

[MUSIC] Hey, Wyoming, 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 variant to weather events, to pesticides, and pollinators. Our Lawn and Garden podcasts helps you improve your home garden as well as your small acreage. Let's welcome Jeff Edwards, Jerry Erschabeck.

Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS KERM Lawn and Garden program and we're gearing up for Memorial Day weekend. Good morning, Jerry. How are you?

Good morning, Jeff. Really good. Thank you.

Good to see you. Glad to be here. Our guest today is Donna Hoffman. She is from the University of Wyoming. She's an extension educator in the Casper area and a horticulturist. We've had her on the show before, but we're going to pick her brain a little bit more about gardening and planting, and all those things that we need to get ready for. Good morning, Donna. How are you?

I'm great. How are you guys this morning?

We're good. Glad to see you.

Yeah, it's good to be here.

Good to have you on the program. Before we actually dive in, let's take a few moments and listen to our sponsors and we'll be back in a bit.

[MUSIC] This summer Wyoming First Lady, Janine Gordon's Wyoming Hunger initiative, the Centsible 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 organization 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.

Good morning again. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS KERM Lawn and Garden program. Our guest today is Donna Hoffman. Since we're gearing up for Memorial Day weekend, I think it's time to start talking about planting and growing and all those things that we continue to talk about on the Lawn Garden program. But I think this is the weekend to get things going. [OVERLAPPING] Wait a minute.

Can we talk about the weather?

Yeah, we can talk about the weather [LAUGHTER]. Yeah. I don't know if you all experienced the crazy line of storms that just went up the state line basically, but there's some folks in my neighborhood who have sticks for alfalfa right now. It was

pretty significant. We actually received hail, a lot of wind, and some really vicious lightning. It's nice that it wasn't spinning and flying around but hail is always bad. Monday afternoon there were still piles of hail in my neighborhood, so it was vicious.

Yeah, That was a large storm threat.

Yeah, and very bizarre that it traveled directly straight North. It was a narrow band that traveled North. I don't know if you saw any of that Donna, but it was it was a little weird. [LAUGHTER].

Yeah. We've had unpredicted weather here in Casper several days over last weekend too. I miss the weather that you guys normally have, but I'm glad that I miss the weather that you have sometimes [LAUGHTER] because I don't like hail, but I certainly don't want to be looking for those spinning things in the horizon.

Yeah. There was a possibility of that. It's just the season. [LAUGHTER].

I'm very glad you didn't get any of that and then it was no worse than it was but I'm sorry for the producers that have been affected and potentially any early season gardeners that were affected as well.

Yeah. Secretly I wished for hail about the time that, I probably shouldn't say this, but the time that the poplar trees are producing their cotton [LAUGHTER]. If we can get a well-timed hail about that time then the cotton season is so much less, [LAUGHTER] sorry, I shouldn't say that out loud.

Well, cotton is one thing that you'd want to get rid of. I'm not sure you want all the rest of the destruction that comes along with that.

Yes, exactly. It's only happened a couple of times where it's worked out [LAUGHTER].

Are you allergic, Jeff?

Yes, I am [LAUGHTER].

Yeah. Usually those allergy people they hate resence age, they don't like yarrow. Yeah, there's a few things. [OVERLAPPING] Oh, sweet clover.

Yeah. [inaudible 00:05:14] brush.

Yeah. All those [inaudible 00:05:17] things. All those things those bees really like [LAUGHTER].

The butterfly.

Yes.

Are you all planting tomatoes this weekend?

You all are, so are you all done?

Y'all done or are y'all Jeff?

What? Jerry, my tomatoes have been in the ground since [OVERLAPPING] mid April [LAUGHTER].

Not all of us have that high tunnel. But hey, and how are they doing?

Great. I took the walls of water off of them today, trimmed them up, strung them up, and and I've got some tomatoes starting, believe it or not.

Wow [OVERLAPPING].

Yeah. I'm hopeful [LAUGHTER].

Now, another friend, fellow grower of mine, a friend of mine, he always takes about six to eight inch portion of his tomato vine from the ground up and just strips it there and then he weaves it into his wire cage. Do you guys do that?

I don't use a wire cage for support. I find that too restrictive and it prevents me from keeping the indeterminate varieties trimmed up like I like and so it's called a tomahook. It's supported at the top on a string line and it itself is a stream line and then it has little clips that you clip the tomato plant to the string. You can get in and do what you need to do and work. That string has enough support to hold it up. The only thing that I've trimmed off are the suckers. I don't trim off any additional leaves down below or anything like that. I would only do that if I was trying to plant it and wanted to do it in a little bit deeper than what the original plant started with.

Yeah. Last week we taped a from the ground-up video segment of planting a tomato in a trench. I know [inaudible 00:07:11] .

That information is available.

That one is coming out here pretty soon, but yeah, that would be the reason I would take off a couple of leaves at the lower end of the stem if it had gotten elongated and it was laggy and planting it in a trench will allow extra roots to develop on that lower stretched out stem. After you get it planted the plant begins to grow vertical again even though it's at a 90 degree angle from the stem that's below ground. I don't take those off and I've never woven one in to the tomato cage because the way we've been doing it is, put a tomato cage around the young plant, then put the wall of water around it, and then let it grow up through both the wall of water and the tomato cage. If I wove it around the tomato cage it would be smashed between the wall of water and the tomato cage.

Oh, yeah. We have hog panels.

Yes.

I think they're six inch squares and then they go to four inch. Maybe [OVERLAPPING] they're all the same.

But they're smaller on the bottom and then get larger as you go up.

That's what we do is weave it in and that's what my friend did, took off the bottom six inches of leaves. He thought that it cleaned up the plant better. But I was reading an article [OVERLAPPING] about taking those suckers off and rooting them and having the same mother plant as the tomato plant that you are growing.

Genetic clones.

But you might run out of season.

Oh yeah [LAUGHTER].

As you're waiting for them to produce roots you might end up running out of season. If you had a means to carry them over from here to here that would work. That would be successful. That's what I did at the end of last year. The suckers that were developing at the end of the season I trimmed off them and got them to root and then carried over plants into this year.

Did you put them in a state of suspended animation over the winter?

No, I kept trimming them back. [LAUGHTER].

Oh, okay.

So these were indeterminate tomatoes?

Yes, they were indeterminate, two varieties. They began as grafted tomatoes, and I just wanted to see what would become of them this year if I just took the main stalk. I no longer have the original root system that came with it, and the top was a different plant, so we'll just see what happens.

Little experimenter?

Yeah, I know. It's been a while since I've done a really good experiment.
[LAUGHTER]

You guys mentioned those hog panels. I have a plan in place to use them as a arbor from one raised bed to the other, kind of an arch over the walkway, to grow our hanging fruit like squash and beans and cucumbers. But last fall when my dad bought me mine, I sent him to the store to get hog panels because that's what I'd heard them called, but the store that he went to calls the shorter ones hog panels and the taller ones cattle panels or stock panels. Now I'm waiting to get them switched from the 36-inch height or 38-inch height to the 52-inch height. I haven't put them in place yet, but we're still in hopes of being able to do the little arbors from raised bed to raised bed this year.

Are they 16 feet long?

Yes.

Then you're going to go from?

Ground level up next to one raised bed, up and over, and then down the raised bed to the ground level, and tie them to T posts on either side.

So you should have about an eight-foot center height on the arc, or, well, 7 1/2, maybe something [OVERLAPPING]

There you go.

That's a really good way to trellis your plants. I actually used them set up on their side instead of making an arch, and then I trellised my raspberries and my peas and my cucumbers.

Do you keep them 16-foot long or do you cut shorter sections?

Cut shorter sections to fit in the space that I'm using them in. Livestock panels, [LAUGHTER] or whatever we should call them, work really well to trellis things on. The other thing I wanted to comment on is, the arbor system that you're doing, Donna, there have been individuals who've actually used that as their frame to create a high tunnel. They use the metal and then cover it with plastic and can create the [inaudible 00:12:04] [OVERLAPPING]

Do they have to put duct tape at the joints?

Yes. I think they wire them together, and they make sure that they go over it really well and look for the sharp edges and either tape them or pad them somehow so that it's not going to rip through.

We actually put duct tape around the upper edges of our tomato cages last year just in case they would come in contact with the upper layers of the plastic on that greenhouse we built last year. Then we need [OVERLAPPING] to wrap holes where the vertical wires joined the circles on the tomato cages, so we put a little protective layer of duct tape on there just in case.

So am I. Brenda and I like to drive around and look at other people's stuff, and we found this individual in Torrington that was doing that, Jeff. [OVERLAPPING]

Wait a minute. Jerry, is that considered a hobby?

I think so. [LAUGHTER]

Isn't retirement great? [LAUGHTER]

Yeah, it is. [LAUGHTER] Well, let's back up here. The flowering trees and the flowering lilacs and the bushes have just been spectacular around Torrington. I don't know about anywhere else, but around Torrington, we have a tremendous amount of flowering trees. That was really what we were doing, is looking at all the foliage, and now the flowering trees have gone past, and the flowers have fallen down and all that sort of thing. But on one of our trips down the alley, we saw this guy had a little

bit of a wainscot with wood, two-foot high, and then arched his panels over. He's even made a door. It's really quite cool; he zip-tied his panels together. Then I didn't see anything about taping some of the sharp corners. I didn't realize that would probably be there, but you bet it would be. But it was just neat to hear you guys talking about it and have actually seen somebody do it.

His is open air or it's covered with plastic?

It will be covered, I believe.

Okay.

There's a lot of creative gardeners out there. It's amazing. [OVERLAPPING]

Well, I tell you.

A lot of these things that we talk about and suggest might not work for somebody else. [LAUGHTER]

Right. Sometimes the supplies that we all mention are out of a price range, [OVERLAPPING] and getting creative to get to the same results is all about making every yard their own.

Using that cattle panel, my uncle would tip it upright so it'd be eight-foot tall, and he'd grow his cucumbers. He'd have to help train them a little bit but said once they got going, they'd go right straight up the railing. Then he'd get in behind, and that's where all the cucumbers seemed to be, where you put it on an angle [OVERLAPPING] That's where all the cucumbers were, and they were all straight.

Vertical growing of cucumbers is probably the best way to do it. Because it gets the plant canopy up off the ground, it gets a little more air exchange so there's no disease, and it's really easy to harvest. You can see where the fruit's at generally, and get them picked. Once we started vertically growing cucumbers, I won't go back to growing them on the ground.

Well, I got the idea, I think it was when you were still working at the extension office in Goshen County, but there was a watermelon growing through one of those panels that stuck there.

Yes, it did. It was well supported. [LAUGHTER]

But as long as you keep an eye on where those fruits are developing and they don't get wedged in, I'm sure that one had to be opened in order to be harvested.

I think you're correct.

But if you keep an eye on them, and they don't get stuck in there, which, cucumbers shouldn't, some of my squash, if I do that, have the opportunity to, I suppose. But I'm hoping we'll be able to watch them with them dangling on the panel hanging vertically.

[OVERLAPPING] Sorry. Go ahead.

Sorry. Do either one of you grow pole beans, or do you just do bush?

I tried pole beans last year, I wasn't really impressed. I might plant some more this year. [LAUGHTER]

They're a longer growing day, aren't they?

I did think so, yeah.

I think they're 60-80, and bush are 50-55.

Okay.

I looked the variety up that's in the Grow a Little Extra program this year, and we weren't sure whether it was a pole bean or a bush bean when we picked the packages up, but they are a bush bean. I know [OVERLAPPING] we've tried different beans at the house, but I have not done a great job supporting them, so I'm not positive that we've picked one or the other. But since we're going to have the vertical growing ability, I am planning to try some pole beans for sure this year, and put them on one of those arbors.

Perfect.

Those arbors just makes growing fun as well. Kids like to go in and out of tunnels, so to speak, so you could make a house out of sunflowers as well.

Yeah. I've seen a teepee where they're angled towards the center, and then an open area in the middle underneath.

Just having fun, and gardening should be fun.

That's right.

If it's not fun, you're doing something wrong. [LAUGHTER]

Well, except growing weeds. Nobody, I think, loves to grow weeds. If you grow onions, you have to keep them weeded.

You do, yeah.

Onion's juice do not like weeds.

Well, it's best if your garden doesn't have weeds because you don't want the competition.

We're looking for that soil profile this year.

What do you mean?

Well, we used to have a weed profile, and we'd just weed-eat it. [LAUGHTER].

Oh, yeah.

We'd weed-eat it down to about two inches or so, and then have a carpet of weeds. Well, that still doesn't stop your weed plant from producing seeds. With the weed eater, you just keep throwing them out.

If you're weed-eating around your onions, you're probably cutting the leaves off.

Yeah. We do that by hand, but down the alleys and stuff.

Oh, okay

The walkways?

The walkways.

You don't allow Myrna to use the weed whacker near the onions, do you know?

No. [LAUGHTER] But everywhere else, gosh, dang. That weed eater is just wonderful. We have a spot around our roses, and it's on the west wall. I think that we're going to try to plant a few pumpkins to try to keep some of that down and some of those weeds down. But she can weed whack pretty close to rose and not hit it, because that's bad, and whack around a tree and not hit it, because that's bad, so she's really quite good at weed whacking.

Hey, so I want to shift gears a little bit. Jerry, a couple of weeks ago, you send me a picture of an iris. Do you have lots of irises growing?

I don't know why that iris decided to be there, my first bloomer.

It was a freak?

I think so. [LAUGHTER] Because I haven't had anybody else blooming yet, but I certainly have a lot of bud, my iris.

Will they start opening this weekend?

I think maybe a couple might. We were walking around, and Myrna says, "You sure got a lot of iris coming around." [LAUGHTER] I go like, "Yeah." I've moved a few because they are easy to move.

Yeah.

Gosh, they are easy to move and you just keep making more iris beds, but they're a nice spiller. I made it so that it would be the edge of another little flower garden that we're making. D my brother-in-law gave us ground cover and he had it in just one of those black trays that are, I don't know, 18 by 14 or so. By the time we had gotten it, all the soil was compacted together and it was just like a cake.

Are you talking a weed barrier?

No, it's a ground cover.

Plants.

They are plants.

Oh, okay.

A ground cover, and I don't know what the plant's name is, but it's a plant. So I took my knife and just started cutting it like a cake or brownies and putting little plugs in. I had never done that before, but I'm hopeful that it'll really help define a corner and define some edges.

I'm going to guess that it's a vining type of plant.

Maybe.

Was it Time?

It's just have little flowers. It's just about this tall, about three inches tall and little white flowers on it and, he said you could even put it in the cracks of your patio.

I wonder if it was not Snow in the Mountain but Snow in Summer. Is it a gray foliage?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Maybe so.

Cerastium tomentosum, I think it's snow in summer.

Next time I talk to him, I'll have to get the correct name for it as well.

Do you have a brother that runs a nursery?

Nope. He's just an avid gardener. He lives in Denver, brother-in-law.

Brother-in-law. Okay.

Yeah.

He has a garden of his own?

Yeah.

Or two green zones?

Well in Colorado, their growing season is just a little longer. They can start quicker and they can end later.

Just a wee bit.

Plus he has a little shed that has grow lights and that sort of thing. He gets a jump on a lot of stuff.

I'm actually planning on getting some ground cover. I'm not sure what to do with a threshold between our front yard and our backyard through the gate and I've been defining some flower beds along the edges, but the other day I decided that it needs some division between the front yard and the backyard, so I think I'm going to plant some ground cover that you can walk on. Time is of course the first thought, but I'm not sure that's what I want to put in there, but that Snow in Summer did occur to me as well, but I'm looking forward to figuring out what I'm going to put there and getting rid of the really wide-bladed grass that I keep digging up and pulling and it creeps in from the edge.

The forever battle with grass.

Yeah, absolutely.

Sorry I had the dumbfounded look on my face when you were talking about ground cover, I call that stuff mulch. [LAUGHTER]

Living mulch?

Living mulch.

Yeah. Okay. I get it now. [LAUGHTER] It's like our discussion about hen and chicks a couple of years ago.

Now, wait a minute, what about hen and chicks?

Well, I believe we were having a conversation talking about hen and chicks and I had poultry on my brain and that was not what we were talking about [LAUGHTER]

I started a project with iris and Hens and Chicks. The Hen and Chick is a brown-tipped Hen and Chick and the iris are doing really really well. It's not the regular Iris but it's a taller variety.

You're the iris man, I can't help you.

Yeah, I can't help myself either today. [LAUGHTER] I'll think of it. Anyways, the combination of the iris and the Hens and Chicks are nice.

Do you plant the Hens and Chicks in the middle of the iris after they start forming, I wouldn't call it a dead zone in the middle, but they move out, it's kind of like a fairy ring.

It is a dead zone, a fairy ring. No, but that's a great idea.

Just a thought.

Just a thought. Now when you do get that fairy ring with your iris, I would suggest

chopping that middle up just to delineate where you're at. Just chop it up. You could put hens and chicks in that center of fairy ring. I decided to put them into rows and I have a little sloppy area by my well shed and the top iris are at the top and then row of hens and chicks in a row of iris and then hens and chicks.

Okay. You're just seeing who's going to out compete the other.

That's right. But I did have one of those fairy rings and I've just straightened it out and made a line of demarcation. I left a few there [LAUGHTER] and I just straightened that row out.

You've created a DMZ?

Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

I remember. I don't know if it was Jerry that was the speaker, but one of the years I came down to your spring garden conference.

Program. Yes.

Speaker talked about the irises and it's really helped me over the years explain it to master gardeners, but the mother plant and then the two daughter plants, every year that the mother plant doesn't bloom after it's produced the two daughter plants, and so harvesting those daughter plants off of there and spreading them out actually keeps your colony, for lack of a better word, all blooming and not just filling in space where you get that dead center area.

Yeah. Interesting.

I don't think I was your speaker on that.

I was thinking the speaker was from Nebraska but I can't remember.

Yeah, he was but his name is not coming to me right now. We had him on the program a little about five years ago on the radio program, but his name is not coming to me today. You know what, let's take a break and listen to our sponsors and we'll be back right after this.

[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.

Hey everybody, welcome back to the KGOS KERM Lawn and Garden program, I'm Jeff Edwards, along with Jerry Erschabeck and our host, Donna Hoffman. Prior to the break, we were talking a little bit about irises and I think Jerry has something that he would like to add.

Irises are so tough. First-time gardeners, second-time gardeners, lifetime gardeners-
Lifetime gardeners.

- lifetime gardeners, irises are so tough you can step on them, you can tramp them, you can drought them, you can run over him with a lawnmower at the end of their season.

Significantly neglect them.

Oh my gosh, my brother took them on a motorcycle trip from Guernsey to Houston, left them in their garage for about six months and then decided, well maybe I'll plant those and they bloomed. [LAUGHTER]

Now I don't feel so bad about the two that I'm remembering I left in the back of my car last weekend after the master gardener plant sale. I think I'd better find those and get them planted before they're in there for six months.

They've rolled underneath the driver's seat, Donna. [LAUGHTER]

They could. Actually, I think they're in the back by my tool bag.

Yeah. You better find them.

They don't stink, they don't seem to rot, they are tuber. I'm telling you, if you have any place even where you're going to demark your backyard from your front yard or wherever you're doing, iris in amongst that mulch or your ground cover would be great.

Way to tie end to other persons on the conversation.

I step over them to get through the gate and into the backyard then, right?

Well, put some on either side of your gate, they'll be with you forever. Make a gate.

Another border.

Yeah, make a gate out of iris.

Okay.

They're easy plant, I love them.

Delineate the transition.

Yeah.

What I needed the other night was something to hold the gate open. I actually almost got smacked and knocked over by the gate when I was stopping to pick something up behind me as I went through the gate, turned around to pick it up and it about knocked me over.

Because of the wind.

The gate shut on me, yeah. Anyway, I'm going to try to come up with an interesting way to attach the gate to something when it's open so it doesn't slam shut on me again.

Piece of baling twine in a loop.

Well, maybe.

Something more visually appealing than a piece of [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. [LAUGHTER] Speaking of something at work, I did try something a little bit unusual, Elisha. I know I've seen garden beds before that have a bed for the framework around them and I'm not totally into that. But when we were moving stuff from the house in Rawlins to the house in Casper to the house in Ronan, we accumulated a pile of headboards from middle antique beds and two of them are quite ornate. Anyway, they're rusted and they've been outside for quite a while, and I decided I was going to grow my sweet peas off them. I have been late getting my sweet peas in the ground. They should have been in the ground about a month and a half, maybe two months ago, but I'm getting them planted now. But I was stalling because I didn't get the inoculant for peas. I wanted to give them the best chance possible since they were getting started late so our feed store finally got some in for me. Shipping for some reason and supply chain stuff affected it, but it took about two weeks from when they were going to get it in when they ordered it until it arrived. I've finally gotten the inoculant and my sweet pea soaked and they're in the ground and I'm waiting to see them pop up so I could see them growing up on these antique headboards.

Sweet peas are perennials, right, Donna?

Well, the ones that I grow are annuals. There is a perennial sweet pea that's a hot pink color and I have been told there's a white one. But the other thing that I bought the other day online is, I can't remember the genus name, but the color is azure blue. I think it's azure [inaudible 00:31:44] . Anyway, I have these, they will match my shirt, bright blue flowers and I had a friend invite me to a food party. They sell stuff and ladies all get together and visit and whatever. They're doing them online virtually now. But I ordered blue butterfly tea and it has a pea flower or AP flower in it that's got the blue color to it. But if you add lemon to the tea after you brew it, it changes from that azure blue color to fluorescent pink.

Interesting.

Yeah. I'm looking into whether I have the right pea flower and saving the blue flowers and trying it myself.

A true acid test?

There we go, yeah.

[LAUGHTER] Interesting.

I'm sure somebody was completely surprised when they made the blue tea and then they put a sliced lemon in it and went, "Oh look what happens."

Look what happened.

Interesting. Jerry, what do you got going on this weekend? It's a three-day weekend. Gardening, the weather might not be very helpful. [LAUGHTER]

Well, I think we're planting tomatoes. I think that we're getting a lot of our plants that we've had, that we've been babying in and out of the garage, and that sort of thing. I think we're going to do a full-fledged getting them into the ground. I continue to watch my small area of grass that I have patched. There was an area south of my garage that was a low spot so I had some fill soil put in, worst soil. I've been telling you, the heavy clay soils, man, they're difficult to work with. [OVERLAPPING] This was a basement dig, so way down deep we get the clay soil. Part of that is clay and as I step out of my door to the south, you step down and it always stays wet. I can't believe it. It stays so wet that I have a footprint there that's about six inches deep. That's that 10-inch soil you walk on and you grow 10 inches.

You need to put a stepping stone in that hole, Jerry.

I do. But your recommendation of oats and grass seed, the oats came up pretty fast in about a week. I don't see the grass seed coming up yet but it should.

It should.

With the oats breaking the soil and coming up there, it's a good thing. Probably, just more gardening this weekend. We're probably going to put some flowers on the graves, that sort of thing. [OVERLAPPING] What about you guys?

Well, I think we have all of our garden planted except for some summer squashes, so that's all done. I think that the majority of our weekend will be spent: weed control, weed pulling, weeding, some type of weeding activity. We've really got to get after some cassia that's in and around in some spots, and maybe some mowing. I'm sure there will be a little bit of irrigation and those types of things, but that's what we have planned for the weekend. Donna?

I'm actually going to be helping carrying Casper [inaudible 00:35:27] Trail's Trust Board puts on their annual cleanup day. As a part of that, this year, with State Forestry's 100 year anniversary, they're doing the centennial tree planting. I'm going to be helping to plant trees along the Platte River Trails with that group of people before I take off and help my mom with water project that they started last summer out in Shirley Basin. Part of it in town planting trees. I think we have about 30 trees left to plant here in Natrona county for that centennial tree planting out of the 100 that we got, we're planting here. That an interesting story, I had a young man call me about two weeks ago now. He was getting married in a week and a half and his wife to be had been planning to do a unity activity and they wanted some

information on how to get a tree to plant. I said, "Have I got the tree for you?" [LAUGHTER] So I gave them one of the centennial tree planting trees and told him that all I needed was a photo of them that could be part of the 100 year celebration for State Forestry. I'm hoping that he and his bride got that tree planted and they got married last Saturday, so a week ago. I'm hoping to get a picture from them here shortly that I can send on to State Forestry. They can use with that celebration. I thought that was an interesting occurrence to have happen with the centennial of State Forestry.

Is the tree planting a statewide program?

Yeah. Several of the counties, especially those that have Master Gardener programs got a 100 trees from the same supplier that most of us use for our conservation seedling tree program. They were mostly bare-root, but some of them were in the little narrow containers.

Sure. Yeah, perfect.

Last week the Grassroots Girls had a sale, and Mana came home with some tree bush. I said, "What is it?" She goes, "I don't know." [LAUGHTER] They said, "Plant it, it'll be pretty." [OVERLAPPING]

Excuse me, the Grassroots Garden Club had their first sale last year.

Grassroots Gardens Club, yeah. They keep changing names, sir. [LAUGHTER] But they said, "Hey, grow this, it'll be pretty." She also brought home one other time some grape hyacinths and somebody said, "Don't grow those." We've decided to let those naturalize [LAUGHTER] because gee, they're hard to get rid of.

Yeah.

They are hard, hard to get rid of. Talking about trees, our anniversary trees and Mana reminded me that we also planted a lemon honey locust and it is doing really well. It's just a nice yellow. You don't see too many of those, but there are a few around Torrington. Our Hot Wings maple is doing really well. Our anniversary is in August, so we like to plant a tree in August, it's a good time, unless it's really hot. It's still an anniversary tree even if it's in September. [LAUGHTER]

I ordered a couple of new trees for our area. Actually, as soon as we get them here, I'm going to plant a couple of shagbark hickory trees. I ordered two large trees. We had planted one here but it came and it was about five or six foot tall. I'm going to start this one, it's one of those little seedling bare root trees so it's only a foot and a half tall. Then I ordered a buttonbush because it's supposed to be hardy enough to grow here. I found out that all three of them are native to around the Chicago area, which of course is built on the swamps around the lake that have been filled in. I probably should have done a little bit more reading before I just said, "Oh, they're hardy to zone 4, I'm going to plant them or order someone to plant them."

So they may need a little more water than [inaudible 00:39:50]?

The larch in the buttonbush indicate that they may need more water than most of our gardens around here where I'm trying to encourage people to plant drought-resistant plants. But I think I'm going to plant them together near a mulberry tree that I already have growing since we've eliminated the cottonwoods and the willow trees in our windbreak. This will add to my building of an arboretum out here. Hopefully, the ones at the one end that need a little bit more water will survive together.

Donna, didn't you build a hoop house or a greenhouse in your backyard?

At home, yeah.

How's that going for you?

Well, it's going pretty well. It does get pretty warm in there and we have not yet put any vent in it. So far the spring we have not rolled up the one side, but almost all growing season last summer we just left the east-facing side rolled up, and we left the west-facing side rolled down. But it's almost touching distance on both sides for the fence that's on the west side of our yard. It's not quite square with the yard.

With the world?

Well, neither is our lot. [LAUGHTER] The town of Vernon was built along a runway. Most of the time the pilots weren't going into the sun directly east or west. Anyway, our whole town is built a little bit at an angle to the rest of us.

Are you and your husband constantly having debates which direction North is?
[LAUGHTER]

No, we don't have that direction. I actually have had a hard time when I'm drawing the map of the house, trying to figure out where North is on the map. But other than that, it doesn't really matter.

You know spouses have those constant debates.

We have those but it hasn't been about North and South. [LAUGHTER]

Fantastic. Memorial Day weekend is the kickoff of summer and it's that time to put your garden in and think about your garden and get to your local greenhouses and do a little walking around and figuring out what you need. Jerry, I think you reported earlier that the supply in the greenhouses is dwindling. I think Mother's Day is the big time when folks actually start purchasing a lot of those things. The choices might be a little bit thin but there's still some things there that if you haven't started your garden, you can go and get them. Make sure you visit your local greenhouses and support them. Other things going on that we need to talk about this week?

When you're having a garden greenhouse, even the simple things make really pretty presentations. Snapdragons, xenias. Xenias come up from seed so does marigold come up from seeds really well. But if you want to jump, buy some marigolds,

xenias, snapdragons, those are some of my favorites to grow and to have around the house.

If you don't have the space or don't think you have the space, just pot them, grow them in a pot.

Yeah.

Pot them in the water.

I had a pot of xenias in the greenhouse last summer just to bring the pollinators into the greenhouse to pollinate the tomatoes and the peppers that we had in there and the cucumbers as well. They were great.

I don't want to open up a can of worms, but Donna say that z word again.

Xenia.

Jerry, you say it.

Xenia. Xenaria..

I thought it was Xenia. [LAUGHTER]

Xenia? Okay. [LAUGHTER].

I could be wrong.

Donna, the other day I said a name of a plant and Jeff goes, "What?" What was that? [LAUGHTER] It's an H word. Not [inaudible 00:43:57] .

Hydrangea.

Hydrangea. I said something like hydrangela.

Yes.

He goes, no. [LAUGHTER] You grow up calling something something. At times it's hard to break that rhythm of what you're saying.

Yes.

It's like not hearing lyrics to music correctly. [LAUGHTER]

We had a discussion of down at the Denver Botanic Gardens that became a little bit of an inappropriate conversation down there about one species, the way it's said in English-speaking countries as opposed to the way it's said in Germany because of the pronunciation of one of our large evergreen trees could be misconstrued. But the one that I usually get comments on is clematis versus clematis.

Yeah. It's either way, I think.

Yes.

Which one is that? I might draw on that as well.

I would say clematis.

Yeah, clematis.

I think it's a regional thing. I think it's what you have heard from how others pronounce it, but hydrangela. [LAUGHTER].

That was way after.

Is doubling all. [LAUGHTER]

He must be hanging out with the Adams family a little bit too much. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah, sure. Again, driving down the road you're looking at them and they you go, "Wow, look at those." You go, "What are those?" He goes, "Hydrangelas." [LAUGHTER] Yeah, they are. But no. It's funny about those. They really like a lower pH. How do you get a pH to get that low, to grow like a purple color?

You guys have a coal up there so you probably have access to some sulfur.

Okay.

That would be helpful. But you would have to do it every year.

Every year.

Peat moss and some sulfur or you could water with vinegar.

Yeah.

Wow. Okay. I don't have any, but I often wondered how those people do it.

If I'm going to grow one, I'm just going to pick one that's white, then I don't have to worry about that. [LAUGHTER]

Call it good.

Let it just be white anyway. I hate to call time, but I think we are at the end of our program. Donna, anything you would like to add before we wrap up?

Well, those of you over in the banana belt have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. I hope all of you get a chance to go out and remember all those people that have gone before us as gardeners.

Jerry, final comment.

Memorialize them and plant something, even if it's a sunflower. Find something that you really like and plant a few of those. Get some iris. Ask somebody, "Hey, can I

have a start of your iris?" "Sure. You have to dig it. Come on over."

Jerry will give you iris. Exactly.

Come on over.

Everybody we'd like to thank you for listening to us ramble on once again. Please enjoy your Memorial Day weekend and get out there and grow something. We'll see you next week.

You've been listening to Lawn and Garden with the University of Wyoming Extension specialists, 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 on how to make your garden flourish. Good day and happy gardening.