagree with me, and I try not to disagree with him.

**Jeff Edwards:** What? Just sometimes?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It happens. So here's something that I saw just the other day. I was next to a person that was giving [00:42:00] an iris fan to another person, and I saw that there were some writing on the bottom of the fan in a black magic marker, and I said, "Could I see that?" It was the color of the iris, it was how tall it was, and it might have even be been genius and stuff, but I thought, how cool is that? Because, if you try to tag an iris, don't know, I lose my tag, or it falls off? I forget what the iris look like, and so, hey, here's a yellow iris, and you'll come to find out, they say, "How did that yellow iris grow?", and he goes, "Yeah, it was white." Or, "Yeah, it was purple." [LAUGHTER] So that was a great way to identify an iris, easy, cheaply, and I thought it was just a neat idea.

**Jeff Edwards:** I'm a little confused. They actually wrote on the leaves of the plant? The fan coming out of the [OVERLAPPING] Okay. Or was it, in the ground, or was it?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Just above the ground. So he cut it in a fan, like this.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** So that it's more like an arrow, on both sides, and on some of the bottom leaves, that were still green, he wrote what the plant was, and what color it was.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, [OVERLAPPING] that's just genius.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I thought that was great. [LAUGHTER] I'm going, "Okay, so where's your tag? What color is it?", and he goes, "Look." I said, "Okay". So I said, "That is really great." So it wouldn't wash off, if you have a black magic marker. [OVERLAPPING].

**Jeff Edwards:** In Spring it would still be there, in the dead foliage. Right?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. [OVERLAPPING] I thought, what a great idea.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. No kidding. [OVERLAPPING]

**Tom John McCreery:** I have to tell you about the iris she gave me for the new house.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Tom John McCreery:** It didn't bloom this year. I planted some under the apricot trees, and then I've got those [inaudible] trees out front, and it needs more sunshine. So I'm going to prune the heck out of the trees, so I can get a little sunshine [LAUGHTER] back there. No, I'm nuts, you guys. I'm just being facetious a bit.

**Jeff Edwards:** Pruning the heck out of the trees just to get an iris to grow, [OVERLAPPING] doesn't sound like a good idea. [LAUGHTER] What was our thing when we had Lucinda with us? Don't plant your peonies where the sun don't shine. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** That's correct. [LAUGHTER] Oh, and an update on that peonies, they look really sick.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I moved. I moved some peony, and I watered the hole that it was going into. I've really tried to be careful with it. They didn't like the move, but-

**Jeff Edwards:** They never do.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I'll have to report next year, on how the peony survived. [OVERLAPPING] did indeed survive.

**Tom John McCreery:** Now, there's a symbiotic relationship with ants and peonies. So you need to take the ants when you move them, because, don't you think? [LAUGHTER].

**Jeff Edwards:** They'll show up.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Ant [00:45:00] Myrtle, ant Beth. [LAUGHTER].

**Jeff Edwards:** They'll all show up. Give it three years, Jerry.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Okay.

**Jeff Edwards:** Don't expect [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Don't expect a lot next year, either.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. I'm sure.

**Tom John McCreery:** What colors do you have, Jerry?

**Jeff Edwards:** [OVERLAPPING] Write it on the plant, he doesn't know. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** They're pink and white.

**Tom John McCreery:** Awesome. I like those colors, not the white of course, because I don't.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. I know you don't like white iris either.

**Jeff Edwards:** That's the color of that iris he gave you. [LAUGHTER] I'm telling you it's going to be white. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Wouldn't that be honoring? [LAUGHTER]

**Tom John McCreery:** I liked it, and not only do I like those colors, but I also like the burgundy and the red.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Tom John McCreery:** They're beautiful.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Now, my favorite is the yellow, so I'm a little partial.

**Tom John McCreery:** Yeah. It's all good.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Everybody has their favorite.

**Jeff Edwards:** I keep telling you, Diane's got a bunch of yellow ones here and if she wants to give them away, she's sending them to your house.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Pick me. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Bring what? [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Somebody told me that they dug up all their onions and put them in a bucket and now they're all mush.

**Jeff Edwards:** Because they put them in a bucket.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. When I took care of my onions, the leaves fell down on their own, and we picked them, and we cut off the leaf, and we put them in a small wheelbarrow to give them a little sunshine that was in the shade. I did my garlic at the same time, I cut off my stems of my garlic and laid them across my garlic and my onions, like a little shade cloth, and then I put the whole wheelbarrow underneath an awning. Hopefully that that gives them a little bit of sun, a little bit of wind, a little bit of drying time in order to help put your onions into a location in which to store them. Now, if you have what's called a soft neck or a tight neck on the onion, a tight neck will winter better than a soft neck. Same can be said about garlic. So the garlic, if it's a real hard stem going down into your bulbils as opposed to like elephant garlic. Elephant garlic will have a soft neck, it doesn't store well. Vidalias, they're really nice and sweet, but they don't store well. The Sweet Spanish, most of those have a tighter neck and a Sweet Spanish will winter better than a soft neck.

**Jeff Edwards:** There's a gentleman that produces a lot of onions and I think what he does is, instead of digging them [00:48:00] and picking them up right away, he pulls them out of the ground and just leaves them lay for a day or two, right on top of the soil surface in the garden so that they have a chance to harden off, dry up a little bit and then maybe, it may even be longer than that. I'm not sure, but then he'll go back through and trim off the leaves and put them in storage.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** But if you pick your onions and put them in a bucket or a basket, they'll just rot quickly.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yes.

**Tom John McCreery:** Jerry, you and I, we talked earlier in another program about my onion crop and how I was having no success. This year, my friend, Butch [inaudible] gave me purple onions and they're huge. I've always had these little stinkers that didn't make any difference. It was soil tight, same with my carrots, I got real straight carrots and remember how I told you they sprangled?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Right.

**Tom John McCreery:** Soil tight, the soil was too tight. Anyway, really nice to have decent onions.

**Jeff Edwards:** Decent carrots.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Decent carrots. There's nothing worse than eating a sprangled carrot.

**Tom John McCreery:** Yeah. [LAUGHTER] Well, you've got to gnaw all over that.

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

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh, go ahead.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No, go ahead.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, I was just going to say, we're getting close to wrapping up here, I think for the day, and I was curious to know if you guys knew of anything going on in the county that we should let people know about?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I have something that of course, save the date for October 3rd, Giant Pumpkin Contest. Over the past weekend, I was able to see two pumpkins that are most likely contenders.

**Jeff Edwards:** Wow.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** For the giant pumpkin, this thing is probably about two and a half to three feet wide and two and a half feet tall. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Growing in Goshen County?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Just outside of Goshen County, to the East. [LAUGHTER] I think that they're going to be a contender for the Giant Pumpkin Contest.

**Jeff Edwards:** Cool. October 3rd.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** The other thing I've seen people are growing some hibiscus and they're red, white, and pink.

**Tom John McCreery:** You are Jeff?

**Jeff Edwards:** I have hibiscus.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Man, do you have problems with spider mites?

**Jeff Edwards:** No.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** In your hibiscus? Do you have a special kind?

**Jeff Edwards:** They're hardy hibiscus.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Hardy.

**Jeff Edwards:** We have one that is green foliage and one that is purple foliage.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Cool.

**Jeff Edwards:** The one that is green foliage, the flowers are white with red centers, the ones with purple foliage are pink with red centers.

**Tom John McCreery:** Awesome. That sounds great.

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

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, I do too.

**Tom John McCreery:** My son who lives in Omaha, they grow really well there because of the humidity, I believe, and [00:51:00] more rain.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. [OVERLAPPING] They do find here the biggest problem, not spider mites but white flies. But we don't have that problem here, it's more of a eastern thing and also, the dang Japanese beetles, which we don't have here, but they're close, unfortunately. They love them. [LAUGHTER] But for now, if you're interested in growing hibiscus, if you find hardy hibiscus varieties, they will survive here. Maybe try to protect them a little bit, don't plant them on the wind-swept plane without any protection because they will not survive. It's interesting because over winter, they'll drop all their leaves that main stem will actually dry up. It'll look like you have four or five sticks just up out of the ground and they can be three or four feet tall. All of that material in the springtime, once you start seeing new growth, all the old can be trimmed off and it's a really pithy wood type of thing that, from the plant. I really like them, I think they're really interesting plants. The flowers are generally plate-size when they open up, sometimes they're just absolutely huge.

**Tom John McCreery:** You get at hummingbirds coming to them?

**Jeff Edwards:** Hummingbirds, not so much, but other insect pollinators, yeah. I think it's because they don't have nectaries like some of the other flowers around that we have, but the pollinators really like them.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It sounds like the butterfly bushes that we grow. We have one variety, but hummingbird really likes him.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, the butterfly bushes, they have that deeper necked flower. So hummingbirds will actually seek out those, I think.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** But they will die back, like what you're saying the hibiscus does and it come up from the ground and you go, "Oh, you're back?"

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. Very similar type of growth habit, although the stems or not as the stems on hibiscus are not as tough as butterfly bushes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Okay.

**Jeff Edwards:** Hey, next week remind me to talk about mallow, common mallow. Tom, you know what I'm talking about?

**Tom John McCreery:** I don't, Jeff.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. How about Venice mallow? Do you know what that is?

**Tom John McCreery:** I don't.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, it's weed, but I had to do some research for another program. It's an interesting plant, there's some interesting history that goes along with it. We are running up against our, go ahead.

**Tom John McCreery:** I've got one more thing to tell you. I've seen a lot of monarchs with people that have milkweed.

**Jeff Edwards:** Excellent.

**Tom John McCreery:** Plant that milkweed and you'll get some monarch butterflies. They seem to thrive with milkweed.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, they are host [00:54:00] specific. They do only eat milkweed, so it's very important to have milkweed around if you want to have monarch butterflies.

**Tom John McCreery:** Absolutely.

**Jeff Edwards:** With that, I think we have burnt up another hour of your precious time. Thank you all for listening to us. Jeff Edwards, and Jerry Erschabeck, and Tom John McCreery for the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden Program.

**Female Narrator:** You've been listening to Lawn and Garden with University of Wyoming Extension Specialist Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Thanks for listening.