

[00:00:00] Hey, Wyoming. [MUSIC] Welcome to the Lawn and Garden podcast with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist, Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Originally aired on KGOS and 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 variants to weather events to pesticides and pollinators, our Lawn and Garden podcast helps you improve your home garden as well as your small acreage. Let's welcome Jeff Edwards, Jerry Erschabeck. Happy gardening, folks.

Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards for the KGOS KERM morning garden program. With me today as always is Jerry Erschabeck. Good morning, Jerry.

Good morning, Jeff. How are you doing today?

Good. Just trying to keep things going. [LAUGHTER]

Of course, we're going to talk about the weather, aren't we?

We're probably going to talk about the weather. Maybe more than once today. With us this morning is Gary Stone, University of Nebraska, Lincoln educator at the research station in Scottsbluff. Good morning, Gary. How are you today?

Great, Jeff, great, Jerry. Thanks for having me on.

Good to see you. Before we get started, let's listen to our sponsors, and then we'll get back to our program. [MUSIC]

This summer, Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative, the Cent\$ible 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, www.N-O-H-U-N-G-E-R-W-Y-O-O-R-G/G-R-O-W.

Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the KGOS KERM Lawn and Garden program. I'm Jeff Edwards, along with Jerry Erschabeck, and our guest today is Gary Stone. For those of you who are regular listeners, this is the first one of the rest of the season. Jerry, I think overall we've been doing this for 11 years? Not necessarily with you, but I don't know. [OVERLAPPING]

With others?

Yeah, with others. We tried to keep it fresh and interesting that's why we invite a third party so people don't have to just listen to us. [LAUGHTER]

A big shout-out to KGOS KERM for promoting us, learning the crap out of our promo, [OVERLAPPING] renewing [00:03:00] our contract.

Keeping us going. That's right.

Keeping us on the up and up.

Gary, we are happy to have you with us today, happy to be our first guest of our official season, and I think you wanted to maybe talk a little bit about trees today?

Yes. Today's Arbor Day. I'd like to see everybody get out and plant a tree, maybe two, three, maybe a dozen, get some more green out in our landscape. They certainly help with the wildlife, serve as a fairly good windbreak, and they're very pleasing to look at.

Can be a form of frustration sometimes too.

More than not, yes [LAUGHTER] they can. But in the long run, they benefit us all.

Yes, they are a benefit to our environment. I was just thinking about those low-hanging limbs when you're riding your mower around, Jerry. [LAUGHTER] But if you're planting new trees, it'll take a while for it to get there.

Gary, would you walk us through planting a new tree?

Well, I certainly could, but I'd like to give a shout-out to the Wyoming Forestry. I think everyone who's interested in trees, they should get the Wyoming Tree Owner's Manual. They can download that online. Excellent, outstanding publication. It will tell you how to plant any and all types of trees and shrubs, how to prune, which ones will grow in the Wyoming climate. Just a very, very good piece of literature that everybody should have if they really want to plant trees and take care of them properly. But to answer your question, Jerry, yeah, generally, the folks are probably going to go to their local store. They're going to buy a tree, chances are it's going to be in a burlap bag. You want to pick a site to where that tree is going to get up to its full size, not growing any power lines, not maybe fall on a shed or the house or a building. Look up, look around, make sure that you're safe where that tree is going to end up. Dig a hole twice the size of the root ball. Dig it about that depth of the root ball. Set that tree in the hole. Open up that burlap bag. Spread those roots around, make sure that the roots aren't circling. If they are, you need to prune those off, then backfill it. Add a little water to take out the air pockets and keep backfilling it up to where the roots spread out from the main trunk, and you want to have those roots still showing on the surface. Those are what we call the brace roots. We want to see those on or close to the surface. We don't want those buried. Then water it as needed. They can put mulch around it, but don't put the mulch up next to the trunk. Keep that good 6-8 inches away from the trunk and then hope for the best. Hope we don't get a freeze, frost. Don't run into it with a lawnmower, the weed whip. Take care of it and you'll have a tree that'll last your lifetime.

Gary, would you recommend staking it?

You could. [00:06:00] For the first year, maybe two, you can certainly stake it on two, three maybe four sides just to make sure it stays steady. How you check it, after that first year if you can't move that trunk around, I mean, it'll move up above the surface, but if you can't move it around in the soil, then it's probably going to

stay put and you can take those stakes out.

What would you recommend using as the material around the tree so that you don't strangle it or rip off the bark, those types of things.

Well, if you're going to mulch it, hopefully you won't have any grass or any other plants growing up around the tree that you'd have to get close to it to mow it or trim it out. But if you would, there are tree wraps that you can put around the tree. Some are made of plastic, some are paper product that you can wrap around a tree. But as the tree grows, you need to either remove it or expand that wrap so that it doesn't choke the tree out, get the disease down there on the trunk where it gets wet.

Gary, so we put the tree wrap around it, is that where now we put the rope or the strap on it to go to our post [OVERLAPPING] stake that tree?

You probably want to get it up around some branches so that wrap doesn't slip down around the trunk. You're going to need that wrap or those guide bars or brace wires or rope or whatever you're using up around some branches. You don't want it too tight. You may want to take a piece of inner tube tire or something, put that up against the trunk and then put the wire or the rope around that so it doesn't dig into the trunk that could cause a scar or cut off the tissue.

One of the things that I use as wrap material to hold the guide wires or that's what you want to call them in place would be seat-belt webbing. It's wide enough. It doesn't seem to rub the trees too bad, and it doesn't cut into the bark generally.

Yeah, that should work just fine. But again, I would say for the folks, get the Wyoming Tree Owner's Manual.

That is published by the Wyoming State Forestry?

Yes, it is.

The Wyoming tree manual is what we call it?

Tree owner's manual.

Tree owner's manual. Jerry is writing that down? [LAUGHTER]

I am because I look back at my notes on these programs, I'm like on, hey, I do know a little something about this. So a lot of times just refreshing my memory because we all are getting older and sometimes that memory needs to be fresh and backup, and my notes helped me out. [LAUGHTER]

It's like, oh, yeah, we didn't talk about that. Yeah, I do know that source. [LAUGHTER]

I was speaking with another individual and they were saying that we should water our trees. [00:09:00] I said, "Oh yeah, winter water as well as spring water." Gary, how much water does a tree really need?

Well, if you're talking about a broadleaf tree, they go dormant. In the fall, drop their leaves, so they're not going to transpire any water throughout the winter. Come springtime after the frost goes out of the ground, maybe give them a good drink, especially since we're still in a minor drought situation across the Panhandle and Wyoming for the most part. So they could probably use a good drink in the spring, have some moisture there to get them up and going. Then maybe once a month for the broad-leaves, catch them with some water, put that hose out there, just let it run slow round all four quadrants, surround the drip line of the tree for maybe 15- 20 minutes in each quadrant, give it a good soaking. Evergreens, as I say, they transpire year-round. Maybe not so much in the winter, but they certainly transpire, so they're using water year-round. Coming into the spring, again, they could probably use a good drink. Your pines probably don't need as much water as your broad-leaves or other evergreens, they're pretty good. The cedars pretty hardy, so are the junipers. Maybe once every six weeks, give them a good drink and that should do it. Then in the winter, if you have some days where the ground is not going to be froze and it's pretty mild out, you might give them a good drink then, just get them through the winter.

Here's a trick question, Gary. How do you tell the difference between a cedar and a juniper?

To me, the junipers are the ones that have the berries on them, and the cedars don't necessarily do. [LAUGHTER] That's the way I do it. [LAUGHTER] Right or wrong that's the way I do it.

That's always the tricky one for me because I struggle. If you walk up to one and say, okay, is that a cedar or juniper? I don't know. [LAUGHTER]

Yes, they're very closely related to each other, so it is difficult to tell.

Both are aromatic, correct?

Yes.

Yes.

They both have an odor?

Yes.

Is it junipers that they make gin out of?

Yes. Out of the juniper berries.

There you go. Go juniper. [LAUGHTER]

It's ironic, in the eastern part of Nebraska, red cedars are considered an invasive species, where out here we'll take anything that grows. [LAUGHTER]

That's exactly right. [LAUGHTER] Look, I have a cedar or juniper growing in my yard,

I need to move it someplace else. [LAUGHTER]

Hey, Gary. A lot of people will and I think you've talked about the screwdriver technique for seeing if your lawn has enough water. Could you relate that back to the trees as [00:12:00] well with that? Because most people, even like me, we have a lot of trees in our yard. They think that if they're watering their lawn, that's plenty enough water for the trees as well. I know that's wrong, but how would you relate the screwdriver into the lawn as enough water for the tree?

Okay. For the lawn, I always suggest maybe 6-8 inch long shank for a screwdriver to test lawn, because that's where the majority of the lawn ropes are going to be. If that's dry, you probably need to water your lawn. I would say if you get up on it, maybe 12-16 inch long shank or a rod of some kind that you could push into the soil, and if you can push it in a foot, 16 inches deep, you probably got enough water for your tree. But if you can't, then you probably need to add more water to cover that tree's water needs.

Very good. Last time we were together, Jerry, we had Brian Sabini here. He mentioned that he was working on a fruit tree project out at the Research Station in Goshen County. That plot has been fenced. Those trees have been planted. Hopefully, in a couple of years we'll be able to see some results with fresh fruit. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. That would be amazing. I know that even around here, we can grow peaches, pears. Some of those pears are delicious. A friend of mine gave us some pears last year and my gosh, they were delicious. I said, where did you get these? I thought she had gone to Colorado or something, but it was locally grown here in Torrington.

Unlike the favorite fishing spot, you don't ever reveal your sources.

No. [LAUGHTER] Or from people from Colorado. No. I don't know where there's any fishing. [LAUGHTER] No good boating. There's water rattlesnakes around that lake. [LAUGHTER]

Exactly. [LAUGHTER] Gary, other tree things that you would like to talk about today?

Been getting a few calls. There may be a resurgence and I say maybe a resurgence of the apes or pine bark beetles in the area. I've had a number of calls of the clients calling and saying, I've got all these little pinholes in my trees and they're turning brown.

Bubble gum stuck to it.

Yeah. I'd ask Chrissy Gland, a local tree lady to see if we could get together and do a tour, go through the Wildcat Hills to see if we'll see any resurgence, but she said that would probably be in June before they could get that done. But we want to do that, take an inventory to see if they are coming back. [00:15:00] I suppose it has a lot to do with the drought. The trees are under stress, so the insects see an opportunity and they pounce.

What about spruce beetles? Are you seeing greater incidence of issues of spruce trees?

The spruce, I think it's more of a moisture issue here. Again goes back to the drought and the freezing that we've had last fall. Then again, this is February. Yeah.

Yeah.

It's most of the damage that we're seeing from that.

Gary, if you had ips, what could you do to help control? Would you want to make sure that you rake up your pine needles below the tree? Do the ips live in the refuge down below or are they just primarily bark?

No. They stay primarily in the bark and then they come out and hatch, fly around, mate, go back, lay eggs, start the process all over again. So, cleaning up the needles isn't going to do anything other than maybe a fire hazard, but those pine needles make excellent mulch.

Yeah.

Probably the best mulch out there.

One of the best defenses you can do is have your trees well-watered. I know that there's a lot of places where you can't do that, but if it's in a place in your yard or where you live, where you can get water to it, keep them well hydrated. Because the trees' defense mechanism will force sap out of where they've been feeding on, push the beetles out before they can get those eggs laid.

I have a friend in Fort Laramie and I don't know who he contacted, but his recommendation was to water, and then offered to spray for him. Well, these are 80-year-old trees or 60, but they're really old and they're really large. It's cost-prohibitive for him.

Yeah.

The amount of water is still just a standard amount of water for a big tree like that or more?

Is that a question for Gary? I would think it will need more.

Yeah. You're going to need more water. The larger tree is going to transpire more than the smaller one.

Yeah. You can chemically treat them. It should probably be done by a certified professional because of the amount of material that has to be applied. Most homeowners don't have the equipment to apply to an 80-year-old tree, how tall they are, and actually, effectively cover the canopy or the limbs as they need to be. Thanks, Gary. Got stuck in a word.

I guess I have one other thing about trees. I've been getting a lot of calls, but not a lot of calls, but several calls on leaf beetle in the house.

Interesting.

I had the same problem. I say you got a fireplace? He [00:18:00] said, yeah. I said, you got burning Elm? Yeah. [LAUGHTER] I said the chances are that's where they came from. They were out there in the wood, you brought it in, it warmed up and they either finish the process of turning into a beetle or they decided to come out. I said, just get the vacuum cleaner out, vacuum it up. I said they're not going to last long. But yeah. I'll be sitting there watching TV and I'll have unknown leaf beetle crawl across the seat of the chair and I don't know, where did you come from? Then I say, oh, yeah [LAUGHTER] I know where you came from. I brought you in the house. Yeah, I did it unintentionally. [LAUGHTER] Yes. Thank you. [LAUGHTER]

Camping season is getting close and people like to have a fire at their place or at their camp site and they bring that wood back home as well. Isn't that another way of transporting insects and beetles around the state?

[OVERLAPPING] Absolutely. Yeah. If you cut wood where you're at or purchase wood where you're at, the camp, it should be burned there and not hauled around. You shouldn't haul wood from your place to camp. Just because there are a lot of different insect pests that can be moved around.

Yeah. Burn it there. Leave it there. Leave it for the next guy.

Yes.

Gary, is this a good time to start pruning your trees or are we a little late on pruning?

It all depends upon a tree and the situation. If you've got a broken branch, certainly, you need to prune it out. Any of the dead, it can be pruned out anytime because it's dead. It's not doing the tree any good. It's not doing you any good. Generally, if they've leafed out, you probably don't want to prune them. You probably want to wait till they don't have any leaves. I'm probably getting to the point that some of these trees are going to be starting to leaf out pretty quick. So we're right at the borderline of doing any pruning for this spring.

Yeah. Especially if the forecast for this weekend is 80 degrees. [LAUGHTER] I'm guessing that most of the trees will start leafing out. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. I've already got some of my cherry trees starting to bloom. I'm going to have them blossoms.

Yeah. We have nine barks that are leafing and the ketones esters. The shrubs are starting to leaf as well.

The apricots trees. My neighbor across the street has a lot of apricot blossoms. My brother has apricot blossoms on one of two of his trees. The one near the road

seems to have caught some of the freezing and you can see that the blossoms are frozen.

Yeah.

They are dead.

Yeah. Which is unfortunate.

Yeah.

But we'll see what kind of fruit yield we get this year.

This is my favorite time of the year when everything starts popping out, there so much hope and so much of the greenery coming out. You throw a seed in and it sprouts. Yeah.

[OVERLAPPING] [00:21:00] Planting is in full swing. It's corn planting season right now and the guys are out in the field, working their fields and stuff. That's always good to see. Seasonality of everything. Just trying to think what else we've got going on. Jerry, are you prepping your yard? You're getting out there and doing things?

Well, yeah. Probably tomorrow I'm fixing the rotter tail.

All right. It's great. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

My brother said, "Hey, I'm willing, if you're ready," and I said, "I've got the oil, I've got the gas. I'm sure that rototiller will start up." You know, the dang thing is more than, let's see, 28 years old, 28, 29.

[OVERLAPPING] How long have you been married? Was that a wedding gift?

Yeah, it is.

Yeah.

The guy had it for about seven years before that.

Okay.

The dang thing starts in two pulls.

Nice.

A little worn-out bugger. That's really nice. I was being funny about that, but when you have a piece of machinery that starts, [OVERLAPPING] what a wonderful thing.

I'm an anti-chainsaw guy for a variety of reasons, but one of the reasons is because they're a booger to get started most of the times. [LAUGHTER]

I was thinking of lawnmowers and weed eaters. Doggone, we bought the electric weed eaters, and so we like that.

Is it battery-powered or is it plugged in?

Battery powered. The worst thing I can have is a lawnmower that doesn't start.

I agree.

Gosh, dang, I hate those [OVERLAPPING]. You should take one more pull, one more pull.

Especially if you're weak beyond mowing time, [LAUGHTER] but then desperate to get that lawnmower going. [LAUGHTER]

Amen to that.

[OVERLAPPING] Go ahead.

I was just going to say I have some daffodils blooming, and I am getting ready to plant some elephant ear. Not the garlic, but just the plant.

Just the plant.

It's a rather big bulb that I think that you probably put in about 2-3 inches deep. But I think it's probably one of those frost-sensitive things where you have to wait just a little bit or plant it inside. Now I know you do a lot of high tunneling.

Yes.

I know that your corn is up.

Yes.

Do you grow those corns in a row in your high tunnel?

I do. Traditionally, I'll grow two rows. How to best describe this for the radio? I will grow two rows in a space where it's traditionally one row in my high tunnel. I'll put the plants relatively close together because you [00:24:00] need them in blocks to make sure that they pollinate. Then, usually, I put two rows of two, therefore four rows, I guess, in close proximity to each other so that that's a whole entire block. But this year, I just shuffled some things around because of the rotation. So I have two individual rows in different places in the high tunnel growing corn, and I'm going to have to replant because, for whatever reason, as soon as it germinates, the mice are in there digging it up and consuming the seed. So I've got moderate germination in one row of two, and then some really bad because the mice ate it. So I got to get in there and replant and do something about the mice. [LAUGHTER] Otherwise, we probably would have had sweetcorn around the fourth of July, which is unexpected around here.

Much to our delight having sweetcorn, we always look really forward to sweetcorn season.

I think a lot of people do.

I think so.

How about before we get into traditional gardening discussion, let's take a break and listen to our sponsors, and we'll be back in a couple of minutes?

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

Welcome, everybody. This is the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden program. I'm Jeff Edwards, along with Jerry Erschabeck. Our guest today is Gary Stone. We've been talking a little bit about trees and tree care, and health, and I think we might shift subjects a little bit because it's time to start planting things in your garden if you haven't already. I know we have our potatoes and onions in the ground already outside. Jerry, have you done the same?

I have received my onion shipment, but I have not been able to put them in. I think tomorrow or so, well, maybe Sunday. I'll let the ground rest for [OVERLAPPING] just a day or two before I plant those onions [OVERLAPPING]

After all that rototilling activity.

Well, and recover from the party, right?

Yeah, right.

Rototilling party?

Yes. By the way, what time does that party start?

Well, about 9:30 or so, 10:00, maybe. [LAUGHTER] Well, we'll wait, between 10:00 and 02:00.

Okay, the party, not the rototilling. I don't care [OVERLAPPING]

[LAUGHTER] Yeah, about two.

[LAUGHTER] Okay.

Can I ask about planting [00:27:00] tomatoes? I'll pose this question to both of you. [OVERLAPPING]

Sure.

There's a lot of tomato blossom and rot that seems to happen even on a healthy plant- [OVERLAPPING]

Which sounds like a disease, but it's not a disease.

It's not a disease. It's calcium deficiency. We bought some bone meal [OVERLAPPING] to put in the hole as we plant. Either if you have any experience with bone meal and tomato planting?

I do not. Gary, do you?

No. I did have it with some peppers, when we had our bio mulch project down here at the center. It's not a bad source for nutrients for the plant. They don't burn the roots. It's all-natural, so do that but the [inaudible 00:27:47], it's calcium and also water. [OVERLAPPING] If you pull up an extension publication that explains it, the two go hand in hand as is when you water versus when you don't, how hot it is out there when you water and when you don't, so the two go hand in hand.

That's the vacationing gardener, right?

Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] The vacationing gardener disease.

I've got a new name for it now.

That's when you hire the neighbor kid, and he doesn't show up for five days, and you come back the next day, and here he waters like crazy.

It's well-watered the day before he gets [LAUGHTER].

Well-watered man. [LAUGHTER] I was after it. [LAUGHTER]

I might've been [OVERLAPPING]

I guess looking ahead for the gardeners across the Panhandle Eastern Wyoming, another publication that I think they all should get and get it now and start to read through it. I believe deals with integrated pest management, it's called What's in your Toolbox, was authored by a guy by the name of Jeff Edwards, maybe Jeff you'd like to talk about your publication.

Wow, nothing like tooting your own horn, Gary, thanks for promoting our product. [LAUGHTER]

Available now. [LAUGHTER]

It's a great piece. I mean it really would help people, and I think you ought explained just what's in it.

Well, I think the publication number is 1322R [NOISE] or something like that, but it's available through the University of Wyoming for free. It does explain what integrated pest management is. I was constantly getting questions about, well, okay, so I have

this insect in my garden, I am not quite sure if it is truly that, so there's some information in there on how to identify it correctly, and it's the most common ones that we probably will see. Then the second question is, well, it's a bug how do I get rid of it? I know there are a lot of people out there who are averse to pesticides, don't particularly care to use them, look for organic or [00:30:00] biocontrol type tactics. This publication lists where to buy predators and parasites of a variety of different pests in the garden, and then there's also a table that lists all of the organically approved. They too are called pesticides, but the organically approved products registered for use in Wyoming. If those tactics don't work, there's also the traditional pesticide list in that publication that are registered for use in Wyoming. If you can't find it online, and again, it's called What's In Your Toolbox, and I wrote it. If you do a little search, it should come up, if you can't find it I have a bunch of them in my office at the research station. If you contact me, send me a little note. My e-mail address is jedward, E-D-W-A-R-D, 4@uwyo.edu. Just send me a note, include your address, I'll drop one of them in the mail to you, and you can have it. If you have questions, give me a call and we can talk about it more. Yeah, I was constantly getting questions and I thought, maybe I ought to put all this stuff together, and it turned into a decent little publication if hopefully folks want it.

I happen to have that same publication, and I'm telling you it is a good publication because it does help you identify some of those critters and what to do about them.

Well, I did distribute it to all my friends and family first. [LAUGHTER] Just needs a little wider distribution.

Gary, I know that you're big on the Internet. You've helped me with moles, bowls, large pumpkins. Do you have a resource for that, or do you just type in whatever you're looking for?

Well, I would suggest if the folks of Eastern Wyoming or anywhere across the state of Wyoming, go to the University of Wyoming extension publications website, and do a search. They've got an outstanding list of topics that they've written on pertained to the state, so we could start there. If you're doing a general search, I'd always put extension, and then whatever topic or item that you're looking for and see what pops up. I draw on a course, University of Nebraska, Colorado State, University Wyoming, Utah State, Montana State, South Dakota State. I'd try and draw on the state [OVERLAPPING] yeah, that original for what we have in our situations here, and for those pests and everything. Not anyone university or site has everything, but they [00:33:00] each have something.

Right.

You need to check them all out, but that's what I do and that's where I go.

Another source of information that we've just started during the COVID pandemic stuff is an online program, it's broadcast live every Friday. Well, actually I probably shouldn't be promoting it now because this Friday, today, is the [LAUGHTER] last day of this program, but it's called Barnyards & Backyards Live, and it's broadcast

via Zoom, it's also available on Facebook, and there's a lot of gardening tips, there's some livestock items. For those of you who are interested, it's Barnyards & Backyards Live. It is recorded, you can find it out on YouTube, and it's a searchable database. If you access it through the University of Wyoming website, there are links to other printed references there, printed material on that topic too. We tried to provide a good program for everybody. That's usually at 10 o'clock on Fridays. But this is the last week, so we plan on doing more in the fall. [LAUGHTER]. One other source of information, we are at UW Extension we were a little bit shorthanded right now, we have some extension educators slots that need to be filled, and I know that people have a lot of questions coming up, and sometimes we can get to you quickly and sometimes not. But there is a source out there that used to be known as Ask the Expert, and now it is just Ask Extension. I've got the website here, or actually it's the URL, but it's basically just ask.extension.org. You can enter your question in that, you can add pictures to it which are always helpful, and then you also select your location, whether you want somebody from Wyoming to answer that question, or someone else. Plug in your information, type it up really nice, let us know who you are, and your question will actually be assigned to an expert in the state or elsewhere to get that question answered. It's usually pretty quick turnaround within 24-48 hours, so ask.extension.org would be the place to go.

Then one other place that I've gotten quite a bit of my information is Folklore, the old guy [LAUGHTER] down the road.

Come on Jerry that might not be correct. [LAUGHTER].

Well, you're right. But personal experiences sometimes. If you go, "Oh hey, don't be planting your tomato in the same place."

Right.

There's certain things that older farmers, older gardeners, [OVERLAPPING] more experienced gardeners seem to know, and they don't have to go to a computer or look it up. [00:36:00] Sometimes some of those older, wiser people, and I lean on them a lot. My onion man, gosh darn, I listen to him and his stories a lot.

Yeah. I think we should probably since it's likely that we will have an influx of new people to the area who may or may not understand how things operate here. I think it'll be really interesting to try to match up the more experienced folks with somebody who's a little bit newer. I don't know if that would be through the Master Gardener Program or who but, we need to be figuring out how to help the new folks that are coming to the area to help them grow.

Since the pandemic, we've often talked about this before that if you're going to garden get your seeds early, because there's going to be a rush on seeds and plants.

We are seeing that through some of the major seed suppliers now.

Yeah.

Yeah. So very important to plan ahead.

Yeah, keep that going. I was listening to the radio and happened to hear Caitlin Youngquist's name mentioned, in regard to plant another row for a food bank, but I was told that that's a statewide promotion.

Yeah. University of Wyoming Extension is promoting, planting another row, and taking or donating that extra produce that you are growing to a food bank if they accept it, and it'll get distributed where it needs to go.

Yeah. We've been the recipients of some cabbage, [LAUGHTER] It was a number of couple years ago, somebody had an abundance of cabbage, and they were pleading for people to come and get a couple or two or three.

Please eat my cabbage. [LAUGHTER] I'm sure you've been the recipient of a zucchini or two [LAUGHTER].

I've been the donor of a zucchini or two.

[OVERLAPPING] I need to jump in here on that topic. [LAUGHTER] Of all things that I found when I was going to the University of Wyoming Extension Publications website was a zucchini cookbook.

We all need that.

Yes. Absolutely. [LAUGHTER]

Yes. [OVERLAPPING] another resource.

Because there are 9,428 wastes that makes [inaudible 00:38:34]

Maybe more than that. [LAUGHTER]

Maybe more than that. [LAUGHTER]

The universal food.

Yeah. It takes on the flavor of what you put into it. I need to jump backwards just a little bit. Jeff, you said you planted your onions?

Yes.

You're a guy that doesn't like onions.

You're correct, but my wife does.

[00:39:00] Well, there you go.

I don't allow beets in the garden, but I do allow her to plant onions. [LAUGHTER]

Now, there's one beet [NOISE] that I will allow, I think it's just called a golden beet.

They taste like dirt, Jerry I don't care what color.

The red ones do. [LAUGHTER] The golden. Gary, you want to weigh in on that?

I'm not a big beet fan either, but I do like onions [LAUGHTER].

There you go. See [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

There you go.

You're outvoted [LAUGHTER]

But we like that golden beet when cut it in half, put a little olive oil on it, and grill it, we find it that is pretty good eaten.

So that's acceptable for you?

Yeah. More so than the red. The red, I agree taste like dirt. But my wife likes pickled red beets.

Yeah. My mom used to pickle beets all the time and maybe that has something to do with my aversion. The pickle versions still tastes like dirt to me. [LAUGHTER]

Dirt. Our tools need to be sharpened, don't they Gary?

Tools need to be sharpened. Hopefully, you took care of that last fall that you cleaned them up, sharpen them, maybe put a little WD-40 on them so they wouldn't rust. They should have been ready to go. From last fall you had them all ready to go. But if you did not, then you need to bring them out, maybe take a wire brush to them, if they've got some rust on them, get that rust off of there, sharpen them up, coat them down with little WD-40 or something like that, and you should be ready to go. But then when you're done using them, clean them up, maybe oil them down, maybe re-sharpen them, so they're ready to go the next time.

There's nothing worse than a dull tool. Shovels, rakes, not necessarily rakes, but shovels.

Pointy things.

Pointy things, hoes. [LAUGHTER] Yeah.

You talked about the end of the season and your tools, that's why I'm smiling to myself, there's no end to the season for need of a shovel. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. That's true.

I'm either using it to trap gophers, or digging a hole for something, or moving some soil somewhere, even in the winter time. It's all here around use.

I guess one thing I should say about tools that have wooden handles, I know that some have fiber glass, or plastic, or something, but I've got a rake, and some

shovels or too [inaudible 00:41:36] Is like that that probably go back to my grand-dad's days, so they might be 80 years older better. How do you treat that wood? How do you take care of it? I took a PVC pipe, I think it was a two or three inch diameter, glued a cap on the one hand, the tube's about six-foot long, put a mixture of a 50-50 of the linseed oil and thinner, and put that handle [00:42:00] in that tube and then filled it up with that linseed oil-thinner mixture. You wanted to do that in the fall and let it soak for a couple of weeks, and then pull it out and let it drip dry, penetrates the wood, makes that handle lasts longer. You don't have splinters in your hand and overall it just makes your tools last longer.

I really like that idea.

I do too.

What's the thinner that you put in with linseed oil?

Paint thinner. It just thins out the oil so it penetrates the wood better, that's what it does.

Hey Jerry.

Yeah.

It's linseed oil thinner. [LAUGHTER].

For those inquiry minds, I just had to ask. [LAUGHTER]

Before we wrap up today, what do we got going on with the big pumpkin contests since we're going to probably be hitting on that a lot this summer?

Well, I think that the pumpkin contest is going to continue. It's going to look a little different, I think that we're no longer giving out seeds. I think you're on your own for seeds.

So good luck finding them.

This is a good time, you should have some seeds. I think that I may have some seeds. If anybody is really interested, they could contact me 5752297, and we can surely talk about that.

There are others in the state who may have them too, right?

There are others in the state who may have them. Jay's Giants is a really good resource for it. Dr. Caitlin Youngquist has a publication out about how to grow giant pumpkins.

Okay.

Really good resource in the war land area. Yeah, this is still just a little early but here in the next week or so, some of these people will start planting their pumpkins in a

five-gallon bucket and transfer them, or they'll get crazy and they'll put heat, tape into their garden, and maybe even prop a small tent over their pumpkin site and warm that area maybe with a heater, warm that area up and get going after a giant pumpkin.

Or use that empty lick barrel to cover it up at night.

You know what? That would be great. You have an extra one?

I might have an extra one. Do you need it?

Yeah.

Okay. All right.

We favor the blue ones.

I might have a green one.

We might favor a green one. [LAUGHTER] My brother and my wife wants to plant some tomatoes in those lick tubs.

Yeah.

Very important to drill a hole in it for drainage, and I'm considering drilling a hole on the side.

[00:45:00] Just because you can.

An inch above the bottom. Yes, just because I can, because then they'll always have a reservoir.

Yeah.

So it should take out some of that watering infrequent or too frequent water.

They will always have a reservoir of water that they can get to.

Yeah. What do you think of that?

I don't know. I think that works.

Then you won't have your [inaudible 00:45:26] right Jerry?

Yeah. That's what I'm hoping for. [LAUGHTER] because I've been that vacationing gardener before. [LAUGHTER] Even if I haven't left home. [LAUGHTER]

I've been the vacationing water before. [LAUGHTER]

I mean, we can spout all the good advice we can, but we have to follow it as well. Correct?

That's true. The other thing that we should mention is, what works for me may not work for somebody else. [LAUGHTER]

They're soil differences.

Yeah.

When does it ever become dirt? Or is it always soil?

When it's under your fingernails, it's dirt.

All right. [LAUGHTER] Because there's rules about saying that because I've been corrected. [LAUGHTER]

Yes, you have.

It's not dirt, is soil. [LAUGHTER]

I think we're probably close to time to wrap up here. Jerry, do you know of things happening in the community that we probably ought to talk about?

Well some of the local greenhouses offering really nice things to appease our eyes, Gerbera Daisies are one of them. I've not yet heard of anybody being able to start a Gerbera. I'm sure that it's been done, but it's difficult. But it's easy to buy a big nice pot of Gerbera Daisies.

Sure.

My favorites are the yellow ones. But I would suspect that as it's getting closer to mothers Day, I think Mother's Day is the big push for the novice gardener to go out. I would just encourage people to maybe go out and see what they might have available. If you don't have the space you can always put it in your garage, or in a window, and may pull in and out of a garage.

After that Mother's Day snowstorm, you can get it in the garage. [LAUGHTER].

Now, who says there's going to be a storm on Mother's Day?

Traditionally, we have a storm on Mother's Day.

Thirty years ago, when we were planting pumpkins commercially, we would plant Mother's Day and get a sunburn, but the weather seemingly has shifted so that we're a little later every year, and getting our garden in. I had a friend, that he didn't plan his stuff until June 1st. I think that's it a little late.

Yeah.

Just me.

[00:48:00] All right.

I plan on planting Cannas a little earlier than the 22nd, because normally the 22nd is our supposed end of frost period.

Yes. Gary, I think you're 10 days ahead of us, right? Aren't you about the 10th-12th [OVERLAPPING]

No. Well, I still look at the same. May 31st is our last frost-free day out here too.

Yeah. Okay. All right.

So you're taking a chance. If you have plants, and if you do choose to be aggressive, you need to have a sheet or put a [inaudible 00:48:39] on your plants.

Well, for smaller things, there are things that they call hot caps, which are paper-based. You might need to hold them down with something. There are walls of water and they're locally available, and item that are called sailor caps, which are a wire mesh support, and then you fill up a clear plastic bag with water and drop [inaudible 00:49:06] over the top of that container, that metal frame, and those will protect your plants if you are gung-ho about getting your garden out. Some good techniques to keep them from freezing or being damaged by frost. Gary, do you have anything that you'd like to add at the end here?

No, other than, hey, it's been great. Glad to be on initial program for the 2021 season, and look forward to working with both of you in the future.

Thank you, Gary.

As do we. We are glad to see you. Thanks for coming in today. Thanks everybody for listening to us, and Jerry, we'll see you next week. [MUSIC]

You've been listening to Lawn and 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 has many upcoming virtual and hybrid learning programs available to you. Listen each week, for details on new events and how to make your garden flourish. Good day, and happy gardening.