

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 & 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 event, 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. [MUSIC]

Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden program. Good morning, Jerry, how are you today?

Hey, really good. Thank you so much.

Good to see you.

Nice to be seen [LAUGHTER].

You know, that's the radio joke, right?

Yeah, it's always the radio joke [LAUGHTER].

Our guest today is Amy Seiler, she's the Director of Parks/Recreation and Leisure Services for the city of Gering. Good morning, Amy, we're really glad to have you here.

Morning. It is always great to get to spend some time with you guys. Thanks for the invitation.

Before we get started, we're going to take a few minutes and listen to our sponsors.

[MUSIC] This summer Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative, is a [inaudible 00:01:28] 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.

All right, good morning, everybody. Welcome back to the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden program. I'm Jeff Edwards, along with Jerry Erschabeck and our guest today is Amy Seiler. Let's just hop right into it, Amy, what do you want to share with us today?

[LAUGHTER] You know, it's been a while since we've got to visit and obviously, I think the last time we talked, things were dormant and we were just talking about looking forward to spring. Well, spring is arrived, and I anticipated this, but I was hopeful. We've seen significant mortality in some of our trees and shrubs. That was due to that crazy cool temperatures that we had last October.

[OVERLAPPING] What you're actually saying is some of that dormancy is now permanent.

Yes, that's a permanent dormancy for some of those things [LAUGHTER]. I'd like to hold out hope as long as possible, but we're at June 1st and if some things haven't leafed out, we need to really start looking at making some decisions. I want to acknowledge to everybody that it was a rough fall. I think that the fall started and then we had an open, dry, kind of warm winter and that added to the injury to the trees, and so they are under a lot of stress. Not only did we lose some trees, but we have trees that are stressed. I think it's important that we talk about today, some of the things that we can do to help alleviate some of that stress for our trees and shrubs and other plants in our landscapes.

Yeah, it's always tough to make that decision to completely eliminate something or start over in your landscape. Unfortunately, I took out two yesterday, it was a tough decision, but I bet the bullet would cut them off, [LAUGHTER] because they weren't coming back.

They weren't coming back. The other thing that's really difficult is, us plant people we're hopeful people and you don't want to give up hope you're like, "Only half of it is dead, I think I can get it to recover." It's really important to know, especially in woody plants, trees in particular, once trees start that downward, we call it the death spiral, they may not die instantly, but it's a process that they really can't recover from. You have to determine, how much of the tree have I lost? Because if you've lost over 50 percent, even 40 percent, the likelihood of your tree recovering from that is way less. You need to determine should I just remove the tree and get something started? Or am I just going to sit here and watch it suffer for the next five, honestly, to seven years? You're not going to get a lot of growth out of it, it'll just continually start to decline. You have to determine, when shall I remove it now or later? [OVERLAPPING] It just sounds like you made a tough decision this weekend.

When you're in that type of situation, and you know, it is in decline, you don't want to take it out, you're stubborn, you think it's going to pull out of it somehow. Would you recommend possibly planting a companion tree next to it to try to get a start before you take the other one out? I know that can be a little bit of a problem when you go to take the next one out, but you don't want to be left with a blank hole. What do you recommend?

I like where you're going with that, and they have started using the practice that you're suggesting, we call it shadow planting. That's what they're doing in communities that have a large number of ash trees and they have to manage the actual removal through emerald ash borer. What they're doing is they are planting trees next to ash trees with anticipation that those ash trees are going to be coming out in the next 5 -10 years, and then you already have another tree established. Now the thing that you do need to think about when you are making that selection is what types of trees that you're planting, because some trees only want to grow up in open-sunny environments, and some trees are very tolerant of growing up in the

shade of other trees. When you're going to the nursery and making those decisions, you want to talk to your nursery professional and find out what trees would be better growing in the shade of others. I talk to you guys about this periodically, but using that old forest management philosophy of pioneer species, those are the trees that want to grow up in the sun, that's like the aspen and a lot of the oaks and those types of things. Those are pioneer species that come in and start to re-establish the forest early on. Then you have your late succession trees. We'll talk about not west of the United States, but East in the United States, those are like maple and buckeye, those trees can grow up in the shade of other trees. Using that example, if you have a tree that still has some decent canopy, you could place a buckeye, that tree likes to grow up in the shade of others. Sometimes if it's in full blazing sun, it'll get a little bit of scorch on its leaves. Buckeye would be a good one for people to put in the shadow of another tree. I'm not going to make suggestions for a lot of maples, but maple is another one of those that can handle a little bit of shade. Just digging in with your nursery professional and finding out what trees would be best to grow up in the shade of others, that's going to be my recommendation to the listeners.

How do I train the squirrels to plant my blue [LAUGHTER] acorns in the right places?

I have just really lucked out, I have the most amazing squirrels that have put oak trees in the most strategic locations in my yard. It always makes me sad when I went to trap them and send them somewhere else because I'm like, well, they do a couple of good things in my yard. [LAUGHTER]

A friend of mine gave me a bucket of black walnuts and he said, "Just put it at the base of any tree and allow your squirrels to plant them". I never had one come up.

Because they ate them.

They ate them. [LAUGHTER] Thanks for the lunch. [LAUGHTER]

My squirrels have been really good about placing my oaks well, but they have been terrible about placing black walnut. I don't know, the ground must have been pretty soft, we have an electrical transformer in our backyard and that is the only place that they will plant black walnut, is right around that transformer. I have baby walnuts coming up everywhere, it's crazy. But [OVERLAPPING] I do tell you, I do love stuff that grows from seed, because you know it actually wants to be there. If it doesn't germinate, there could be a variety of reasons, but if it grows up into a decent seedling, you know that it likes the soil, it likes the environment. Sometimes I just rearrange my landscape to appease where the trees are coming up.

We have a lot of thornless honey locust and we have trees coming up like crazy. Some of them get big and you hate to chop them out, but they're at an inappropriate place. We've always said, "We need to pot those and then start our own little forestry sale" [OVERLAPPING] But I only have one species.

[LAUGHTER] Well, we do want diversity, Jerry. [OVERLAPPING] Let me ask you this question, let's go off on [inaudible 00:10:06] guys because you're really good at

that. Your honey locust, are they suckers from the mother tree or are they seedlings that have sprouted up?

Seedlings.

Okay. Very interesting. They are thornless, but they do produce a seed?

Correct. [OVERLAPPING] It's a big pod. It's about 6-7 inches long.

I like those honey locust pods. I know I'm in the minority. [OVERLAPPING]

I do too, I have friends that just hate the crap out of them. [LAUGHTER]

The squirrels like them. They're always chewing on them.

Squirrels will dig them, we mulch them. We just take the lawnmower and run over them 17 times and they're gone.

That's why they have so many seedlings [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

that's probably true. Now, for your visitors, if they want to get some honey locust started, I would not normally recommend growing honey locust by seed because number one, generally, those that grow from seed or have thorns, and that's an undesirable characteristic, unless you're in the country and you're just needing to get some trees up and going. That's probably not the best thing for an urban landscape or a community landscape because those thorns are so nasty. But if you're trying to get some of those to germinate, they have to go through a process. One is a stratification process where they have to be chilled, of course, there has to be at certain temperatures. Then the other is a scarification process, which that seed coat has to be softened and scratched off. The honey locust go through a scarification, you have to soften that seed coat. A lot of times the way it softened is through the gut of an animal and then it is softened enough. But if you don't want to go through scat in your yard looking for a honey locust seed, there's a couple of different ways that you can soften that seed coat. I'd suggest that listeners look it up, but I know in my propagation class in college, we did several different methods to soften that seed coat. I'm not going to tell you to use hydrochloric acid, but I know that's one of the things that we did use to soften the coat. But if people are really into propagating, I know there's some great literature out there that could assist people, but honey locust is one where you have to get that seed coat softened.

I have a locust in my yard that has the thorns and produced us a lot of pods. Everything that comes up, I'm assuming, is the thorny variety. If anybody wants some of those, [LAUGHTER] and we'll have a little digging party.

[OVERLAPPING] Go ahead Jerry.

Those thorns are sharp and they're long and, man, a kid trying to climb that tree would come away bloody.

One of the benefits is that the deer leave them alone.

It's a mechanism for them to protect themselves. I just think that nature is so fascinating, what it has adapted so that it can protect itself. I always wonder, does it keep the squirrels away too? I think [LAUGHTER] squirrels are so slick that they can navigate through that a little bit.

It doesn't slow the squirrels down at all. [LAUGHTER]

Now, you're keeping on that topic of the honey locust, now you know why we have seedless and non-seedless, right?

I think I have my ideas, but why don't you tell us this. [LAUGHTER]

We're just quizzing people. Honey locust is male and female. There are male trees and there are female trees. What they've done in the industry is, they've found trees that don't have any thorns and they've started to propagate trees from that parentage. It's how they started, this seedless and thornless. Then they started figuring out that they were obviously male and female so they only propagate from the thornless male trees. Therefore, you have a thornless seedless tree, generally. The really interesting thing about trees is that they're male or female until they're stressed out. When a male honey locust gets stressed, they're not humans so it's not exactly like us, it actually can start to produce seed pods. That is just so that it can continue its lineage, which I think is pretty cool, but trees are amazing and adaptable and they are always finding a way to survive.

Amy, every time I have people at my yard and we look at the honey locust that I have versus the thorny locust, is the thorn version sometimes called a black locust or is it still a honey locust only the thorned version?

It's a honey locust, it is the thorn version.

Okay.

The black locust is actually a totally different genus and species completely. I believe that is Robinia, which has the pretty purple flowers on it.

Okay. So I do not have a black locust, I have a really thorny honey locust. [LAUGHTER]

Good to know. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

I also have a lemon honey locus. The leaves are really light yellow, green. [OVERLAPPING] It's just doing really well.

Is it called lemon or is it called sunburst?

Probably it's called sunburst.

Okay.

I would defer to you.

Jerry has just renamed it [LAUGHTER]

I actually like the name lemon, it seems really fresh, but I think that it's a sunburst Jerry.

Sunburst.

Unless there is different cultivar that I'm not familiar with.

As the extension guy, I would get calls on why is my tree yellow? Well, if it's that variety, it's not going to get any greener than [LAUGHTER].

Something is wrong with my tree.

There are a variety of differences that cause it to look like that and it won't change color, it's supposed to be that color. [OVERLAPPING].

Exactly.

There are few around Torrington and some of them are huge. We've made it a quest to drive around Torrington and looking at our flowering trees and bushes and now they're seemingly going away. The lilacs are still blooming pretty well, but now the iris are taking hold, and so we still drive around those same blocks and look.

I think it's going to be an Irish year, Jerry, our iris patches are just loaded.

Are they starting up pretty hard for you?

Yeah. This last weekend they started opening up and there's just full of stocks with flowers. I'm going to be pretty showing here in the next 5 -10 days.

How exciting.

Going back, we're either looking at a maple or a buckeye to put underneath those ashes?

Yeah. Or any tree that's struggling and you know, Jerry, I would be really hesitant to grow out maple and encourage that in our neck of the woods and that leads me to that conversation that we said we might want to start off with is, what did we see make it through the winter and what didn't make it through the winter. Sugar maple, I've noticed some that have done somewhat well are looking really tough this spring. I'm always hesitant to encourage planting that, because it's on the edge, it's marginally hardy, but Ohio buckeye if you get it from the right seed source, that would be a really good one, and for people, it has a little bit different shape and it does have buckeye that it produces. If people don't want to mess in their yard, they may want to avoid it, but I'll tell you my squirrels, I don't ever see a buckeye on the ground my squirrels take every single one of them and plant them in strategic locations in my landscape.

I'm sorry to hear that maple isn't one of them because we planted a Hot Wings maple and it wintered well and it's just a six-foot stick.

Jerry, really? [LAUGHTER].

I mean, the diameter is probably bigger than a pencil, of course, but maybe three quarters of an inch going up the stock and it's about six foot tall.

That's about the only maple that I've seen come through the winter okay. But the ones I've seen are a little yellow and I think that's because there is probably a little bit of root damage that occurred. They're having a hard time pulling up everything, all the nutrients that they need to be fairly healthy. The maples that people love like sugar maple, red maple, those that everybody wants in their yards for the fall color. Those really struggle out here very seldom do we see any that get to maturity out here. I'm not going to say it's impossible, but there aren't a lot.

Yeah.

We certainly don't want people to rush out and buy maple to plant underneath a tree that's half dead. I think there's some better options out there, the buckeye some of the lindens I think would be just fine and understory of, because that is another one that comes along later. You could do American linden, little leaf linden would probably be okay. Those would be some that I would suggest. [OVERLAPPING]

Yeah, I'm thinking of small leaf or large leaf linden?

American linden is the larger leaf and the little leaf linden and American lindens native to the United States. The little leaf linden which has a little bit more strongly pure middle shape. That would be another one, that your listeners could try in the understory of other trees.

Yeah. [OVERLAPPING]

Hack berry honestly, hack berry is ridiculously good about growing in the shade of others, and this is a terrible example, but notice how well it does seeding down in your alley and growing up in the shade of other trees. That's a prime example of, it can handle that. Hack berry is a tough tree has come through our winter really well, and so that one would be a really reliable one that they could incorporate into the landscape.

How far away from your trunk of your ash tree?

You want to be able to dig in the ground and you're going to have some pretty good size brits. I'd say that probably 6 - 8 feet would be ideal shadow planting. That would be my suggestion.

You do want to go in right next to it?

No and another reason and Jerry touched on it earlier is because you've got to get in there and remove that tree eventually and so you don't want to be right on top of

your other tree because the likelihood of them accidentally dropping something on it is pretty great.

Yeah. Give those tree handling guys a little bit of room.

Yeah. They would appreciate it. [OVERLAPPING] Then will be mad at them if they squish your tree, either.

[LAUGHTER]. Plan accordingly?

Yeah. Exactly.

This past weekend I saw a guy taking down a tree in Guernsey. I stopped because the chainsaw that he had, was a 42 inch blade. [OVERLAPPING] He was taking down a big tree, but holy cow, what a big machine.

Isn't fun just to see the art of actually falling trees, it's pretty amazing and especially when you have the right equipment.

And the right people doing it.

Correct.

Now.

Yes.

I've done it before and thank God, we didn't botch it, so that we hurt ourselves too much. But, if you're going to take down trees, you need to know what you're doing and it's not an on-the-job training activity and especially where there's danger of striking a building or a vehicle.

Or people.

Or people.

Or people.

You need to be really careful.

Well, and I think everybody needs to remember that besides, I think the Alaskan's crab fishermen, forestry, and pre-work is the second most deadly job out there, and there's a reason for it and people need to take that seriously. I think everybody thinks, "I know how to cut down a tree," but if there's any decay in a tree, sometimes those trees respond way differently than what you would expect and that's when those injuries happen or when you don't set things up correctly, a tree branch will [LAUGHTER] swing in a different location and maybe take your ladder out. It's really important that when you get into those bigger trees, you have a professional do it. It really is important.

Yeah.

Yeah. I think it's about time to take a break, listen to our sponsors and I believe after this we're going to be talking about edible landscapes. [MUSIC]

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Everybody, we're back. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KGOS/KERM Lawn and Garden Program, along with Amy Seiler. We were talking general tree issues before the break, but I think one of the things that Amy wanted to address is the possible planting of edible landscapes, which is something near and dear to me. I prefer to harvest something edible off of the things that we plant. Amy, what's on your mind about this today?

I really wanted to talk about this. Just because I was planting in my yard yesterday and I'm so entertained by this. I think that sometimes we get caught up in the notion that we can only have vegetables in our vegetable garden and we can only have flowers along the foundations of our house. I ran out of sun in my landscape in certain spots. My garden area that's designated my garden it hardly gets any sun. I've decided that I'm going to start sticking things in other locations, and I've actually been doing this for several years. But I think that you always want to be walking to your landscape and experiencing it. If you're a gardener, there's always got to be a reason for you to want to go out there and see what's going on. When you tuck some of these little edibles in your landscape, you're much more engaged in the whole landscape. In years past, I have tucked broccoli in my landscape beds, right around by patio, and I love it. Because, I'll be honest, I'm not the best gardener, but I can walk out on my patio and say, "I've got a couple of little broccoli heads that are ready," and can just grab those at a moment's notice. They really do look good in that landscape, the foliage, the coarseness of that large foliage is really cool. Sometimes if I forget to go out and harvest my broccoli, I don't know if anybody has let their broccoli flower and go to seed, but that is one of the coolest plants in the fall that it's incredible for the pollinators. They are all over it. When you're done with broccoli, let some of those go to seed. The flower is really pretty in my opinion. It's a really bright yellow flower and it looks great in the landscape. I like to tuck a little bit of broccoli here and there. Another plant that I use, I love kale in my landscape. [NOISE] I love that funky foliage that it has. I think it adds great texture. It's a really good companion with other plants that I have. I use the kale, and I will have Zinnias around the kale. I have some Agastache around the kale. It just is another layer in the landscape. Then my kale periodically will come back the next year, because I think it's a bi-annual, if I remember correctly.

Yes.

I love the flower on the kale the next year too, because I'll let it flower out and seed

out. That one is a really good one place you can walk by and just harvest and nibble off of it, anytime you want. This is what I'm trying this year because I noticed that at my church last year, I have a couple of artichokes that I have incorporated. That foliage, it's a silvery foliage. If you're just looking to lighten up a landscape a little bit, so incredible and the form is really strong. If you're really needing a couple of little spots just to make a statement, and just to have something unique, artichoke might be something. Then the flower on it is pretty darn tool as well. Those are a couple of things that I would encourage. The other thing, you guys will laugh, but we don't have to remember and we don't have a lot of sense, so we stick pumpkins and gourds all over. They turn into the best ground cover and weed control for me and some of my [LAUGHTER] beds that I don't have a lot in.

Sure.

We are tucking all of those little edibles in all over the place just to make it work. I just wanted to give some people some prompting and encouragement to try some different things.

There's one other and it's a nasturtium. Once you have that flower come out, you can actually put the flower and put that on your salads.

Yes. Jerry, it's funny you mentioned that because I actually have some nasturtium seeds that I picked up that I thought I'm going to stick this around my patio, because I'm just going to want to stick that in a salad. If my memory serves me correctly, it has a little hot flavor like the radish. Am I remembering that correctly, Jerry?

I can't remember. All I know is that my mother-in-law used to say, "Let's put some nasturtiums on our salad." I said, "Okay." [LAUGHTER] I can't remember the flavor of them at all.

That's funny. I forgot about another plant that I have in my landscape that's fun. I was blessed with this by the birds and I do not know where they got this, but I have strawberries. Not the ornamental strawberry, but true strawberries that I will use. It's seated in my landscape and I thought, "Good idea." It just acts as a little ground cover for me. Then I get the bonus of the fruit periodically. Now I will tell you that my dog gets the fruit before I do generally, but it still is another plant that people can add to their landscape that not only looks pretty and functions as a ground cover, but it serves as food source for us as well.

If they're June bearing, they're usually the first fruit of the season.

Yeah. We mostly have veggies, of course. I'm not super successful, Jeff, I know you've been a lot more successful with berries, but I think tucking them in your landscape, but just having them here and there is a fun thing.

It's a fun little surprise if you happen to be out there weeding or something and you get a tree along the way, right?

That's right. A little energy boost as you're out there. [LAUGHTER] My yard probably sounds like a hodgepodge, but it's fun. The birds have blessed me with many things. I have wild raspberry that they have dropped into my yard. They didn't plant it in the best location, but we get wild raspberry going on a little bit as well, and that's fun.

One of my projects this year, I am propagating a bunch of apricots seeds that are pits that came from my mother's tree in Riverton. I'm going to put them all into tree row in a line where I did not have very good success at trees surviving in about 20 years. [LAUGHTER] Whoever lives here after me will have the joyful abundance of apricots. Hopefully, they like them. [LAUGHTER]

Apricots trees are really kind of a cool tree, because they grow up, they have a really pretty canopy. You may or may not get apricots every year because they flower so early and generally around here, they freeze. But have you had a report on your mom's apricots?

She's loaded. [OVERLAPPING] The trees that she has at her only property are loaded.

My brother's trees in Guernsey are loaded and I think that the neighbor across the street, they look loaded as well. Maybe a good year. This season and wouldn't you agree, Amy, this colder, slower spring, wetter spring has really promoted flowering bushes, flowering trees, and that sort of thing. The crab apples have just been phenomenal. The white flowering bushes, whatever they are. [OVERLAPPING]

They might be more than one, Jerry.

Oh, yeah.

I don't know.

The snowballs.

Oh, okay.

The weeping white wins. I don't know what the names of those are, but they just spun spectacular.

You're going to say hydrangea again.

I was not going [LAUGHTER] to say hydrangea this time.

That's funny though. But those should be a Vanhoutte spirea, those white ones that are drooping. [OVERLAPPING].

Oh, yeah. Spirea.

Yes. It's either probably a Vanhoutte spirea or a bridal wreath spirea. It's so interesting. Jerry, you are right. We had great temperatures and not crazy late freeze, so the flower buds did well and did not get damaged. I think that we've had some really nice color like we haven't had in years past. Because I think last year,

didn't we did a freeze on the 24th of May last year with some really ridiculously late day? [OVERLAPPING]

I think so.

I think that hammered some stuff. I think the beautiful moisture that we got in March, I'm so thankful, for I think really helped out get the moisture in the ground. Then our nice, not erratic temperatures in the spring have really helped a lot.

But I agree with you, Jeff, that if you plant that row of apricots, you'll have a really nice row, if not for yourself, for somebody else.

I think apricots have spurs on them, don't they? The trees? I wouldn't call them thorns, but I think that might be helpful and a little deer deterrent, as well.

Dennis says, that the deer stand up on their hind legs and try to eat some of those apricots. [LAUGHTER]

That's funny. I'm so glad that you brought up apricots, because that Jerry, I'm so glad that you have such an affection for them. They're a really, really cool tree that we probably should be using more in our landscapes just as an ornamental. Because they're formed, like you said, it is cool and they have pretty good fall color too. Does yours? Yes?

Yeah. Amy, are there different varieties of apricots? My brother says that his is rather the tasteless ones. [OVERLAPPING]

That's disappointing.

They don't have a lot of really strong apricot taste.

The variety that I have, they are very flavorful.

Yeah. I don't know if he needs more sugar, [LAUGHTER] whether they need to be on the tree longer or I don't know.

[OVERLAPPING] He needs a sweeter disposition.

Yeah. [LAUGHTER] Jerry, there are different cultivars of apricots. I am not extremely well-versed in that. Let's talk about this a little bit. Do you need to have two different cultivars like with apples for the cross-pollination, or can you have just a single cultivar? Do either of you know? I feel like there's a sun glow and a moon glow that I think you're supposed to have for apricots. Do you guys happen to recall? I don't want to lead your listeners astray.

The variety that my mother has does not seem to need a companion.

Okay.

Yeah.

Are there others in town that are maybe cross pollinating with it, do you think, or is that a pretty odd tree?

It would be quite a ways away.

Okay.

Even like apple trees, apple trees can be fairly far away to be pollinated as well, can't they?

Yes. Yeah, they most definitely can. They can be cross pollinated with the crab apple.

Yeah.

We'll have to look that one up to confirm it.

Yeah. I'm sorry. I just wanted to make sure that the listeners were aware that they might want to look into that if they're really into the fruit production part of it.

Yeah. Because Dennis tried to make wine out of the apricots and he said there wasn't really a real strong apricot flavor and so I said, "Hey, maybe you might have to put some essential oils into your mix." I don't know if that would make a change or if he wanted to make syrup, I don't know if that would enhance his flavoring. But you might have to do something.

Done a little quick research and apricots are self pollinating.

Okay. Very good. [OVERLAPPING] I'm glad you checked on that. Thank you.

Yeah. Now we're clear. Jerry, I want to let you know keep talking about the Cornelian cherries.

Cornelian.

Cornelian cherries. One of those Roman names. [LAUGHTER] I was able to plant four of those this year. They are leafing out and we'll see what happens. They do need different pollinators. I have two that will or should produce fruit and two that are just the pollinator, those that provide the pollen, so hopefully they'll survive this winter. They're looking good so far. We'll see what happens.

Would that be a male and a female tree then?

No. I just think that they need a different tree to provide the correct pollen so that they are producing fruit. I think they're more of a shrub than a tree.

Is the cherry just a pie cherry size?

No, I don't know. Amy, do you know anything about them?

I don't. I've not had a lot of success growing them and so I I'm not well-versed on

that. We used to carry them many years ago when I worked at a garden center and we never had great success, so I can't add anything to this conversation.

Darn. [LAUGHTER]

Sorry guys. [LAUGHTER]

I know one of our guests, Lucinda Mays, has one up at the Chadron or has several of them up there. I've always been intrigued by them. Something in the dogwood family that actually has a edible fruit or consumable fruit by humans, so thought I'd give it a try.

If they're growing up in Chadron, obviously Lucinda Mays is an incredible horticulturist. It has been extremely successful getting oddities to grow up there and really test soil. I would definitely defer to Lucinda on making some recommendations to people on how to successfully grow them. But I love it when things prove me wrong all the time. I love that, especially plants. When I don't think they're going to grow and they do. I am well pleased. [LAUGHTER]

I recently gave a program to a bunch of master gardeners in Riverton and one of the reoccurring themes was you can't ever tell a master gardener not to grow anything. [LAUGHTER] You can't tell gardeners period, not to grow something because they will prove you wrong [LAUGHTER].

They will prove you wrong. I always reflect on this. Our jobs is to make the observations and make the best recommendations for people, but there's always going to be times when people are able to grow stuff because they have this perfect soil and micro-climate that just allows things to take off. I always celebrate those victories with those gardeners, because that's what you want to push the envelope a little bit. That's why people are in gardening because they are curious and I love that.

I had an older friend that he grew canna lilies on the south side of his brick house. I said, "When do you dig those up?" "Well, I don't dig them up." I say, "What do you mean? You can't do that?" [LAUGHTER] Then he goes, "Well, I have and I can and so there." [OVERLAPPING].

I choose not to [LAUGHTER].

"Do you mulch them?" He goes, "A little bit, maybe if they get lucky." I said, "Okay. Apparently, on the south side of your house, maybe you could keep and continue cannas growing and not have to dig them up." My uncle who lived in Oklahoma, of course, that's a totally different zone, they never dug theirs. We would go there and dig some up and bring them home and plant them. Of course, they would die in the winter, and we'd go, "Hey, we need more cannas. [BACKGROUND] I'm getting to the point where I dislike digging them anymore and may have to give them up. [LAUGHTER]

Start putting them out on the south side of your buildings, Jerry.

Yeah. [OVERLAPPING]

[inaudible 00:42:09] I'm alive.

Now. Our dahlias, I don't know. We're doing something wrong with dahlias because they get too wet in the winter as we're storing them and they rot. I have to do some research on that.

When you're storing them; how are you storing them?

In animal pine chips that we buy from the feed store and cleaning them up and then putting them in a box with the wood chips and then putting them down into an outside cellar.

You said a couple of things there that confused me. What's an animal pine chip?
[LAUGHTER]

Darn squirrels.

I don't think I'm comfortable with that.

[LAUGHTER] It's for animals, it's for the kids for fair, and they always have it out [OVERLAPPING] in front of the feed store and says, "Hey, animal bedding." There we go.

Okay. All right. There we go. I'm easily confused. You got to speak plainly for me to hear. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. You know what? I have that effect on people. [LAUGHTER]

Maybe you shouldn't put them in your seller. It's probably too humid in there.

Too humid, because they used to suck that water right up and the cannas do well. They come out just like a grill, firm potato.

Try putting them in the back of your closet in your house, so it's dryer. That would be my suggestion. Amy, your thoughts?

Yeah.

Well, I feel very fortunate. On our park board for the City of Gering, we have Dr. Don Gentry who is a dahlia fanatic and he has all these incredible varieties of dahlias, and he digs them and he wraps them in newspaper, if I remember correctly, and stores them in his basement. He has incredible success every year. But I'm going to check with him and if I have anything to report back to you on what makes him so successful, I will share that with you, Jerry.

[OVERLAPPING] I'd appreciate that.

His yard is incredible. He has probably a 30 by 30 space that he just has dahlias in and he grows all these different kinds in there, it's pretty remarkable.

Jerry wants a tour. [LAUGHTER]

I would like a tour. I'd like to have a conversation with him.

Jerry, I can make that happen.

Because dahlias, if you've never grown them, they're a fairly easy plant to grow and the results are very rewarding. Some of those dahlias are the size of a dinner plate. What's that? Six to eight inches. The most varieties are not, the spider dahlias, they're just real flimsy, little petals, hence the spidering look They're nice and spectacular as well.

Dahlias, I think, are incredible, and I think it's so funny, Jerry because you said they're really easy to grow. I cannot grow them for anything, so they may stay alive. They never bloomed for me. I just love the talent that different gardeners have because everybody has their own art on the way that they can make these things successful. Do you feed your dahlias all the time, Jerry? Are they heavy feeders? What do you do to make it so beautiful?

He plants them in the ground and they grow. [LAUGHTER]

Just like my wife says, you put them in the ground, you give them a little kiss, a little drink of water, and you walk away.

Like the over water? Do you let them dry out a little bit?

Sure, we do it all. [LAUGHTER]

Just like roses, I don't think you want to water them late at night because they can get some fungal stuff happening on them. We use a rose fertilizer on them once in a while when we can remember to get around to it and not much.

[OVERLAPPING] Here's the answer, Amy, you're loving yours too much. [LAUGHTER]

That's what I think. Sometimes we love them too much. The reason I'm asking is because we have this new plaza in Downtown Gering and we're always trying to try new things at the plaza that's one of the purposes for having it. As you mentioned dahlias, I thought, oh, that would be stunning to have dahlias incorporated into the landscape there, but I'm not successful. We might have to swap some information, Jerry on how we can get dahlias to grow down there in [OVERLAPPING] our plaza.

I'll be picking on my wife and she says, "Why are you picking on me?" I say, "It's because I love you." and she'll say, "Love me less." [LAUGHTER] Maybe we could say the same thing about your dahlias.

Point well-taken.

Honestly, I stir up the soil a little bit, I put a moat around them, and you should stake them.

Okay.

You should stake them as you plant them because they'll need a little bit of support.

Because they get about how tall? How tall do yours get, Jerry?

They vary. Some are the shorter guys, and most of them are about between a foot and two foot.

You need to come to Dr. Don's house because he has some that are like four feet tall or taller. [OVERLAPPING] Yeah.

Those are the big ones and the big varieties. You really need to stake them.

So love less, support more. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

I feel like this is a marriage encounter here. [LAUGHTER]

Family counseling.

Family counseling through gardening. [LAUGHTER]

I think we're getting close to the end of our program. Jerry, is there anything going on this weekend in the area that we need to know about?

You need to start going and looking now at iris. There are some really pretty, and I know your wife doesn't like yellow, but on D street, there are some three-foot yellow iris and they are just gorgeous. I had to drive around a couple of times to look at them and I was hoping to find somebody outside. I may have to go knock on their door and ask, "Could I have one?"

You shouldn't say that she doesn't like yellow, she would just like a little more variety than the yellow versions that we have.

She needs to come out to my house and.

Trade.

We need to do some swapping.

You do.

Yeah.

[OVERLAPPING] Go ahead.

That's all I've got and thank you for allowing us into your homes for an hour of giggles and laughter and maybe a little education about gardening.

Let's hope a little education. Hopefully, it's a little educational and family therapy.

Amy, [LAUGHTER] thank you for being our guest today. We really appreciate you joining our program and we hope you come back again.

Thanks. It's always great to be with you guys. I learn a lot. Thank you.

Thanks, Amy.

We learn a lot as well. Thanks, everybody, 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. There is a new tweet for details on new events and how to make your garden flourish. Good day and happy gardening.