**Male 1:** [00:00:00] [MUSIC] Hey, Wyoming, welcome to the Lawn & Garden podcast with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Originally aired on KGOS & KERM in Torrington. Join Jeff, Jerry, and all their special guests as they talk all things gardening in the great State of Wyoming. From plant variance to weather events to pesticides and pollinators, our Lawn & Garden podcast helps you improve your home garden as well as your small acreage. Let's welcome Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck. Happy gardening, folks.

**Jeff Edwards:** Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the KGOS KERM Lawn& Garden program. I'm Jeff Edwards, along with Jerry Erschabeck. Good morning, Jerry. How are you today?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Good morning, Jeff. I'm doing well. Thank you.

**Jeff Edwards:** Good to see you. Good to get back to our program schedule, right?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Absolutely.

**Jeff Edwards:** Our guest today is Brian Sebade. He is a University of Wyoming Extension educator in Laramie and he will be talking with us about tree care and those types of things. Good morning, Brian. How are you?

**Brian Sebade:** I'm well. Good morning. How are you gentlemen today?

**Jeff Edwards:** We're good. [OVERLAPPING] Good to have you.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Nice having you.

**Brian Sebade:** I'm glad to be back. It's always fun.

**Jeff Edwards:** Before we get going, let's take a few minutes and listen to our sponsors. We'll be back in a moment.

**Female 1:** [MUSIC] Looking for the best way to keep up with all the news from University of Wyoming Extension, the College of Agriculture, and Wyoming Ag Experiment Stations, the uwagnews.com website features real-time education, research, and extension events and feature stories from across the state. Bookmark uwagnews.com today and subscribe to our monthly email newsletter. Uwagnews.com, growing people, knowledge, and communities.

**Jeff Edwards:** Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS KERM Lawn & Garden program. Our guest today is Brian's Sebade. Jerry, I've got a couple of questions for you before we get going.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Okay.

**Jeff Edwards:** Have you noticed the forsythia blooming yet?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I wanted to talk about that today. [LAUGHTER] I was driving down Main Street Torrington, Wyoming, and lo and behold, there's a potted forsythia plant blooming.

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, that means it's time to plant, right?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It's time to do everything. [LAUGHTER] God bless her for putting that plant out so that I can know when what is what.

**Jeff Edwards:** That is awesome. I particularly wanted to review about that again this year [LAUGHTER] to make sure that we were on schedule.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** On schedule. She's done a good job of putting her plant out. When she's done, she'll put her plant away because it is of the plastic variety.

**Jeff Edwards:** Brian, are you familiar with [00:03:00] this story?

**Brian Sebade:** I am not, no. [OVERLAPPING] But it sounds interesting.

**Jeff Edwards:** For years, Jerry has used the bellwether to plant an indication of spring as the forsythia blooming. Is it blooming? We have a resident of Torrington who has a potted forsythia and puts it out every spring. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Every spring, and never fails. She always has such beautiful blooms. But the plant is plastic [LAUGHTER], and so that's the time to put out pre-emergent, is when the forsythia is blooming. So I was judging that by the blooms I was saying on Main Street.

**Jeff Edwards:** It seemed to work very well.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. I called her and I said, "Boy, that forsythia plant is just so pretty." She goes, "Yeah, Jerry, all my friends seem to really like it. Then in a couple of weeks I'll put it away." [LAUGHTER] I said, "What do you mean?" She says, "Well, it's plastic. You just can't leave it out all year long. They don't bloom that long." I go, [OVERLAPPING] "All right, I'm taken in."

**Jeff Edwards:** I think there were at least three years where we talked about the forsythia blooming in Goshen County. [OVERLAPPING] We all did the same thing. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** I hope you didn't spend too many hours recommending fertilizer and watering options for it. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No, but we were hoodwinked.

**Jeff Edwards:** We certainly were, yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Hoodwinked.

**Jeff Edwards:** But the forsythia plant is there, so it's time to start planting. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** She put it out so appropriately so that it would be blooming about this time that forsythia should be blooming.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, exactly [LAUGHTER]. That's enough of that. I just wanted to make sure that we discussed it today. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It won't be the last time either, Brian, I'm telling you. [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** I think we'll probably talk about it with every guest this year [LAUGHTER]. Let's get to what you wanted to talk about. I think you wanted to talk about some of the issues that we're seeing in trees due to our dry, windy winter. I'm going to turn the floor over to you and then we'll just start quizzing you and harassing you as we go. How does that sound?

**Brian Sebade:** Perfect, especially on the harassment part.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Brian Sebade:** I don't know if you gentlemen have been seeing it there in Goshen County, but here in Albany County for sure, we didn't have a whole lot of snow cover. We had some points during the winter where we warmed up a lot. That top part of the soil started to thaw out a little bit, just like you probably had in October. We had a really hard freeze, it was really warm, and then it froze really hard. I'm just starting to see a lot of winter damage, especially on evergreen. Here in a few weeks I'll probably be getting a few calls, maybe it'll be a month since I live in Laramie. But some [00:06:00] of those deciduous trees also had some winter dieback as well. I'm in the process of trying to make sure folks are well aware of winter watering, how that's important. If you don't have snow cover above 40 degrees and that topsoil layer is thawed out a little bit, those trees are trying to become active and they tend to get dried out quite a bit, so one of those things to really watch out for.[OVERLAPPING] But I've got a few recommendations for folks, if you'd like to hear those.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure. But I don't know, Jerry. I've started seeing it around Goshen County, the tops of the pine trees that are drying out, look dead.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Just North of me, a guy has a really nice, well-established tree row and there's browning in his evergreens, and usually to the East side of the tree. It just goes. What do you do? [OVERLAPPING] We're ready to hear what we're supposed to do now.

**Jeff Edwards:** What can you do now that it's dead? Will that brown area recover?

**Brian Sebade:** I think it depends on the tree, Jeff. I have some out here by my office where they look like they're pretty much done for. But a lot of water during the growing season, an application of a fertilizer that's pretty high in nitrogen is really important to help booster them back. They can recover. Where we tend to see a lot of those issues as the trees probably don't have a good layer of mulch around the base. They're probably planted really close together sometimes, especially with a lot of our spruce species, they're just way too close. They might be in a wind fence of some sort, living wind fence or something like that, but really thinking about keeping good care of those roots so they don't have a lot of extreme temperature changes. That mulch is really important for that, I probably can't stress that enough. That's one of the major things. Then people always say, "Well, how the heck do I water during the middle of winter?" I agree. That's really tough.

**Jeff Edwards:** It is a good question. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** I've seen some folks that end up using a big water tank that they can fill up, and then driving that out there and soaking them down when they can since they can't turn on hoses and other things like that. That's an option my parents have used for some of theirs during the winter, but it's tricky. Everybody listening is probably way smarter than me, so they can figure out easier options of what I can recommend. But probably you can try and get some extra water to them during the winter is really important. Like I said, if there's no mulch, I would add some.

**Jeff Edwards:** If you do water at night, as long as you have a steady stream running and it's in freezing weather, the hose should continue to flow. But if it's really cold [LAUGHTER], it may not.

**Brian Sebade:** It may not, yes. I was going to ask you, they have various [00:09:00] products you can spray on evergreens or basically adds an extra layer of wax, more or less, to help protect water loss from needles. I've had a few folks that tend to like to use those products. Do you ever have folks in Goshen County who use those to help with water loss and winter desiccation?

**Jeff Edwards:** Not that I'm aware of, but maybe we should be looking into it.

**Brian Sebade:** Okay. That might be another option some folks might look into for larger trees. It's probably not the most economical or feasible for getting things sprayed, but they do make some various products that you can actually spray on a tree to help with that water loss. Some people like those for the younger trees they can actually reach.

**Jeff Edwards:** You say that's some water-soluble wax-based product, something like that?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. It just helps protect.

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Brian, not on living trees, but on Christmas trees, we used to take the tree and take it to the car wash, wash it, and then wax it. We found that that seemed to brighten that tree right up.

**Jeff Edwards:** Brian, you may have realized this already, Jerry's got some interesting techniques [LAUGHTER] to take care of his problems.

**Brian Sebade:** That's why I made the comment earlier about other people have better ideas for winter watering. I think I'm going to leave all those ideas to Jerry. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** There you go.

**Brian Sebade:** That is a new one on me, Jerry, but I'll have to try it this next Christmas.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Have you ever taken a hose and put it up on a tripod? Hook it up and then just do a little bit of a trickle on your hose and have a water sculpture, you build your own water sculpture?

**Brian Sebade:** I have not done that.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It's like the sediment at Thermopolis. You just build it up.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Brian Sebade:** I have seen things like that, but I don't know if it's totally intentional. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I've done it a couple of times. Once intentional and once, or twice, unintentional.

**Brian Sebade:** Oh, perfect. I'll have to look into that. That'd be good for my backyard in Laramie.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, it's fun.

**Jeff Edwards:** Ice sculpture. [LAUGHTER] So Jerry, since we've been talking that it's springtime, have you been prepping anything?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** As a matter of fact-

**Jeff Edwards:** You've been working on your rototiller? [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No. My rototiller starts in one pull, well, maybe two. It really starts well. No, but I've made a mulch space or I made a cardboard circle for my Hot Wings Maple. We had some extra boxes around, and so I cut two circles. One of our guests had suggested cardboard first and then mulch on top. Just like your point, Brian, putting that mulch there, that also puts my lawnmower further away from the base of the tree.

**Jeff Edwards:** Myrna away with the weed whacker.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Myrna away [00:12:00] from the weed whacker, that's true. [OVERLAPPING]

**Brian Sebade:** That's good.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I had a friend, in Wheatland, hired a young man to mow their lawn. He took that lawnmower, the back wheel, and used that as a guide to go around this tree and just girdled the tree.

**Brian Sebade:** It's the pivot point.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** It's the pivot.

**Jeff Edwards:** Hey, I know I've done that when I was younger and I've realized the error of my ways. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Was that like last year?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** When you were younger?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, when I was younger last year.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Last year. It really is one of those things that you need to stay away from that tree. Some people suggest to cut the limb off and other people say, "No, leave that bottom limb alone and mulch, and get away from the bottom of the tree."

**Jeff Edwards:** If that limb keeps hitting you in the head when you are mowing, you'd need to mow a larger circle around your tree. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Unfortunately, I follow the idea of get rid of that branch.

**Jeff Edwards:** So yeah, I do too. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** Or hire a shorter person to mow your lawn.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** There you go. If it's dinged me three times, I think it's time to go.

**Brian Sebade:** There you go.

**Jeff Edwards:** So Brian, other techniques or strategies for folks to think about to help trees recover? To keep them good and growing in the wintertime? I know that we talk about winter watering a lot. It's important that those roots don't dry out. They can freeze. But the thing that causes problems is when those roots are actually desiccating and drying out. Then that root dies and can't get more moisture up into the tree. You're in a little harsher environment than we are. What do you recommend for winter watering?

**Brian Sebade:** Well, just trying to make sure, lots of times there's not a real strict number rule as far as what it should look like or feel like. The NRCS has come out with a really nice guide about a "Feel Method" for how much available water is in soil.

**Jeff Edwards:** Can you repeat what method that is?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. It's just a feel method.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh, feel. Okay.

**Brian Sebade:** Feel. You just put some soil in your hand and you can just squeeze it. Then you look at does it stick together that clump of soil? Does it fall apart? Do you have some of that soil that really sticks to your fingers? If you think about a really wet clay soil, how it just sticks to your fingers. I think it's really important that folks just take a screwdriver to go down into that soil to see how wet it is. Or you actually just grab a chunk of that with your hand. I think that's a really good method just to make sure there's some soil moisture in there because a lot of our sandy soils, they just dry out so much faster than what we really realize. I think that's a really important thing. I always recommend that when I go [00:15:00] out on a field visit. Just grab a clump of soil and put it in my hand and we can look at it and see, is there much there or not?

**Jeff Edwards:** The other question I get is, "Okay, you want me to water in the wintertime. Well, how much? How do I know how much water to put on a tree?"

**Brian Sebade:** Right. The recommendation for when it's warm out, or maybe I should say hot out, and it's actively growing is 5-10 gallons for every inch of diameter of that tree, six inches off the ground. That's a little confusing. Six inches off the ground, whatever the diameter of that tree is, you want to do 5-10 gallons. As you know Jeff, with different soil textures, that's a pretty loose rule.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Brian Sebade:** If I have a sandy soil, maybe I need to do five gallons twice a week compared to ten gallons once a week if I have more of a clay type soil. Winter, obviously it's not quite that much, so maybe you spread that out a couple weeks. Maybe you only have to do it a month if the weather changes. But the main idea is if it's the beginning of March and it's been warm and dry, and there's not been any snow, and you can see that that top layer's thawed out. Just try to get some water on there.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. I've noticed some of the soils around my place where I'm trying to improve them, I mean, get grass crawling on them [LAUGHTER] because they were disturbed last year. They were cracked and dry so it's time to get some water on them.

**Brian Sebade:** Right.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Then Brian, you said in the spring, when we're trying to come out of it, you said a high nitrogen. Is that in two or three applications or just one good dose?

**Brian Sebade:** Well, it depends a little bit, Jerry. You can go a little bit higher in your applications for trees than you would for a lawn. That can be a little bit tricky if you have a lot of lawn, or turf, around your trees. You want to make sure that you don't have too much nitrogen because then you might burn that lawn. For some lawn-tree areas, you probably going to look at maybe several different applications depending on what the trees are looking like. If the trees are by themselves, you're not really worried about the turf species underneath. You can go a little bit higher with that rate and not worry about the grass quite as much. A lot of folks recommend 1-3 pounds nitrogen, but [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** Right now, is that per 1,000 square feet, per acre, per tree?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah.

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

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, I forgot that last part. I'll just start record of large numbers with no area quorum. Sorry. Thanks, Jeff.

**Jeff Edwards:** One to two pounds per acre or per 1000 square feet?

**Brian Sebade:** Per 1000 square feet, yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Brian Sebade:** Sometimes you have a lot of varying amounts, but I think the main thing Jeff, is really looking at the bag that's you have a fertilizer because it's pretty easy for us to just recommend something over the radio [00:18:00] without looking at a bag of what's there obviously.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah and do not use a weed and feed product to fertilize your trees?

**Brian Sebade:** Correct, yes. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** That's a very big no-no. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** Yes. We don't like the weed part of that for the [inaudible] .

**Jeff Edwards:** Correct. Because most of those products only move trees.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** If you do that, don't you have to stay way away from a tree when you're applying that product?

**Jeff Edwards:** Well, you need to make sure that you're out of the root zone. Which could be, if you consider the canopy and then maybe 5-10 feet out from that would be the zone that I would stay out of with weed and feed product around a tree. How about you, Brian? Same?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. I would do the same for sure and just go with the side of caution I guess is all I will say so further the way you can go the better.

**Jeff Edwards:** The other option is just don't use weed and feed products. Either fertilize your lawn or control the weeds in your lawn. Don't do both, that's not right. Do them separately. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** Here we go. Yes.

**Jeff Edwards:** Spots free those weeds don't broadcast if you can. What else do you got to go on Brian? What else do you want to talk about?

**Brian Sebade:** Well, we were talking about mulch earlier.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Brian Sebade:** An interesting thing that I've noticed that I have, well that we've been a part of is an ongoing research project looking at different types of mulch and how it holds up to layer means lovely wind.

**Jeff Edwards:** No, wait a minute, the wind doesn't blow there, does it?

**Brian Sebade:** Well, just every now and then. Just those one or two times of the year it does blow. What we're looking at, how it holds up to the wind, and then how it's working out for weed suppression. It's been interesting. We've put them in some very open spots at the experiment stations here.

**Jeff Edwards:** Are any of your samples still there?

**Brian Sebade:** They are all still there. I will report.

**Jeff Edwards:** But there's a lot of soil in between the particles of mulch? [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** Some of them, yes. We put them in squares and we did the same as a two by four. So we put some two-by-fours on the ground. Basically, they were 3.5 inches thick and we just left them.

**Jeff Edwards:** How big were the plots?

**Brian Sebade:** They are about four by four.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Brian Sebade:** Somewhere in there, they might have been five-by-five. I don't remember the exact, but yeah, we threw those out. Interesting so far. We all had our guesses. There's the ones that have hairs, they say that tying together. We use just a regular mulch from the city. Some big chunks like you might see off a Ponderosa pine park. Some big chunks like that. It's interesting so far I feel like we haven't ran all the numbers yet, but it looks like [00:21:00] the big chunks from a Ponderosa pine seem to be holding up the best. But it's also interesting though because I feel with some of those, if they're light enough, it feels like they tend to get carried the furthest distance. The wind catches it just right.

**Jeff Edwards:** Was that part of your analysis? You're looking at how far they've blown away?

**Brian Sebade:** Well, we won't get that. We're basically looking at how much they end up spreading out. We won't be able to get the distance.

**Jeff Edwards:** That distance statistic would be very interesting.

**Brian Sebade:** It would be, yes, unfortunately, with the one there's a fence behind it. Otherwise it would end up on a golf course somewhere, so, yeah, we'll have to let everybody on the radio show know when that's finished, but that's hopefully be some good information for the city of Laramie. Then just what I'm making recommendation to folks here and an Albany County, what hopefully will hold up the best and work good for weed suppression.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Brian, I'm sorry, Jeff. Did you use bio-degradable mulch?

**Brian Sebade:** Yes, we did. We didn't use any plastics or any man-made products. We use the big mulch that I talked about, the city Arborist, he goes around and just prunes up trees and then ships them into his truck. We used that as one. I think the other one is the gorilla hair is at the correct term for it?

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure.

**Brian Sebade:** I think that's the name of it, but it's supposed to bind together. Then we had just another smaller type bark from a landscaping company here. We're basically going to see which of those holds up the best.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Was your two-by-four flat or on edge?

**Jeff Edwards:** Edge.

**Brian Sebade:** On edge.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** On edge. So three inches yeah?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Brian Sebade:** Three and a half inches.

**Jeff Edwards:** Personally, we have used the bark type products and they blow away. That sale theory is pretty much in effect. If you don't have the largest chunk you're going to end up having things move on you. What we've had really good luck with is shredded pine coming out of the forests of Colorado. It might have that gorilla hair feature if that's the correct term. But since it's shredded, it's not unique chip, so everything is stuck together already and it seems to stay in place. We have a lot of open areas. That's the one that we have the best luck with. Jerry, are you a mulcher?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** You know we have not been, but we would like to become. We have areas that need a little more soil and we have areas that are perennial, that they have perennials that you can almost have to wait just a little bit before you throw mulch on top of them just to see where they're at. See what's coming up.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, but if they're perennials aren't there sticks to let you know where they're at, or have you mode them off?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Sticks?

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [00:24:00] No these are in actual perennial bad. No there's no sticks.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay, so perennial flowers [OVERLAPPING] .

**Jerry Erschabeck:** We have to wait till we see green coming out.

**Jeff Edwards:** Not shrubs, but perennial flowers.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. Brian, I understand that you have a project going on out at the research station at Lingala at Zurich. Do you want to spend some time talking about that or looking at the clock, I'm wondering if maybe we should take a break and listen to our sponsors and then tackle that subject when we come back.

**Brian Sebade:** That's great. We can take a break.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay. We'll be back in a few.

**Female 2:** First Lady, Jennie Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative is unspooling nutrition program and the University of Wyoming Extension are partnering to launch a program called grow a little extra. We invite you to join us in growing a little extra to donate fresh produce to local anti-hunger organizations that support our neighbors facing food insecurity. Stop by your local extension office to pick up your free seeds or donate extra from your garden harvest. For more information, visit www.nohungerwyo.org/grow. W-W-W.-N-O-H-U-N-G-E-R-W-Y-O.-O-R-G-/-G-R-O-W.

**Michelle:** [MUSIC] Do you want to learn how to manage your money but you're not sure where to start? UW Extension is here to help. [MUSIC]

**Shelby:** [MUSIC] Hi, I'm Shelby here with the University of Wyoming Extension and I'm so happy you joined me today. I'm going to be providing money tips to help you be less stressed and less scared about your money. [MUSIC]

**Michelle:** Learn about building a budget, eligibility for stimulus checks, tax prep information, and more. See our Facebook page at noon on Mondays for Michelle's Monday money minutes. [MUSIC]

**Jeff Edwards:** Good morning again, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS KERM Lawn & Garden program. Our guest is Brian Sebade, and we've been talking about trees and tree health and mulching and the forsythia blooming. [LAUGHTER] But I think what we'd like to get on to next is Brian has a project that he's working on or will be starting out at the research station at Zurich, and I think it would be informative for our listeners for you to talk about that a little bit Brian, so go for it.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. So project that will be starting, the snow is the latest this week, which always makes sense, is we're looking to install a fruit orchard at the Zurich research center there, and basically, come Monday, I'll be using maybe Jeff's big muscles if he's out there. If he forgets to not show up out there at work, I may wrangle him in, but we need to build a deer proof fence, so we're going to be planting basically different varieties of peaches, [00:27:00] pears, plums, cherries, and carrots out at the experiment station that will hopefully just be there for folks to come peruse, take a look at what's doing well, what's not. If things do survive, maybe this would be something for my backyard, maybe I'd want to do more of this, but basically just something that is there as a starting point, for folks to see what's available. Eventually, at some point we are able to get some decent amount of fruit, we'll be looking to incorporate some nutrition education with that. Somebody that's a little bit better as far as the cooking might go, preserving things like that. What do I do with all these apples or pears or whatever happens in my backyard when it actually does.

**Jeff Edwards:** Go through the list again. You said peaches?

**Brian Sebade:** Peaches, yes, pears, plums, cherries and carrots, one that I'm excited to try out. I'm not so sure, we'll see how it goes. One of the limitations with the site is no we're not really up on a hill, Jeff we're close to the river, so some of those inversions are going to be a little bit challenging for this orchard I think, but I think that's still going to be useful information of, I'm in a low lying area of Goshen County. This might work at my neighbor's house, but it's probably not going to work for me based on what happened there. But one of the cherry varieties I'm looking at is a sweet cherry.

**Jeff Edwards:** Oh good.

**Brian Sebade:** So a lot of the cherries that we have Jeff are pie cherries, so they're the sour cherries. The challenge with sweet cherries is they are not very cold tolerant and they need to be cross-pollinate. A lot of pie cherries are self pollinating or self-fertile, these are not. But hopefully I've got the right selection for pie cherries that will be able to pollinate the sweet cherry, and I'll keep my fingers crossed that this would be something that would work out, and hopefully there'd be a sweet cherry that would potentially be available for Goshen County. [OVERLAPPING] It's been planted in various places in Montana with some limited success, various places in Scandinavia, but some of those tend to actually have a little bit nicer [LAUGHTER] climate depending on where they're planted than what we have.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's always that seven year rule type of thing with fruit trees right. You might live six years, but it's that seventh year we have to get you. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** Right.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. I think that'll be really interesting. You have been warned that you are putting it in the migratory pathway of a lot of deer, they travel back and forth through there. What's your plan for fencing? If that's what you're going to do first?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. We're planning to put up an eight-foot fence. I'm hiring Jerry as a full-time guard, [LAUGHTER] blow horn and whatever [00:30:00] else that takes.

**Jeff Edwards:** Are you putting a turret in for him?

**Brian Sebade:** We might do that, yes. [LAUGHTER] Or a blow horn, yes. So yeah we're planning to do an eight-foot fence, probably some sort of woven wire type fence to make sure things are kept out. We're going to have to see how it works. For trenching around the base, we might be able to get some smaller mesh wire fence down, like quarter-inch gaps to try and keep out some of the other unwanted small mammals.

**Jeff Edwards:** We can list them [LAUGHTER].

**Brian Sebade:** We can list them. Yeah, go ahead.

**Jeff Edwards:** Gophers would be one of them since they are root feeders and are detrimental to fruit trees, rabbits would be the other one. Might not be able to keep out voles, but they could potentially be a problem, but I'm not sure if they'd be a problem there. There isn't a whole lot other than grasses for them to be consuming in that location. But yeah, good thinking. Good plan.

**Brian Sebade:** Yes. Then the plan a few years down the road will be to put up some electric fence around the base to keep out the lovely raccoons that tend to crawl up trees and break off branches and cause havoc. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Sounds like I have my work cut out for me on that guard's position?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah it's a full-time job. I hope you're ready, Jerry.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, I better get my camper out there, so that I'll park and be able to attend my duties.

**Jeff Edwards:** You do know that you have the night shift?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Oh, yeah. Well, it's 24, 7 isn't it Brian.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. I'll bring you coffee at 10 o'clock at night so you can make it through.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Ten o'clock. My uncle used to raise quite a bit of corn around for Laramie and he put out a radio, and that worked for about four days, and then he put out a motion activated sprinkler, and that worked about four days. Everything seemed to have to be changed rather frequently because there's such an accommodation to sight, sound, water. They go yeah, water. Now the raccoons come and wash up.

**Brian Sebade:** Right. Clean my hands after eating all the corn. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah, they do habituate to things fairly quickly, so scare tactics probably should be changed up pretty regularly.

**Brian Sebade:** Perfect. Yeah, hopefully we get things established and there be something for folks to come take a look at.

**Jeff Edwards:** You also mention in our pre-show discussion that you are the tree guy. You do a lot of grafting. You wanted to talk about grafting a little bit and I know that's an interest of Jerry's, so I'm going to turn you loose on that particular subject.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. Recently, a couple of weekends ago, we did a grafting workshop for the Laramie Garden Club here.

**Jeff Edwards:** Jerry, you missed it.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** [00:33:00] I was unavailable [LAUGHTER] I was catching up on my sleep for my guard job. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** There we go. It's pretty challenging for our environment, Jeff, so one thing is figuring out if you have a well-established tree, how you can actually add different varieties of fruit to that tree. I've done quite a bit of grafting on my own trees, having some success, and it's just one of those things that the windows starting to close on that pretty rapidly. Generally, you can graft anytime of the year, but generally when trees are dormant before they've started to break their buds, you can actually physically take part of one tree, and graft it onto a host tree. Generally you have a host wood or host tree and then that new part that you add is called scion wood. So that scion wood essentially what you're looking for is a branch that's about the same diameter as an existing branch on a living tree or rootstock, and then you physically make cuts in that scion wood, and then join them together.

**Jeff Edwards:** I have questions.

**Brian Sebade:** Okay.

**Jeff Edwards:** Have you seen the tool that they have that actually will cut.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Both sides?

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah. A male and a female side and then just clip them together, and put them together and seen it and have used it, that's one question. Then how do you tie the joint together, how do you keep the joint from drying out? There you go.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. I do own one of those tools. I bought it this spring because I said, "Okay, I bet I better try this."

**Jeff Edwards:** What is your verdict on it?

**Brian Sebade:** Well you know me, I'm stubborn. So I'm like I'm going to stick with my own utility knife, and keep doing what I've been doing it, so I think it's good. The thing that is challenging, no matter if you're making your own cuts Jeff or using a tool is making sure that the diameter is the same of both pieces of wood. It's pretty easy to use both a knife or tool, but if they're not the same diameter, it makes it really.

**Jeff Edwards:** It just won't work well.

**Brian Sebade:** It won't work well. Now there's different types of grafting where, if you've got an exposed end of a larger branch, you can put some grafts in around the edges. [LAUGHTER] For that, you wouldn't use a tool, you just use a knife, that works. Essentially what you're looking for with a tool that cuts a perfect shape or what you use with a knife is nice straight cuts. Or it's really flat. There's not a bevel to it. You have both pieces that are the same diameter. All the different parts, living parts of that tree branch are going to connect well. The xylem, the phloem, all that stuff is going to match up. Nutrients are going to move back and forth between the host branch and that piece of scion wood and then you'll have a successful graft. [00:36:00] For me, since I like to just use a utility knife and I go the cheap way, one of the things I really like is I take an old gallon Ziploc bag and I'll cut it lengthwise. I end up with some plastic strips. Then I take those strips. You can use rubber bands, you can use flagging like you might use for surveying. Some people use electrical tape, you can also use grafting tapes. There's a lot of stuff that's out there. But I like those.

**Jeff Edwards:** Pair of film?

**Brian Sebade:** Pair of film, yeah, you can do all that. But I like that because I can start wrapping it around and get it really tight. It really helps seal up any air pockets that might be there. It also makes it really sturdy. If I graft onto a crab apple, I seem to always have squirrels jumping up and down that tree.

**Jeff Edwards:** Particularly in your backyard and I think we've talked about that before. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, I talk about that. Yes, I won't go down on that road.

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER] We probably shouldn't.

**Brian Sebade:** The squirrels are prevalent [NOISE] and if they jump on it, it seems to hold up well, they seem to hold up well with the wind and I can just tie it off, and then I can see here in a month or two, was it successful or not. About the end of August. I'll cut that off, give that tree a little bit more time to fully heal. If you leave that wrap on, then things get constricted and it doesn't grow correctly. On that scion wood Jeff, there's different parts of the branch you can use. You can use the tip, but then you can also just use other sections. Usually you're looking between 3-4 buds on a section of scion wood that you want to weave. If you cut the end off so there's an exposed end, you want to make sure that you put a wax or some film over the end so it can actually help regulate pressure and things can move properly. Some folks really like to do bud grafting. Essentially you just take a bud out of an existing scion wood and then put it into an existing branch and wrap it up and then go from there. I have a hard enough time keeping track of my two and three inch diameter grafts that I've made on a tree over time. For me, a bud graft is like no, I'm going to remember that's there.

**Jeff Edwards:** [OVERLAPPING] You're not going to forget which one it is.

**Brian Sebade:** Yes. For me I do not do that. I've known some folks that love to bud grafts. They can keep good track of things and they've had really good success. What I always say with grafting is I can tell you what I do today and you can invite a guest next time and they're going to tell you something completely different of how they like to do it. But the main idea is you've got to figure out how to seal something up and attach something to where all the parts connect and you can get new growth.

**Jeff Edwards:** You're just a rogue individual, aren't you? Brian?

**Brian Sebade:** I am. Yeah. Something like that. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Jerry, I know you have some questions for him.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I do.

**Jeff Edwards:** [OVERLAPPING] We've talked of grafting.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Bottom line. You don't like the tool that is [00:39:00] being offered on [OVERLAPPING]

**Jeff Edwards:** That's not what he said.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Well, okay. You like to graft old school. Would you recommend that tool for a beginner?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, I think you can do that for sure. I don't think it's just important tool to get that feel for it to try and some hand cuts, just really seeing the importance of how things should match up together. For the workshop, we usually just practice on some willows because they're usually fairly similar diameters. [OVERLAPPING] Practicing those cuts, figuring out that notch that you might need to make on the host wood, depending on which cuts you like to make. I like just a regular cleft because it's simple and easy. I can get it pretty tight with that plastic that I use, but yeah, for sure can go with that. If you don't want to be patient, I fully support you just using that tool and just making sure you find the right diameters.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** That's probably the key then, is the right diameter. I've seen some people use Saran wrap, [OVERLAPPING] whatever it is. Would you first put wax? You've got your cuts and you stick it together. Would you put melt wax on that cut to seal it?

**Brian Sebade:** You can. I generally don't like to because sometimes I feel like that wax can end up getting in places where it blocks nutrient flow within [OVERLAPPING] that cut. But lots of people use it. Again, I'm not an artist.

**Jeff Edwards:** But you are an artisan.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. Something like that. Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Then one last, you do it on trees, but one could potentially do it on roses then as well.

**Brian Sebade:** Oh yeah. You can do it on all sorts of plants. People would do it on tomatoes. Yeah, there's many applications for it.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** But you should probably do it on fairly similar species.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, a general rule of thumb is not getting out of the genus or the species that you're dealing with.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** But there's that one rose, It's called a tree rose. It comes up about 2 and 1/2, 3 feet and it's actually on a fairly large cane, they call it a tree rose, but I don't [OVERLAPPING] excuse me.

**Jeff Edwards:** Rose of Sharon. I know what you're talking about.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah. Is it rose of Sharon more of a climber?

**Jeff Edwards:** Sure. I could be wrong. I might have misspoke. I'm thinking about tree peonies. [LAUGHTER]

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Hey, I'm happy to see that someone else's fooled by things other than forsythia. [LAUGHTER]

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah, I think that grafting is just a really [00:42:00] cool thing to do. The peach and pear trees. That would probably work.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, to some extent, lots of times for your best success, you probably just want to stick with the same species you're dealing with, but you know, you hear a cherry and plum.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Right.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, I'll cross it. Where they are grafted on the same tree. But yeah, a lot of that. You can try it out and see what happens for yourself.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Your success generally happens within a month?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, you should see it. Depending on the scion wood, it might actually be a little bit delayed compared to the rest of the tree. It might take a little bit of time, but you know, that trees started to leave out or has leaped out. It's a month after it's had leaves out, nothing's happening. It's probably not.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Brian Sebade:** I've also noticed that talking about winter tree care, if you've had a really stressed out host tree, that can lead to not great scion wood. The other part of that is making sure that you don't use a scion wood that has a patent on it. If there's a patent, you shouldn't be doing that on [OVERLAPPING] stocks and then selling it right? That's illegal. If it has a patent, leave it on the tree, it's on.

**Jeff Edwards:** Very good, very good information before we depart, I have one more thing that I'd like to bring up that Brian does that, not a lot of people are aware of this. He actually will tap into Boxelder trees because they are in the Maple family, and he makes maple syrup from Boxelder tree sap. You want to share some information on that, Brian? I know you have several publications out or at least one.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. There's one on Barnyards and Backyards if you're interested in that unfortunately we are too late. The way that our land goes is always a little too late. But if you're looking at that, to put a tap in about the end of February, beginning of March. I would not go any later than the beginning of March because hard to know what's going to happen each year. [OVERLAPPING] Some folks up in Casper this year, that tried it out for the first time. They were pretty late. It was end of March when they started to do it, but they got some that worked out. Yeah, essentially it's just like a sugar maple. You tap into a tree and collect the sap and boil it down, filter it several times, and you end up with syrup. I think it's tasty.

**Jeff Edwards:** Maybe it's an acquired taste. [LAUGHTER] Well, I got to tell you Jerry, we both have Hot Wings Maple trees in our landscape. I trimmed a few branches, select branches off of our Hot Wings Maple to try to get it the shapes that I'm wanting. Boy, did it produce a lot of sap from those wounds? I was amazed, and it ran for well, I don't know, two weeks. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING] yeah. I think I got to [00:45:00] that one in February, so I've probably timed it just about right. I thought, this might be a tree that Brian could tap into. [LAUGHTER]

**Brian Sebade:** Exactly, yeah. My recommendation depending on where you're at is put that tap in about Valentine's Day.

**Jeff Edwards:** Okay.

**Brian Sebade:** Probably way too early for some places, but you'd want to be earlier than late.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Tapping that tree doesn't hurt the tree because that's its sap, right?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. Generally with Boxelders, you don't want to put a tap in to a tree that's less than about 6-8 inches diameter, couple feet off the ground for sure and just making sure you don't put in too many taps. If it's a tree that stress, doesn't get a lot of water, I probably wouldn't recommend it. If it gets good care, plenty of water throughout the growing season, it should be fine, but yeah, just knowing what's going on with your tree health is important. Generally with a lot of these older Boxelders we have, they don't produce quite as much as some of the younger ones. If you have a younger tree, you're probably going to be getting a lot more than some of the older trees.

**Jeff Edwards:** Jerry, it's not the only thing that we would get from Boxelder trees is Boxelder bugs.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** The Boxelder bugs. I grew up with Boxelder bugs up in [inaudible] .

**Jeff Edwards:** Do we all.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Good Lord. They're just so aggressive, but they don't hurt anything.

**Jeff Edwards:** They don't bite you.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** No.

**Jeff Edwards:** They're just annoying.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Just annoying.

**Brian Sebade:** They're only attracted to the female trees. If you want to kill off all your female trees by over tapping, you do that and then save your males [OVERLAPPING].

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Save the males.

**Jeff Edwards:** Wow. That's interesting.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Brian, this boiling, you always see the pictures of a tin shed and just smoke coming out. This boiling off activity is an outside in a outbuilding thing. It's not to be done inside your home.

**Brian Sebade:** You can do it inside, but if you don't want to live in a tropical environment for a week after you do it, I would suggest doing it outside.

**Jeff Edwards:** It's a lot of steam because you're trying to boil off what. What's the percentage that you're trying to boil off of the liquid that you collect?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. You might have anywhere between three and five percent sugar for your raw sap and you're trying to get it to about 66, 67 percent. Yeah, you have a lot. It's a good activity for the beginning of March if it's not real grayed out to get the burners out and just boil off a lot of water. You can have various other liquid things to help pass the time that are there by your side and grill some food while you're there, but it does take time and essentially, you're trying to raise the level of that seven degrees above the boiling point. You need to figure out what your boiling temperature is for your elevation, and then go seven degrees above that.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Roughly a gallon of syrup, [00:48:00] you'd have to have how many gallons of sap?

**Jeff Edwards:** Eight

**Brian Sebade:** Like 40?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Forty to one?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, It depends, it might even be higher [OVERLAPPING].

**Jeff Edwards:** It just depends on the sugar content of the liquid to start with, right?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** You're going to have to tap a lot of trees?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I don't think so. You have to recruit some volunteers.

**Jeff Edwards:** Yeah.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I'll follow some Boxelder bugs.

**Brian Sebade:** Depending on where you're at in the tree, you might get 20 gallons of raw sap. It just depends on the tree, but usually, I see anywhere from about 4-10 gallons per tree, that's healthy and doing well.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Do you have the little tubes that you can stick into the tap that flow or do you put a bucket on your tap?

**Brian Sebade:** I've done both. It's whatever you want to do. I've done the metal taps and then just put an old milk carton on them and on that route.

**Jeff Edwards:** Very cool.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** I think we're getting close to wrap up time. Are there things happening in your neck of the woods, Brian, that other folks might be interested in as far as educational programs are coming up?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. The one main one, Jeff, I wanted to mention is we have a wildfire recovery workshop for the Mullen Fire on June 5th. Basically, if there's homeowners or somebody there knows of a property that was affected by the fire, we're trying to get the word out for folks about what do you do for reseeding, replanting trees? Do you need to worry about it? What do you do for stabilizing banks? All those sorts of things. Money that's available for assistance. What we'll be doing that on June 5th, most likely at the fire station at WyColo there at Mountain Home [OVERLAPPING].

**Jeff Edwards:** I'm sorry to interrupt. Would folks who have gone through a prairie fire benefit from the information not just forest fire?

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah, they will for sure. This one will be really specific though, and we'll be talking about forested areas and then, assistance directly related to the Mullen fires, but for sure, there's information that people can get out of there that would be helpful.

**Jeff Edwards:** What was the date again?

**Brian Sebade:** June 5th. We haven't finalized all the schedule yet, but most likely it'll start in the morning, do presentations through the morning and afternoon, we'll actually physically go out and look at some sites and see what happens.

**Jeff Edwards:** There you go.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I think in some of those areas too Brian, don't you agree that it's dangerous if you're a hiker or backpacker and walking through those burned out areas, those burned trees are still standing, but then just a little mild wind comes up and God's sake can blow over.

**Brian Sebade:** Yeah. For sure. Hopefully, folks to just be a little careful, extra careful this summer when they're going out to [00:51:00] check out what burned and all those sorts of things.

**Jeff Edwards:** Safety in the woods.

**Brian Sebade:** Yes.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Yeah.

**Jeff Edwards:** Last thing I'd like to touch on is for those of you who are interested, the University of Wyoming and some of our partners, we've been doing a program called Barnyards and Backyards Live, which is myself and another host from Park County. It's broadcast via Zoom or via Facebook Live. This last program that we had on Friday, last Friday was about lawn care and turf care. Our guest was Dawn France, who works for PBI Gordon and just thought I'd put that out there, you can find it on YouTube. It's also posted out there under Barnyards and Backyards Live, but he brought forward some really good information about turf care that I think some of you listening might find beneficial. I know whenever I participate in a meeting with Dawn I always seem to learn something. [LAUGHTER] If you're interested, please go out there and look for that program. If you search for Barnyards and Backyards Live University of Wyoming, you should be able to find it on YouTube feed. With that, I want to thank you Brian for being our guest today. It's always informative and glad to have you participate.

**Brian Sebade:** Well, thank you. I always enjoy this. Thank you guys.

**Jeff Edwards:** We'll have you on again. Jerry, anything that you'd like to comment on about coming up in the community that we need to mention?

**Jerry Erschabeck:** I think we all need to start looking up. The cranes are flying North. Torrington seems to be in a bird fly pathway. There's just so many birds and I've seen those cranes and there's just a bunch of them and they just chortle as they fly around and it's rather unique when you see or hear a group of birds and you go, cranes, those are just geese but they're really interesting if you just look up and you miss out if you're not.

**Jeff Edwards:** Right, just get outside.

**Jerry Erschabeck:** Absolutely.

**Jeff Edwards:** [LAUGHTER]. All right everybody. Thanks for listening to us today. Hopefully, we're getting into a period where the weather is going to be a little bit nicer and you can get out and gets gardens grown and get your lawn taken care of and your trees watered. We look forward to seeing you outside.

**Male 2:** [MUSIC] You've been listening to Lawn & Garden with the University of Wyoming Extension Specialist, Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. As the snow melts and the sun breaks, the University of Wyoming Extension as many upcoming virtual and hybrid learning programs available to you. Look at each week for details on new events and how to make your gardens flourish. Good day and happy gardening.