

[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 event, to pesticides and pollinators. Our lawn and gardening podcast helps you improve your home garden as well as your small acreage. So let's welcome Jeff Edwards, Jerry Erschabeck.

Good morning, everybody. I'm Jeff Edwards for the KERM Lawn and Garden program, along with my co-host, Jerry Erschabeck. Good morning, Jerry. How are you today?

Good morning. Doing good. Thank you.

Good to see you. Good to be back in the studio. I'd also like to let everybody know that our guest today is Brian Sebade. He is an Extension Educator from Albany County, uh, stationed in Laramie. So we'll be questioning him today. Uh, ah, good morning, Brian. How are you?

I'm well. How are you, gentlemen? I'm excited to be here for the, uh, questioning that will happen today. [LAUGHTER]

The inquisition [LAUGHTER] .

Yes.

Okay.

Well, thanks for- thanks for going down the rabbit hole with us.

Yeah. Thanks for joining us today. Uh, before we get started into the, uh, inquisition, let's, uh, take a few minutes and list our sponsors.

[MUSIC] This summer, Wyoming First Lady, Jennie Gordon's, Wyoming Hunger Initiative, is an [inaudible 00:01:33] nutrition program, and the University of Wyoming Extension are partnering to launch a program called Grow a Little Extra. We invite you to join us in growing a little extra to donate fresh produce to local anti-hunger organizations that support our neighbors facing food insecurity. Stop by your local extension office to pick up your free seeds or donate extra from your garden harvest. For more information, visit www.nohungerwyo.org/grow, W-W-W.N-O-H-U-N-G-E-R-W-Y-O.O-R-G/G-R-O-W.

Good morning again, everybody. This is the KERM Lawn and Garden program. Jerry, you know, it's been an interesting week. The cool down has been a little bit nice, but I think that we're coming back up on our temperature, and August is going full swing, uh, getting close to the end of season. This is the time of year where I think people are going, oh man, I hope it freezes so I get rid of my garden. [LAUGHTER]

A lot of people are saying, "Oh, yeah, I'm done. [LAUGHTER] My tomatoes are rotting on the vine, they have fallen off. I'm- I'm ready. Uh, I think I'm just kinda ready."

Well, we're not quite ready yet. I think that I would like to see a little bit cooler weather, but that's a two-edged sword.

Yep, it is. Um, you know, I don't think I'm quite ready for my garden to be done yet. But if anybody's out there who enjoys pulling weeds, they can call me. [LAUGHTER].

Call me, call us.

I have lots as well, so give me a call too.

Oh, yeah. So they can call all of us. How does that sound? It seems that, uh, you know, the weather is, uh, cool enough in evenings that I can go out and maybe pick two five-gallon buckets of weeds every night. That's my extracurricular activities and skills [LAUGHTER].

We had a grand goal of having a soil profile in the garden and that didn't happen.

Yeah.

And so we're- we're- we've got a weedy profile. So our weeds are- are- are about, uh, oh, I don't know, inch tall. But, you know, every so often we go through with the weed eater.

Which I think manna enjoys, right?

Manna seems to really like doing that and- and, you know, if we do it first thing in the morning, there's a lot of splattering of chopped-up weeds.

[LAUGHTER] Getting wet.

Getting wet.

So, uh, let's move on to our guest. I know Brian, we chatted a little bit before the program started. What kind of things are you seeing that you think our listeners would be interested in hearing about?

Well, I think it's that time of year when we start to see all of the disease and pests, things really start to show up in full force. The things that maybe we didn't notice earlier on in June, beginning of July, but now that we're here to August, yeah, things are kinda in full force. So [OVERLAPPING].

Are grasshoppers an issue for you this year, Brian?

Sorry to interrupt you.

Uh, not a lot of grasshoppers, no, not for us here.

Yeah- yeah, we- we haven't- I haven't seen a lot. I did some modeling of scenarios yesterday where I kinda consider it a trap crop or just grass and there were quite a few grasshoppers there, but they have not been affecting our garden or other growing things yet. They've just kind of been hanging out in those spaces.

Yeah. We haven't seen too many of those, but, you know, it was an interesting year. I finally had my first fire blight call yesterday, which were pretty cool and wet the spring, but I don't know if the quick heat up did something with that, but, you know, we really haven't seen the fire blight issues with a lot of our trees for, you know, our crab apples and other apple trees and things like that. So I don't know if you've been seeing a lot of that in, uh, Goshen County, but, uh, luckily, this year it hasn't been a terrible year for fire blight. So-

You know, being out around this year, I haven't noticed it as much as I had in the past. Jerry, have you noticed it when you're out around?

On my tree, and it's our own fault because we used a sprinkler on it, an oscillating sprinkler. And that force seems to bring on fire blight. Now, we have the- the- the three sprinklers that you hook together and they create a nice mixed pattern. Uh, now, they really don't mind that at all. And so I think people are their own worst enemies sometimes when it comes to inviting a disease process to start.

Yeah. Aren't we all our own worst enemy?

I- I think so.

Lots of times, yeah. You know, the other thing I've seen quite a bit of as, you know, Laramie tends to have a lot of cottonwoods. And one of the things I've noticed a lot of is like some damage that might start on a lot of our younger trees, Jeff, so it might be some skull, but maybe starts out on the south side of a tree or somebody comes by and they've hit it with the weed eater or brushed up against it and kinda knocks and branches off. But really the Cytospora canker seems to be a bit of an issue that we've had this year. So Cytospora canker, I don't know if everyone is familiar with that, but you kinda get these little, kinda like pimple type things that start growing on the bark, smaller twigs. You'll get some oozing that lots of times it happens, the bark will maybe change a different color or start to actually crack and fall off. And so it's one of those that's really tricky as you know, Jeff and Jerry. Because once that gets in there, there's not really a good way to get rid of it. So now really just trying to make sure your tree is healthy, it hasn't been fertilized in while maybe thinking about a fertilizer application to make sure it's healthy. But the other part of that is just kinda making sure that area is well taken care of, so, you know, damage doesn't continue. So, you know, sometimes whether it's been a- a buck deer that comes by and gets it with his antlers and kinda leads to it that next year or whatever else. But, you know, you can wrap it with something that breathes a little bit. You know, you don't want to throw like tar, anything else like that. But, uh, we tend to see a lot of that, um, in Laramie. And for whatever reason, fire blight has not been bad, but boy, that's been pretty bad this year. So young trees, old trees, it's kind of been all over the place.

Would you recommend wrapping it with the leaves?

Um, they make like a lightweight material, like a tree wrap that's usually white or a tan color. So that's nice because it keeps things from bugging it. No pun intended.

Jeff, I know you like insects. Putting that on there, but then it also prevents it from any more sun scald that might happen in other places on that trunk if it's a smaller tree. But I don't know the exact material, but it's almost like a real heavy paper of sorts, and it kinda reads that way. You can find that in most your local home and garden stores or nurseries.

Okay.

You can try that. Otherwise, you know, just leave it as is. Try not to mess with it too much. So-

Breathable tree wrap.

Yeah- yeah. Don't, you know, put black plastic on it or something like that or, you know, white plastic. But just-

Like a little tape.

Yeah, or electrical tape, a lot of those wraps that you can- you know, they can find. It even would be like kind of the pre-wrap that you might put for a twisted ankle. If you've ever had that done before, they'd have it on the tape, you know, kind of that material, what it's similar to so.

Okay. So what causes this disease entries? And if you're- if you're controlling it or reducing it by just wrapping it, how are you- how are you able to prevent it, I guess? Trying to avoid damage to the tree to begin with?

Yeah. Try to avoid it to begin with and just really make sure that tree is healthy to begin with too. It's really stressed. It's going to be more prone to those diseases. Like I say, it's a troubling one because there's not a great way to just get rid of it, right? The tree wrap is not going to fix it and there's not really anything that we can spray on it that's going to take care of it. So really good management leading up to that. So making sure you've got a good layer of mulch around the base, so it's got consistent soil moisture preventing physical damage if it can help it, and even just planting those trees in good locations, right? So if it's a tree here in Laramie on the Southwest side of a house that's just getting beat up by the wind constantly in the snow and the ice throughout the winter, gonna probably be more prone to that than a tree in a more protected area and things like that, so.

I've got a couple of trees that are in my- I don't normally like to do this, but we've got some trees that are in my turf. So the sprinklers, when they're oscillating, they actually are hitting the trunk of the tree. I'm beginning to wonder if that is contributing to the demise of the tree and I'm thinking about putting some up-something up to try to divert the water from direct spray onto the trunk.

Right. Yeah. That's a- that's a great idea. Um, the other one, you know, you see it a lot with a lot of our bigger trees as wet slime flux or wet wood disease, different things. It goes by different names. So you know if you've ever seen it-

That's a great name, isn't it? Wo- wood slime flux?

Yeah. Isn't that great? Yeah- yeah. People look at you like, what did you just say is on my tree? Yeah.

Um, is that the one that, uh, it starts to ferment and smells like beer?

I do not think it smells like beer, maybe, uh, beer cans that have been left out for, uh, activities the night before, uh, you know, back in your college days, but it does not have a great smell. But yeah, it's kinda- it leaves like this wet stain that comes out. So you'll see it on young trees and you'll see it on old trees. So, you know, lots of times where a branch comes off the main trunk is where you'll see that. It looks like water's coming out of the tree essentially, right?

Yeah.

Um, so again, it's another disease that we deal with. There's, again, not a whole lot we can do besides making sure things are really well-watered, really well taken care of. But, you know, lots of times you'll see it. Trees that are in city parks that are pretty well maintained and get plenty of water, but, um, it's just one of those that we constantly deal with. And they're just, again, not a whole lot we can do besides just making sure those trees are well taken care of.

So Brian, that- that ooze that comes out, insects find that attractive?

Yeah, I- I don't see a ton that are on that usually, Jerry. Jeff, I don't know if you've seen a whole lot for insect activity on that, but usually, there's not a ton of insect activity on that. You know, you'll usually just see kind of a- just kind of that wet bark and different things like that. So occasionally, you might see a couple of flies or something like that on it, but it's not like you're gonna see that with all sorts of wasps and whatever else feeding off of it generally so-

So if you have a, uh, service or you're hiring the neighbor kid or you yourself particularly, uh, you probably should really pay close attention to how close you come to the tree with the lawnmower. Now, most people who grow trees in their turf don't seem to have much of a mulch base at their- at their tree. I know I've been guilty of that before and, uh, we've been told that make that mulch base, keep your lawn more away from the tree. Your tree will love you for it.

Yeah. You know, if- if you're not big into that one thing they do make for a lot of the smaller tree starting out and you could actually cut the center out as it continues to grow. They make a synthetic ring that you can actually put, you know, from a distance, it looks like might be a mulch ring or something like that. So that might be an option too that you think about. It's not a huge, uh, ring that you put around, but just enough that you're not gonna get it with the weed eater, the lawnmower. You know, you'd rather tear up that disk and the synthetic material than an actual tree so-

Are those things generally made out of recycled plastic or- or like tires or something?

Rubber?

Yeah. I'm not sure what they're made out of, but yeah, some sort of plastics, synthetic material. Yeah.

Like I think that's usually permeable and it allows water through, doesn't it?

Yep. Yep. Yep.

Okay.

For sure it does. Um, and it just as a good layer to kinda keep the weeds down, you don't have to weed eat right there, um, and keeps you away from it.

It's kind of like your breathable tree graph.

Kind of, yeah. Yeah.

[LAUGHTER] I found that I have some excess cardboard that I've made a- a couple of circles that I'm gonna put down as a- as a- a starter ring to try to help keep me away from the- my trees, especially my hot wings maple because it's just a young tree and I want it to have as much chance of any of them to grow.

Yeah.

You know, Jerry, it doesn't have to be round.

[LAUGHTER] But you go around the tree when you mow, so that's your reason.

There are some people that like perfect straight lines, right? So-

Oh, yeah. You-you use- [OVERLAPPING] you know, [LAUGHTER] how-how appropriate of a comment that is. And I thought I had to have a round one. So [LAUGHTER] there's nothing wrong with a square and put a, put a hole in your middle of it so that you have an ability to put it around your tree [LAUGHTER].

Yep. Then you can line up those lines just perfectly, right? Those mow lines? Yeah [OVERLAPPING].

[OVERLAPPING] I found that eight out of cardboard. That'll be the next, uh-the next big rage. So I like it, Jerry.

Yeah [LAUGHTER].

You can even paint it if you wanted to [LAUGHTER].

Caitlin would like that too. Oh yeah.

[inaudible 00:15:13] that mulch pile started up.

All right. Um, so let's see, we've talked about some tree diseases. How- Brian, I know that you would do, uh, low tunnels, which are similar to high tunnels. It's just smaller

spaces. How is your garden growing?

It's doing well, if you leave the dog outside with a nice dog house and the rainstorm comes sometimes that figure out that the low tunnels a lot better than the, uh, dog house. [LAUGHTER] So that's one thing to keep in mind. I can carve out a nice little bed and the beam patch there and they stay perfectly dry while their dog house also stays dry, but that's one drawback, Jeff, that I'm now learning what the dog and low tunnels, but things are doing well. You know, for the most part I really enjoy my tunnels that, you know, I keep half of them covered. You know, half of that tunnel is still has plastic on it this time a year, the front half is open to let it, you know, get plenty of- of sunlight, and- and air and everything. I really like the ones that are oriented north and south, that way the prevailing west wind kinda protects those plants a little bit better. So, yap, so it's long ways north, south, so the plastic is on the west side of the- the low tunnel and so it prevents it from getting a ton of damage from the wind. So I really like that. For me here in Laramie, the beans have flowers produced or kinda getting towards the tail end of our bean crop, which is kinda- kinda crazy for Laramie to get them started that early. But otherwise, all the warm season stuff is finally really starting to enjoy things and a little bit of extra-extra covers all my summer squash, winter squash, tomatoes, different things like that are- are love and life there. So-

How are your beats doing? Just out of curiosity? Not that I really care, but just a curiosity.

[LAUGHTER] Well, I thought this might come up. I did not plant very many beats a shear Jeff. So-

What? Why not?

Just a few. Just a few. I've tried to diversify my diet a little bit, so-

Well, I'll-I'll have to let Diane know that you have none to share.

Yeah. I've got probably just a few I can't share, but yeah. [LAUGHTER] Um, but yeah otherwise, [inaudible 00:17:28] Jeff, uh, since I've diversified. I've done quite a bit more Swiss chard kale, peas, a few of other the- the leafy green things. And so they just really enjoy being in that low tunnel and it helps me out get them started early on. So-

Brian, have you-have you have you tried Brussels sprouts?

I have not. I have not messed much with those in the- in the low tunnels.

Well, we've- we've talked about this multiple times. This is my first year to try Brussel sprouts. And I have one plant in our high tunnel that is approaching between four and five feet tall, which if it produces all the Brussel sprouts on the stem that it has, that's a crazy amount of Brussels sprouts, just off of one plant. So it's going to be an interesting Brussels sprout production year.

[LAUGHTER] It's- it's getting ready. All right.

[LAUGHTER] You might have [OVERLAPPING] to buy yourself a slingshot.

I might have to.

And put those Brussels sprouts in and see how you do.

Special delivery [LAUGHTER].

How are you doing with your salary?

Salary- it was- was it you that suggested putting a milk carton over there?

Yeah. That's what my aunt had done.

I think it's beyond that. It's pretty bushy now, so know that I could wrangle the parts and pieces unless I stripped off the outer stocks and did that. But, uh, how's it doing? It's really healthy. It's nice and green. [LAUGHTER]

Okay. Have you had any heavy salary off of it?

No, I have not. I probably could start, er, having- can- is it okay to just go ahead and peel off and outside stock and munch on it while you're out in the garden?

I don't see why not? I mean, we do it with cherry tomatoes. We do it with-

Yeah.

We do it with all kinds of stuff.

Okay. That'll be tomorrow is a garden harvest snack while I'm out there.

There you go- there you go. Brian, you've mentioned that you've had trouble with deer in the past. Are you still growing more to try to give some to the deer, and then you harvest the rest?

You know, I haven't had as much of an issue where I'm at. Generally, I don't think you can grow enough for some deer depending on where you're at, Jerry, they seem to really take over. So yeah, you know, I think for the most part, fencing them out is probably your best option from what I've- I've noticed so.

Or get a dog that lives in the garden?

Yes. [LAUGHTER] That dog that's hidden in the beam patch and they come up to get some beans and little do they know. [OVERLAPPING]

My brother has had to stop feeding birds because the deer get on their hind legs. And lick sunflower seeds out of the sunflower- out of the bird feeder. He's down to one rose because, you know, they come along and nip the bud. But he does like them to clean up as apricots. And I think he says, no, they don't- they don't swallow

that seed. They'd spit it out.

Right. Yeah. We- we talked about that a little bit. Yep. Work it around and then get rid of it.

Work it around and spit it out.

Yeah.

So yeah, ah, my brother is not a fan of deer.

He looks forward to a hunting season [LAUGHTER] for various reasons.

Well, for others.

Where others to get the opportunity.

Yeah. Yeah.

How's your apple's been this year, Jeff? I was going to talk a little bit about the ones I've grafted and just some of the common insanity [OVERLAPPING] use a I deal with.

Sure. Well, personally, I missed pruning them again this year, so I am probably two years behind the natural order of pruning things. I hope to get to them next year and- and really work them over once again. But they are producing- at least one of the varieties is producing. It's- it's kind of been a tough year, I think. We had an early cold snap that I think affected the blossoms, but ther- there are some which is surprising so. An- and you?

Well, they're doing pretty good this year. I have some young trees. So one tree is five years old and the other one is four years old. And the four-year-old tree was planted as a bare root. So that means, you know it- it came in the mail FedEx shifted to me from New York and showed up, I planted it, and it's taken off and it's done pretty well, and I've had lots of apples on there. I actually took some grafts from that, so some wood- some one-year-old would, and I put it onto a crab apple tree two years ago and that produced flowers and has fruited this year, I also did that with a different variety on that same crab apple and it's also flowered this year. So, so far everything's been doing well for apples. As you know, Jeff, sometimes you can end up with codling moth issues and then some of the apple fly issues. So I've been dealing a little bit with that. I've not been home a lot this summer, so they've kinda had their way with a few of the apples, but otherwise things are- things are looking pretty well so. You know one of the things I'm hoping will help out for pretty good annual production, Jeff, is I really made sure to go through and thin out the fruit on that young tree. I'm see, you know, a lot of times the apples will be in clusters of five maybe four, so I went through and really just send them out when they are probably about the diameter of a dime, a nickel somewhere in that size, and just picked out the largest apples that I had and just kinda thinned them around so that I was just one apple that was growing off of each spot. And I think that's really helped it out, especially with those younger trees, just to make sure those apples become bigger

in size for later on in the year.

Yeah. And probably the other thing that will help you when you're doing that is you will reduce your codling moth pressure. Because codling moths actually need those apples to touch together in order for them to burrow in. So that should help reduce that pressure.

On my apple tree, the apple tree did that all by itself. It dropped a lot of the little dime, nickel quarter size apples early on, and now I have apples that are probably the size of a plum, so I'm- I'm hopeful for my apples as well. A lot of times on- on fruit trees, especially peaches and pears, people won't pick off fruit and their branches gets so heavy that they actually break.

The records will help you with that. [LAUGHTER]

I haven't seen that. They like to throw the peaches and pears or they will what- They'll eat them for you.

They'll- they'll feed them for you. They- they just go out and strip them all off, you know, before they're ready. [LAUGHTER]

I hate that.

They- they take care of them. So- so yeah, the other thing is too Jeff, the orchard that's been planted over at Sarik at the experiment station. They're bilingual. Things are doing well over there. So we had some issues with skunks getting into the mulch around the base of the trees, rooted around, looking for various things.

Were they able to get out?

They were able to get out. We've now set up Jurassic Park style fencing for Wyoming, so.

Awesome.

You do not touch any of that wire fence. I can tell you from my own experience, do not touch that fence, Jeff.

Did you- did you need a little moment to yourself after you grab the electric fence?

I- I had a moment of trying to let go for a second. Yeah. But, uh, yeah, it's- it's electrified now, so.

Well, that'll keep them out then.

Yes.

They're usually faster learners than we are as humans, I think.

Yes, I think so.

So- so Brian, and- and older electrician, told me that if you're gonna touch anything that you might think that is juiced up, that's got electricity in it. To do so with the back of your hand, you may hit yourself because you reflexively bring your hand away. But if you're touching it, it makes your hand grip. And yeah, pulling away from something like that. Number one, it's scary, and number two, you think you're going to be there for the rest of your life, even though it's only maybe a half a second and you want to do over. [LAUGHTER]

Do over is what I was thinking. So yeah. I- I- I needed this earlier. Thanks, Jerry.

Hey, you got.

I'm not gonna do that again. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Yeah. But, you know, the cherries and plums are doing really well, so I've been surprised how much they've really taken off, but they really must like the climate here in Goshen County, so they've put on really get growth so far, view the young cherries actually put out a few blooms, and so we ended up with a few cherries that were quickly harvested by some sort of critter prior to the electric fence code. [LAUGHTER]

Were those ah a dark cherry- a pie cherry?

So most of them are pie cherries. Because of low stocks with trees this year, I did want to try one variety of what I thought would be cold hardy enough sweet cherries, those were not available. So I was sent to other varieties from the company that are sweet cherries, the challenge is sweet cherries need to be pollinated by a second variety. Or as you know, the- the pie cherries or the tart cherries that we're used to or self pollinating. So two challenges are one, making sure they survive the winter, and then two, making sure they can get pollinated by the other cherries that are there. So-

All the- the pie cherries not cross-pollinate with the sweets?

They will, but it's really particular Jeff, actually have like pretty complex charts for lining up varieties of what's going to work with what. And so this might be one of those out of the company sust sent me some stuff. Maybe we'll be under some great new sweet cherries that somehow survive and Goshen County, Wyoming, but I'm not real optimistic, but we'll see what happens. So it could be one of those that ends up being a great thing, but you never know.

So for folks that are interested, Sarik is South of Lingle, its Research Station from the University of Wyoming. And Brian has established a research orchard basically, right?

Yep.

And if you are interested in touring it, Sarik is having an open house on August 25th starting at three o'clock in the afternoon, and you're all- let's- let's put it this way,

you're all invited.

You're all- are all invited, will be there. So if you want to go check out the trees. It [NOISE] doesn't look great from a distance, Jeff, but one of the things that's nice is when you actually get up there, we've actually put it all on drip irrigation. So where the trees are actually getting water, it's green. We've got some mulch underneath them and then all the rest looks brown, but the trees are doing great. It just looks like a desert from a distance of kinda what are those little green things because they're still so short. But it's one of those if you're interested in drip irrigation and set it up and you can see what we've done. Probably talked to you Jeff, because you've done way more complex things and lot more experience. But what we have set up is working so far. And it's nice that we're able to actually grow some things in an area that if you just planted them without any other added irrigation, they would not be doing well. So-

As a bonus, the electric fence will be turned off during the time of the tour. So just- just- don't- if you show up, don't worry about that.

Yeah. Don't worry about that. Unless you want to play with it, [LAUGHTER] then we can turn that on after everyone else's left. But will- will turn that off for sure, I will not be grabbing onto the fence and the metal gate where our irrigation is at the same time like I did last time.

So- so Brian, I double dogged area. [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] As long as a Jerry doesn't triple dog, dare me. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

Oh no- no- no, we've had electric fences, uh, on the farm growing up, ah, North of Guernsey, and we've tried all those things that people say, oh no, that can't happen and yeah, they can and they do. But the best is, you know, having your cousins come along and you go, well, just go over the fence and get the- get the baseball. [LAUGHTER] Well, it's just one wire. Well, just, you know, just go over this bench.

Well, maybe- maybe Brian can, uh, lure somebody into that trap, lure building. So, um, I- I hate to interrupt, but I think it's time to take a break and let's listen to our sponsors for a few minutes. [MUSIC]

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Everybody, we're back. This is the KERM Lawn and Garden program. I'm Jeff Edwards, along with Jerry Erschabeck. And we're talking with Brian Sebade today about a wide variety of things. Just trying to keep it interesting. We were talking

about the, uh, demonstration [NOISE] orchard that's out at SAREC. Jerry, I think you had some comments that you wanted to follow up on about cherries?

Yeah, cherries. A- a friend of mine gave me three pounds or dark red cherries and chart, of course. And, uh, it's amazing how nice they are number one. I think cherries are one of those ones that once you pick on, they do not continue to ripen. So whatever your maturity is, that's what you- that's what you have. But anyway, he gave them to me, and I was just sitting there and I thought, well, uh, hey long, I'm gonna try to work this out, so I destem them all. And then I got my pitter out, a single pitter, and I pitted them. About three-fourths of the way through, I'm thinking, dang, this is a lot of work for a probably two cherry pies. But, you know, a- as things get automated, of course, you don't have to do all that hand work, but cherries are a lot of- of- of work to produce, um, a full product.

Sure. And so, uh, that's why occasionally, you get a pit in your pie.

Yeah, because you miss it. [LAUGHTER] And it's easy enough to do.

So, uh, this friend gave you three pounds of cherries from a tree that they are growing?

Gro- grown here in Goshen County. Yeah, in Torrington, Wyoming.

Nice.

He has two- two trees, and I think he said he had, uh, 61 pounds of cherries.

So, uh, Jerry, did you save any of those pits?

No, I did not.

Because-

I could have. I should have.

You know, we could germinate them and then we could, si- since we know they already grow in Goshen County, we could germinate them, and Brian could incorporate them into his demo plot.

I'll bet you I could find some- some pits underneath his trees.

[LAUGHTER] That sounds like it. Do you know what variety he- they are, Jerry?

I- I really don't. I know that they're tart. You just can't put them in your mouth and- and eat them. About 9:30, I said, well, Merley, what are we gonna do with these cherries? She goes, we're gonna freeze them, [LAUGHTER] and we're- and we're not gonna do anything else to them tonight so-

So they aren't the sweet- so they wouldn't be sweet cherries. They'd be the tart cherries, the pie cherry?

Yeah.

Yeah. Okay. So not the trees that Brian is interested?

Oh, no. No- no.

Okay. But we do know that they grow here?

We leave them pits alone. [LAUGHTER]

Okay.

Darn, that's the pit.

Yeah. So hey, Brian, you were talking about, uh, earlier and given Jeff a- a ration of crap about beets. Now, do you- do you enjoy all of the color of beets? Do you- do you like the red ones or the golden ones? I think there's some- some other colors as well, a- aren't there?

Yes- yeah. So I like the reds, um, they're all great. Uh, that's probably the most common you can find. Golden beets are great as well. Um, you can get some of the ones that are kinda candy striped, like you might find, um, that are the red and white. Those are great as well. I usually end up planting a few of those, ah, Chioggias. The variety for those, um-

Target- Target beets?

Target beets, yes- yes- yeah. Shooting with a- shooting with a BB gun, or [LAUGHTER] yeah, for the- the department store, I guess so, um, yeah. And then another, ah, interesting project I've been working on is working with fodder beets, and so it's not necessarily something you're going to grow in your garden, but it's a beet that's really closely- closely related to, um, the table beet that we have. And this is actually used for forages. So it's, uh, so fodder beets have been used in Europe for many, many years. Basically, they're grown in the ground, and then cattle or sheep come through, swine maybe. They actually graze on once they're in the ground, and they're really great forage that way for animals.

Brian-

Um, so I have some- some test plot here in Laramie growing. Yes?

Wouldn't- wouldn't they also be a rotational crop that you could probably put in? I don't know what you would be putting in as the rotation but as- as something else to grow in that area?

Yeah. So it can be used in like a cover crop mix or you could use it as just same, you know, rotation as like regular sugar beets. But since Jeff loves beets, so dang much, I don't have a lot my own garden this year, but I've got a field, so I should have backtracked and said, yes, I have lots of beets this year, Jeff. Uh, they're doing well. Ah, they've put up lots of good leafy green stuff right now, but these end up getting

really big, you know, kinda almost the size of sugar beets so, you know, really good stuff for- for animals to eat so-

Is- are- are those plots located at the, uh, field station in Laramie?

They are, yeah.

So then you'll be able to use the livestock there or put the livestock on them to graze them?

Well, yeah. So they're at the greenhouse, so we'll actually pull them, do some feed samples throughout this fall and winter. And then we'll actually feed them to some- some sheep, and see if they agree or disagree with what we've grown. See if they-

Well, they may agree with- they may agree with me.

Say if- [LAUGHTER] will they- will they act like Jeff would around beets or more like me around beets? We'll see what they say.

I can't imagine. Um, I'm sure they will love them.

You might like these beets because then, you know, you get some beef cattle eat them and then you can enjoy the stake afterwards, Jeff.

Oh, yeah.

That would be the best use of these beets for you.

That- that would be awesome.

Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

I- I think that that's- that's pretty- pretty cool because, you know, and probably you wouldn't be able to eat that fodder beet, right?

Uh, I mean, you could, but it's not going to be as good as some of the- the other beets that we- it's not really been grown for high sugar content and anything like that.

Wait a minute. Good- good relative when you're talking about beets. [LAUGHTER]

Oh, you're getting all upset again, Jeff. [LAUGHTER] Um. [LAUGHTER] Well, just ignore Jeff for a minute. You could eat them yes, Jerry. I just- it would be as good as what we normally-

Yeah, you usually don't. And you said that the foliage gets quite high.

Yeah. You know, it's going to be, you know, pretty productive just like a sugar bead, you know really big leaves, kind of more of that Swiss chard look, not what we're really used to with our table beets so.

So, you know, when they're harvesting beads, they - they top- they top their beads and then some- some people really like to feed bead tops to their cattle or sheep or whatever they got as a inexpensive feed. Does the feed have much value?

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. It's- it's pretty good. The main thing is you'll probably have to supplement with some protein. So it's not a complete diet with this, but it's something that you can turn them out. They can eat quite a bit of it, lots of good energy for the day and then they need, you know some sort of protein being mixed in with that-

Yeah.

-to help with that. But- but you know the idea would be you don't have to go through and actually top it. The sheep or cattle are going out. So where it's been used a lot as electric fence and different things like that so.

Yeah and just let them graze?

Yeah. Kind of stripped graze yep.

Huh, it's interesting. I know after corn, people put, uh, cows in, uh, to the area and their cows graze on the corn. And then some people they used to anyway, would put pigs or hogs in after the cows to clean up as well. So anything that you can probably feed out that's inexpensive will more, or "less expensive," I think I'd be a great idea.

Yeah. Yeah, we'll see what happens. Hopefully, this will be kind of a late fall type forage that will be available. So late fall, early winter, and we'll see what happens. We'll keep just pressing these beads on to Jeff no matter how we- how we can Jerry, so.

Now one more- one more thing then. We've got them grown this year and we'll let them stay in the soil. Do you just plant over the top of them? Do you plow those? Wha- what do you do for- as the next rotational crop then?

Yeah, you can probably just plant right over the top of them depending on how much is actually consumed. You may have to go through and do some tillage depending on how much is left. But otherwise you should be able to [inaudible 00:39:00] and just plant right over the [inaudible 00:39:02].

Because wasn't that freeze- wouldn't that freeze down the tops if there's any tops left, it would freeze down.

Yeah. You might have some that seeds that didn't germinate from the year before. Some tops may, you know, some of those bulbs may actually over winter, but it's also one of those- it's not really been planted a whole lot. And most of the research was done in the early 1900s. So kinda going by the seed of our plants for most of this, for now worked out.

And are those fodder beads? Are they read?

They are read. Most of the varieties you can get are either in New Zealand or Europe. So the main ones that you can get here are red, some are yellow, but you can get all sorts of colors for those as well. Different shapes with the bulb as well. So-

All right. Well my favorite bead is the yellow, the golden. All the rest taste like dirt. Sorry. [LAUGHTER]

That's okay. I'll take that, Jerry.

But I really like those golden ones. And Jeff, if you ever have them, you slice them in half, you put some olive oil on them, you barbecue them, you serum little bit, put a few serial lines on them, give them more, they are delicious.

I'll trust it. [LAUGHTER] So Jerry we've- we've talked a little bit about your garden. What two types of things do you still have going?

Well, as we mentioned last week, uh, we pulled the anions and we still have a few tomatoes that are surviving. I'm seeing end rot on some of ours and as well the neighbor. And we've- we've done consistent watering. We have taken a feeder tub when those blue lick feeder tubs and we put newspaper in the bottom and really good soil. We drilled a hole on the side of the container rather than on the bottom. So we always have a lagoon. But, you know that's what- we always were told was tomato end rot was from inconsistent watering.

Sure.

Or vacation watering.

Um, from, uh, calcium deficiency.

Yeah. And so we bought some bone meal but we forgot to put it in. [LAUGHTER] And so we thought that that was probably one of the things we'll probably do next year.

Sure.

I- I still want to continue with the experiment of the blue lick tubs because, you know, a tomato gets too hot and sometimes too sunny.

Yeah.

And so we move- we move them around a little bit and try to find the- the perfect spot for them, uh.

I don't know- I was chatting with the grower yesterday about some of the concerns they had about things happening in their garden and- and I suggested just finding a simple shade cloth and putting it up so that - that it at least provide some shade throughout the day for the plants so they're not just baking in the sun. Yeah.

Yeah, contrary to popular belief that even people who like to tan a lot need to come

in out of the sun once in awhile.

And I- I've- I've got a confession to make. I kept driving past our squash patch and looking at it in the heat of the day thinking, "Good Lord, what is happening to that?" You know, the thing plants look fine in the morning. In the afternoon they just look like they're melting droopy leaves, just not really doing very well. And I know we've talked about this. We have almost all of our watering on a timer. And I thought, "Man, there's gotta be something wrong here." So I went looked at the timer. Of course, the battery had died at some point in the past, which I don't know how long it's been. [LAUGHTER] So I replaced the battery, ran it on manual and lo behold, they perked dried up. So that was the problem. I wasn't- wasn't watering my squashed plants enough. So hopefully now we- but- but that is a cure for zucchini. I gotta tell you.

Oh yeah.

Diane was expecting zucchini and yellow squash and they just- for some reason they just weren't producing. So I'm afraid now our zucchinis really going to kick in. [LAUGHTER]

Well, it's- it's one thing to look at your zucchini and see a - a nice five six inch zucchini and- and just about the nice round that you want.

Yeah.

Then you come back the next day and you have this three foot boat that's, you know, 10 inches around. I think that they should have the largest vegetable at the Goshen County Fair. Oh, and by the way, hats off to all the contestants and- and participants who put stuff into the county fair and- and the rodeo guys and the sheep growers and the chicken showers and the rabbit guys and the dogs? Yeah. Kudos to them?

Yes. Exactly. Which, um, is this week. Was this week. It's still this week.

We still have, uh, today and tomorrow. If you haven't come out to the county fair, you still have a- a couple of days left to digital.

Fantastic.

Yeah.

Okay. Um, I think we're getting close to the end of our program. Brian, do you have any parting shots that you'd like to take it either one of us. [LAUGHTER]
[BACKGROUND]

Well, we're ending the show, so I better not start on that. But no, I appreciate you having me on here. I feel like there's always a wide variety of things that we get to talk about. New things we get to learn about all the time. I enjoy listening to you both and yeah, I think it's been always really fun to- to the hangout on the show and

I- I really appreciate that you both put forth the effort to get this information out to folks. So that's really great that you do that. So I'll plan on seeing you at CEREC in August if you're there. And otherwise, I hope everybody has a safe and productive fall, if we don't talk to you.

Perfect. Thank you, Brian. We appreciate- [OVERLAPPING]

Thanks, Brian.

Just a reminder. The Field Day is August 25th. It's CEREC, starts at 3:00 PM. I know as the month goes on, we'll be talking about it as we progress. So, um, put it on your schedules. We'd love to see you come out and- and visit us. There's- they've made a lot of improvements to the facility out there and be nice to have some guests. So, Jerry, any other things as we wrap up today's program that you would like to mention?

Yeah. I was- Myrna was talking with, uh, Roberta Luke, and Roberta indicated that she's been hearing of some punk people growing giant pumpkins. So again, our contest is going to look a little bit different, but we're still going to have a contest. And thinking that we can have some big pumpkins to show our Goshen County Public.

Perfect.

Yeah.

Do you- do you know- do you know a date when that's going to occur again?

I- I don't yet, but they're- they're going to be working on that after- after fair is over. Just one funny that I heard as a commercial. It was BYOB for our cornhole tournament. And it was bring your own bags.

Your own bean bags. [LAUGHTER].

BYOB, bring your own bags. [LAUGHTER].

Perfect. All right. Um, well, uh, I think that wraps up our program. Thank you all very much. Thank you all for listening and 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. Listen each week for details on new events on how to make your garden flourish. Good day and happy gardening. [MUSIC]