

[inaudible 00:00:00] >> [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 variants, to weather events, to pesticides, and pollinators. Our Lawn and Garden podcast helps you

improve your home garden as well as your small acreage. Let's welcome Jeff Edwards, Jerry Erschabeck. >> Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program. Good morning, Jerry. How are you today?

>> Hey, pretty doing good. Thanks. How about yourself?

>> Great. Good to see you.

>> Thank you. Nice to be seen. [LAUGHTER]

>> Our guest today is Donna Hoffman. She is the horticulturist at Casper. She'll be joining us today and we'll be talking about lawn and garden items. Good morning, Donna. How are you today?

>> Good morning, it's always good to join you two.

>> We're happy to have you with us today. Before we get started on our program, let's take a few moments and listen to our sponsors.

>> This summer, Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative, the Cen\$tible 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

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>> Good morning again, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program along with our guest, Donna Hoffman. Donna, this is your program today, going to put you on the spot. [LAUGHTER]

>> All right.

>> How would you like to start off? What do you want to talk about? Any loads, put it this way. Have you been having any yard calls or things that you're dealing with that maybe your ordinary or we should talk about, or things that are maybe out of the ordinary?

>> We have had some rather strange tomato issues this summer. I looked at them thinking that they were late blight and I went back to see if maybe it was consistent with early blight and it wasn't. I sent samples down to the university to have them looked at in the plant pathology clinic.

>> Bill Stump said, "We don't know what that is."

>> Then came back and it wasn't even plant pathology and we should have gone to Scott Shellmy in the entomology office. We had unified mites.

>> Aerofit mites? Yes.

>> Here we go. Anyway, I'm still working on trying to find a good control measure for those.

>> What were the symptoms?

>> Well, it was a yellowed leaves and there was a white crystalline substance that had oozed out of the leaves. If I was a geologist looking at them, I would have thought that we had stalactites and stalagmites on the leaves.

>> Looks like sugar crystals?

>> Yeah, but I guess. Anyway, I never did see anything moving around, and so it hadn't triggered a six-legged flag for me. I still was thinking of pathology when I sent it down. Anyway, and then I didn't have the sample to look at it again.

>> Those mites are very small. I don't think you can see them with naked eye, so it does need magnification to see them.

>> We have a microscope in the office. But like I say, I wasn't looking for something and I didn't see anything moving. It was a huh, but I wish I had the sample to look at again.

>> Since it was mites, they have eight legs and not six just to get going on.

>> That's true. Yeah.

>> But who's counting? >> But who's counting.

>> Anyway, there were not six legs there that I saw and of course the two additional would have hedge and hold it into another category. But anyway, so that one was new to me. I have had them diagnosed before.

>> Yeah, it's been.

>> Yeah long time.

>> If they were yellowing, they weren't producing fruit then either right?

>> No. Everything was slowed down and some of the same plants had some curling

leaves. I suspected some herbicide damage. I think I ended up with plants from two different parts of one garden that may have been, say the name aerofit?

>> Aerofit mite.

>> Might have been those in another garden, but they also have what we think is some herbicide damage from a hay field adjacent to their garden.

>> Were the leaves cupping?

>> Yeah. They started curling in.

>> Yeah. Did the veins look like they were more finger-like instead of netted on the leaf.

>> I know they were purple.

>> My next question is, were these plants in full sunlight? No shade?

>> As far as I know, but I didn't visit the site.

>> It's possible that some of the plants are actually getting too much sunlight and that curling upward if the veins are netted like they would be normally and the leaves are curled upward. That is a symptom of too much sunlight, which I know, that sounds really weird.

>> I have never heard THAT tomatoes could get too much sunlight and since they're growing to Central America, I would [OVERLAPPING].

>> When we're growing them in the high tunnels. We noticed that that's one of the problems. If we don't put shade cloth on the high tunnel, those leaves will actually just start to curl up and won't be as productive as they need to be. A lot of weird things happen. We have some very intense sun rays in Wyoming that can cause problems in tomatoes. Jerry, have you seen?

Well, your garden is shaded.

>> Lying is, but my brother put his tomato and a five in one of those lick tubs. We suggested, he says hey, look in my tomato and it's looking kind of funny. Just like you said, the leaves were curling and and so he borrowed a two-wheeler transport.

>> Wait a minute, that would be a bicycle.

>> Okay.

>> What are we talking about? [LAUGHTER]

>> A two-wheel dolly.

>> Okay. A handcart.

>> Hey, words matter, Mister.

>> Yes, they do [LAUGHTER], especially on radio.

>> Especially on radio [LAUGHTER]. Anyway, he got that machine out and moved his tomato plant so it got morning sun and afternoon shade. His tomato seemed to be doing a lot better, not a whole lot more buds but filling out of some of the tomatoes. What I've heard is a lot of tomato and rot and that sort of thing but I think it's all because it's been too hot.

>> I think that's contributing to it, yeah.

>> Yeah, I think that the ground can be warm, but the plant itself would really care to be in a little bit of shade. With my brother's tomatoes, that's what we found.

>> Okay. All right. Mite issues on tomatoes, what else have you had, Donna?

>> Well, at home in our little greenhouse we still have a horrible case of two-spotted spider mites and they have decimated our green beans so I think we are done picking green beans. I'm still watering them to see if they'll come back, but I suspect that it might be an exercise in futility.

>> [LAUGHTER] Spider mites actually love the high tunnel environment. It's dry. Humidity might be up a little bit, but all in all, it is a dry environment. It's very hot, and that's just what they thrive in. Again, I think in a structure like that, if you can throw some shade cloth over it and keep things wet, you'll eliminate that problem in the future. I know that the first couple of years that we had a high tunnel, personally,

I struggled with mites and they're a booger to try to get under control. It's just an environmental thing or you can find predators that will work on them a little bit too.

>> That might be fun.

>> I'm not going to say eliminated the problem, but we've significantly reduced it this year and a couple of years ago their population started to decline.

>> Donna, the most fun I've had is with a praying mantis.

>> Okay.

>> Once you get them established. Mine went over to the dark side, they went to my neighbors. [LAUGHTER] How do you get your praying mantis back? Maybe they have more spider mites than I do.

>> You got to put them on a leash, Jerry.

>> Yeah, [LAUGHTER] I've been looking for that leash but I haven't quite found it.

>> A little string and some super glue.

>> Oh, yeah, dental floss and some super glue right back here. [LAUGHTER] >>

Okay. I'll give that a whirl, but I was given a ootheca sac.

>> From a loving friend.

>> From a friend, and they did really well. I mean, Myrna, we both got scared from them and if you look down and you see a big old six inch thing on your arm, you go, [NOISE] "What? Oh, yeah, he's a praying mantis," and then you go, "These are so cool." [LAUGHTER] They'll look at you.

>> Oh, yeah.

>> They'll turn their head and look at you.

>> They track the conversation.

>> You know what else they do?

>> What's that, Donna?

>> They bite.

>> Well, they can.

>> I have been bitten by one and it hurt.

>> Oh, you have?

>> It hurt. [LAUGHTER]

>> On your finger?

>> The end of my finger.

>> I didn't know that they would bite a human.

>> Well, were you trying to pet it or feed it? [LAUGHTER]

>> No, we were trying to videotape it.

>> Oh, okay. All right.

>> You were holding it?

>> It wasn't compliant.

>> [LAUGHTER] Yeah. We talked to it last week.

>> We say it got an extra flying experience in.

>> We talked last week about squirrels and I spoke about this young woman on Alone and she knocked the squirrel out. She was going to eat it because it was a survival thing. She was going to eat it and she picked it up and it came back to life

and started biting right in between the web of her thumb and her first finger, and screaming, of course. It looked like she bit into her pretty good.

This bite did it leave blood or did it just leave a pinch?

>> Just a pinch but it left a memory. [LAUGHTER]

>> Yeah, on you?

>> Yeah.

>> A lasting impression.

>> I remember that bite. [OVERLAPPING] Speaking of the survival and cooking things, I know I'm gone off in left field here, but the other day I read an article about a chef who was making unusual foods for his clientele. He was making a soup based on a spitting cobra head [inaudible 00:12:44]. He chopped the head off the snake and it bit him and the chef died.

>> Oh, my gosh.

>> [OVERLAPPING] They put the antivenom in him in the half an hour they had and then he died.

>> Here's the number 1 rule when you're working with livestock, make sure that they're well fed before you handle them. [LAUGHTER]

>> Secured. [LAUGHTER]

>> Anyway, that chef is no longer making foods that could be dangerous if they were not well prepared.

>> Yeah.

>> I mean, I had a joke prepared for that, but no.

>> I think that's karma. [LAUGHTER]

>> Yeah, anyway, so that group of people in the restaurant had to go somewhere else for dinner, I think.

>> No kidding.

>> Okay. That was a squirrel.

>> Yeah, sorry. Anyway, [OVERLAPPING] back to our spider mites. We tried English or Armenian cucumbers this year and they are planted really near the green beans.

>> Okay.

>> Though spider mites also like the cucurbits in that area so I'm going to have to be very careful what we strategically place near each other next year. Either that or

plant fewer of them in our raised beds in the high top or [inaudible 00:14:09].

>> Part of the management of those is if you recognize that you have them, harvest those plants last so that you're not manipulating plants and getting mites on you and then going and working in some other thing and spreading them manually.

>> Yeah, that's a problem with cucurbits and pumpkin growers are in that family as well. Cucurbits are really susceptible to those and when we were growing commercially, we sprayed. We weren't planning on eating those and we told people that these are just for looking at, not for eating. They're just for looking at.

>> Yeah, exactly.

>> Ornamental purposes only.

>> Yeah, so any of that material would go into those pumpkins, I would guess, and you wouldn't want to be eating those. Although what's that one that you can shake on? It's a powder and you can eat it a week later.

>> I think what you're talking about is carbaryl, but read the label because it is a pesticide.

>> Right.

>> Read the front of the label. [LAUGHTER]

>> Yeah, I did get some neem oil this year to spray on the beans and it said that you could spray it one day prior to harvest so [inaudible 00:15:33].

>> There are several products out there that have a one day pre-harvest interval.

>> What about the vegetable soap?

>> Horticultural oil?

>> Horticultural oil is different than the soap that you're talking about but yeah, usually those can be sprayed the same day or 24 hours before harvest.

>> I'd like to talk about our cantaloupe. They have had a failure to grow. Although I think that we were well into June before we put them in. I think it's just the fact that they needed more time and we had a cool start and then it just went to fire.

>> Don't be surprised if a cantaloupe shows up on your front doorstep this week.

>> Yeah, [LAUGHTER] I'll look for him. I don't know that my vine can actually put them on my front doorstep or not. [LAUGHTER]

If that happens, I'd like to train more of them.

>> They're a little bit similar to zucchini here right now for us [LAUGHTER].

>> Yeah. Oh, boy. As many as you think that you can get rid of.

>> All right. If we get a holiday, I'll come visit you [LAUGHTER].

>> We would like him.

>> Okay.

>> But we had one cantaloupe of size, but the vine is only like two-foot-long. That's what I said, I'm like, come on, we have all these plans. Come on, you guys.

>> [LAUGHTER].

>> But I think the problem is we didn't get them in soon enough.

>> Possibly.

>> Yeah.

>> Could be location. I know that we rotate ours around. We don't plan them in the same place here.

>> Right.

>> Last year we had a total failure. This year we did not have a total failure. It definitely depends on where we put them.

>> Yes.

>> Do you throw them outdoors or indoors?

>> Outdoors. I try not to waste space in the high tunnel on veining plants just because they're susceptible to powdery mildew, number one. They just take over. It's not a good thing to grow inside a cantaloupe.

>> Any vining crop, you do not allow anyone to smoke nearby because you can get tobacco mosaic virus.

>> Right.

>> Yeah, it'd be best if we just made up that habit anyway.

>> [LAUGHTER] Okay, Donna.

>> Yeah. Well, especially for gardeners, but it affects the tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and now you're telling me to keep habits so.

>> Donna, do you smoke? [LAUGHTER].

>> Never.

>> Never?

>> Not even ever and ever.

>> I thought that was a shout-out to somebody in our neighborhood. [LAUGHTER].

>> It could be.

>> In general, it would be best if that was all.

>> Yeah.

>> Edge itself.

>> But yeah.

>> Donna, continuing on in the yard call thing, any any other thing?

>> Well, I did want to comment about cantaloupe because we're growing some of this year, and we have two that are not football-size right now, but I think they're going to mature. Then my husband every year tries to grow watermelon. I found seed for, and I wish I could remember the name of the variety, but it was really something watermelon and it was developed in North Dakota.

>> Okay.

>> It actually have three little watermelons. Little bit bigger than a baseball, but not quite as big as a softball, I guess.

>> Okay.

>> One of them, I think might have gotten miss pollinated or not pollinated on 1.5 of the fruit because one side is really stretching and the blossom side is, anyway, the stripes are shorter on one side than the other side and it's growing more on 1.5 of the watermelon than the other. It's odd-shaped because the blossom end is now on one side as opposed to be on the end.

>> Have either of you guys had a lot of success growing watermelon? Because I can't for the life [LAUGHTER] of the Dixon watermelon. I have a girl in the neighborhood here who grows them quite a bit. She says, Well, you got to wait until that little curly-cue vine that's right next to the stem of where the watermelons coming off dries up before you harvest it.

>> Okay.

>> Yeah, and we're waiting [LAUGHTER].

>> You mean the tendril?

>> Yes.

>> You have to wait until the tendril next to it dries up before you harvest it?

>> Yes.

>> Well, that's a good tip. I'll see if it works.

>> Well, I'm patiently waiting this year to find out if that's what's going to happen. Because I grow watermelon and I've been disappointed every year and I think it's because I harvest them too soon. We'll just see what happens.

>> We have a guy out west of town that has quite a bit of success with watermelon and he grows the diamond. I think he grows the diamond, something diamondback watermelon.

>> Yeah.

>> Why he does really well with tomatoes, and he does really well with watermelon.

>> Some people have the knack to grow particularly.

>> I know. He brought me, and I'm like, Oh gosh, what do you got there? He goes, Well, I was thinking about you and I brought in a watermelon. I go, Gosh, dang, man, how do you get them so big? He never told me, but I suspect that he started them inside. I suspect that and I suspected we're going to have to start doing that with cantaloupe.

>> No, you don't need to start cantaloupe inside.

>> You should start them sooner.

>> Well, yeah. I plant seeds, and most of the years we have really good success.

>> Do you plant middle of May, before Mother's Day?

>> I don't remember.

>> We use to plant all of our pumpkins before Mother's Day. I mean, the weather seems to be changing, and just in my few years, I've seen that the heat comes on a little later if it is a cold wet spring, that gets involved with your growing or your planting. Sometimes you get lucky and sometimes you don't.

>> Yeah. I think what we try to do is, the May 15th for Goshen County is usually in the last frost-free. I think we try to target planting our cantaloupe between the 15th of May, 1st of June, two week period. Seem to have really good luck with them.

>> Okay. But I have a problem with our cicadas.

>> They're not telling you anything?

>> We heard them way earlier in the year and you go, okay. That's [NOISE]. That's 1st of September. Gosh, the weather has been up and down, up and down. Oh, some of those days that you wake up to 52 degrees, got to get a codon. But that doesn't last long.

>> Yeah, that's the indicator of the cool down, right?

>> I suppose. When I hear that oh, here the cicadas and here that six weeks. Well, we did get a little cool down. But I'm wondering if that was it.

>> Since we're talking about wives tales.

>> Okay.

>> We had fog on Monday this week.

>> Yes, we did.

>> I converse regularly with an individual who is convinced that seven weeks after the fall fog, we will get snow. [LAUGHTER]. Here's the prediction for the show. Our first snowfall should arrive somewhere between October 15th and October 25th. Write it down, Jerry.

>> We'll write that down. October what?

>> 15th.

>> Through the 25th.

>> Sometime in that period.

>> Marks snow?

>> Yeah.

>> Just like everything else that we present, the opinion of the presenters aren't necessarily the opinion of the radio show or other persons presenting this program?

>> Nor are they based in reality what's so ever.

>> Yeah. There we go. I had a funny.

>> Okay.

>> We're expecting such a cold winter. The squirrels are collecting more nuts than usual. So far, three of my relatives have disappeared. [LAUGHTER]. Onto the other wives tales. Right?

>> But do you have another one that you would like to discuss?

>> Well, let's see. Do I, do I, do I? No, I don't.

>> Donna, how about you?

>> I try not to be wives tales.

>> Seen any woolly bears this year?

>> Oh, yeah. Woolly bears. What's that all about?

>> Well, it has something to do with the width of the stripe.

>> Width of the stripe of the length of the hair?

>> I don't actually measure the hair length. I think it's the width of the stripe.

>> That's getting into the stripe for the prey madness again, right?

>> Yeah. [LAUGHTER].

>> Maybe just a little bit more of that dental floss.

>> I haven't even seen any woolly bears yet this year.

>> I haven't seen any either. We haven't seen any [inaudible 00:25:53] next year.

>> Yeah. The length of hair on a horse is supposed to be a determiner of how bad the winter is going to be. If the horse has really, really, really long hair, it's supposed to be a really bad winter.

>> I thought they only got really long hair in the wintertime.

>> Yeah. Well, there you go. [LAUGHTER].

>> I hate to interrupt this riveting conversation, but [OVERLAPPING] it's time to break [LAUGHTER] and listen to our sponsors and we'll be back right here.

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>> Everybody, we're back. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program along with our guest, Donna Hoffman. We've traveled down several rabbit holes and been talking a little bit about lawn and garden items. In second half of the program, we'd like to spend time talking about prepping for fall and final harvest and those types of things. Donna, please continue.

>> Well, we haven't had a little bit of cool down here in Casper to my knowledge, we have not had all fog yet. But Casper is not really well-known for fog anyway, it's one of those oddities that's like, "Oh, we have fog today."

>> It all blows away.

>> Yeah, then it goes right the North Platte or across the face of Casper Mountain. But anyway, we have been able to do quite a bit of harvesting this season. We've had a lot of the cold crops doing really well. I grew cabbage for the first time this

year and got my lesson in them. I just love the sulfur whites and the white cabbage moths, air butterflies floating around in the garden flooding your head.

>> They are bad.

>> [LAUGHTER] Then I started seeing holes in my cabbage. Like, "Oh, no" I've been making little green worms off of the cabbage and flinging them into the garden or the EPA lawns so that hopefully the robins eat them before they crawl back to the cabbage plants.

>> Donna, I talk about these every time I do the IPM program for the master gardeners.

>> Yeah.

>> You haven't been paying attention.

>> I have been paying attention, I just never grew cabbage before. There was a few holes in the kale or the kohlrabi leaves it really didn't matter, but it sure makes a big dent in a head of cabbage.

>> If you can train them to just eat kale, I think that would be a good thing.

>> I was just wishing that they could eat the outside leaves instead of the inside leaves. If they stay on the outside, they would be okay. But they seem like they constricted space in the tight leaves that are developing on the head.

>> Personal issue for me this year, same type of thing. We were doing great production-wise on the brussel sprouts. However, we took a few days and had a little vacation and the cabbage butterflies got into the high tunnel and the brussels sprout experiment may be a total failure because of that. [LAUGHTER] They really enjoyed the brussels. We'll see what happens.

>> I planted cauliflower and the center of that plant got decimated then it grows really interesting foliage. But then there's no flower.

>> I'll bet you could eat the foliage. I'm going to talk about today.

>> Probably. It's got a really thick midrib, so take a lot of trimming and use it in something like coleslaw. Then I think I planted some brussels sprouts, but I didn't get them well-labeled. So far, I don't see much in the way of sprouts coming on. But there is some little nubbings of the bud spot on them, I'm hoping that at the end this [OVERLAPPING].

>> You will be okay.

>> Anyway, I tried quite a few more kale crops this year. We tried varieties of different kale. One thing I did discover though, is the little green caterpillars don't seem to like the purple cabbage. Purple cabbage seems to be growing just lovely.

>> Donna, if you have trouble swatting those millers and moss, we have trouble swatting the hummingbird moths.

>> Why would you do that?

>> Well because it develops into a green hornworm.

>> On tomatoes.

>> On tomatoes.

>> On tomatoes.

>> They look pretty. They really develop a nice green caterpillar. [LAUGHTER]

>> Healthy?

>> Healthy and they just chomp and chew and chomp and chew and then the cycle repeats.

>> We don't like the caterpillars, but the moths are already past that point so I let them float around and pollinate.

>> Yeah.

>> Anyway, I'm not sure what to do about the little butterflies that I enjoyed seeing flitting around the garden. But I have discovered, I come up with a new sowing project for myself this winter. I'm going to create individual little, something like a shower cap for like the cabbage at this. >> Oh, protective bags.

>> I'm in the search for organza and I'm not going to make a prom dress with it, I am going to make cabbage covers.

>> Cabbage arch's.

>> I just have to decide whether to put elastic in the bottom or a drop straight. I think I'm decided drawstring might be better.

>> That again is an integrated pest management technique. You're excluding them from being able to get onto the plants.

>> Why couldn't you do that with your brussels sprouts, Jeff?

>> You could, but you'd need a really large sac.

>> Something breathable and something air [OVERLAPPING]

>> The Brussel sprouts right now are four and a half feet tall.

>> Yeah.

>> You'd have to make it big enough so that they could grow into that space.

>> Yeah.

>> If I find some organza on sale somewhere, I might make your one Jeff, we'll see.

>> That I'd be awesome Donna.

>> Or you could use a gunny sack.

>> I don't think it applies for the experiment [OVERLAPPING]

>> Oh, yeah.

>> But the mesh has to be fine enough that the little larva that hatch out can't crawl through.

>> Yeah, I thought about making it with that. Well, I don't know what they call it, but it's netting like football jerseys are made out of maybe running shirts. But I'm not sure if the female butterfly could lay the egg, the ovipositor macros far enough through to exceed in laying eggs through that. That's why I was thinking the organza was a fine enough mesh, but still.

>> I don't know if enough light would get through that particular material.

>> I'm thinking white, was what I was thinking but I got to produce bag the other day that had a drawstring in the top of it and that's what made me think maybe that would work. But then my question this so I'm still on the organza tract.

>> Well, they also make product that is floating row cover.

>> Yeah. It could be modified in to it.

>> It's intended for you to put it out over the top of the crop and allow light through. With that material would work as well.

>> Yeah, it might be cheaper than organza too. Anyway, I'll be shopping this fall and winter for some.

>> What do you do with your kale, Donna?

>> I read somewhere that it makes your hair much softer and I have noticed that my hair seems to be softer when I eat kale. But here a couple of years ago at the grocery store, Mark and I found a salad that we like. It's called the superfood salad and it's got kale and blueberries and raisins and sometimes craisins and sunflower seeds. The recipe I found online had

a pomegranate vinaigrette on it, couldn't find pomegranate vinaigrette so I've been using raspberry vinaigrette. Anyway, we just chop up the kale pretty fine and then mix all that stuff in there. Oh, and some carrots and broccoli slob goes in it. Anyway, lots of cucumbers stuff but very colorful and quite nutritious. Anyway, we've been eating a lot of that.

I have not gotten into the habit of making kale chips. I've tried them and they just use [OVERLAPPING].

>> You're unimpressed I can tell.

>> Something or other. [LAUGHTER]

Potatoes work much better for chips.

>> Burnt with a hint of green flavor.

>> I'm not into that, but anyway, we've eaten a lot of calories summer, and the sunflower population in our yard has exploded. I planted some floral sunflowers, and I have planted some mammoth sunflowers in the past, which of course have gotten cross-pollinated with the field sunflowers around. Anyway, the last two years, Mark and I both were like, we're not going to let the sunflowers come up,

and then we eventually let the sunflowers keep growing. I've been taking sunflowers to the KLA down the road that they can give to their visitors and to the restaurant down the street to give to their customers and everybody at the office. Yesterday I went to take some down to the KLA again, but they were already closed because they were fold for the night. I think I'm going to be taking sunflowers to the senior center over here in Rawlins today.

>> Everybody lock your cars, don't miss out. [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

>> I have sunflowers. I have had a really successful row of fluorescent flowers. Of course, I don't have a great outlet for selling them, but everybody's been getting sunflower bouquets from me. Anyway, the sunflower seem to be well-received even though people lock their cars for the zucchini. [LAUGHTER]

>> It's a summer squash but they look like a spaceship. Do you know what that one is?

>> Patty pans?

>> Patty pans. I think that might be it. But we would take them to the office in a five-gallon bucket and offer it as catch of the day.

If you know how to do a zucchini, well, that's just how do you cook these? Just like a zucchini. Well, how do you cook those? Cut them up and eat them.

>> Jerry, I just picked up on something that you said they look like a spaceship. [OVERLAPPING] Do you know what a spaceship looks like?

>> Well, what we've been trained to think of a spaceship, it's round, it's orbital. There were no flashing lights on them. They were like three inches deep and probably five or six inches around.

>> You realize I'm just harassing you.

>> I know that. [LAUGHTER] I have to stand up for some of my thought processes [LAUGHTER] as skewed as they might be. I might be one of those relatives that are missing. [LAUGHTER]

>> If you don't show up next week we'll know what happened.

>> Sure, about me. [LAUGHTER]

>> Man. You had mentioned that you wanted to talk about fall, sanitation, and your garden, [OVERLAPPING] things like that. I'm so glad I took some notes, otherwise, we'd just be sitting there staring at each other. [LAUGHTER]

>> Well, I do have my notes sitting next to me too, but I haven't referred back to them. One of the things that we tell clientele every year and especially this time of the year is that this time of the year is the biggest time you can have an impact on how things are going to go for next year's garden if you have had pests in your garden this year. If you have disease problems or if you have insects, mites, fighters, or maybe squirrels, I don't know. Anything you do to clean up the garden and remove all their little hiding places, and either compost or discard all of the debris in your garden rather than just leaving it lay around where you're going to plant the same crop next year. Will go a long ways to minimizing the number of them that are around to start the whole process next year.

>> Well, [OVERLAPPING] along those lines, I'm sorry, Jerry. Along those lines, weeds are pests as well. This time of the year, a lot of those weeds, they're setting seed and it's a good time to eliminate them from your garden and as Donna said, compost them or throw them away or burn them. Donna and I have been working on puncture buying. It's getting to the point now where if you haven't gotten to puncture vine,

it's just a little bit too late because when you get in there to try to dig them or pick them up, they are already dropping their seeds. But Donna has a brilliant idea for puncture vine removal. We've talked about this before in the past, she wears her crocs out into the puncture vine patch, [LAUGHTER] and just loads up the soles with them, and then as a form of revenge, throws them into her fireplace.

I think that's an awesome way to get rid of puncture vine. [LAUGHTER]

>> Reduce your stress at the same time. When you're picking them out of the soles of your shoes, Donna, do you do use a knife or do you just use your fingers?

>> These babies are [inaudible 00:41:44] [LAUGHTER]. I do pottery as a hobby. As I am growing, I'm developing layers and layers [inaudible 00:41:53] on the tips of my fingers. But, the puncture vine gets the better of me. Every once in a while, then I have to find a needle in.

>> Definitely [OVERLAPPING] get those.

>> But usually I can roll them out of the rubber in the bottom of the crocs and not get skewered by the little suckers.

>> It's a calming thing to do. [LAUGHTER]

>> Every one of them.

>> The other amazing thing about weeds this time of the year is that if you have been harassing them and they possibly sent up or germinated late because of some of the late rains that we've gotten, it doesn't matter how tall they are. They can be an inch tall, they can be five feet tall, they will still produce seeds. It's really important to get out there and pull them and get rid of them.

If you don't allow them to have seeds [NOISE] this year, there still might be some residual from previous years that you weren't as diligent. But over time, you will win. Then when you're gone, the weeds win. [LAUGHTER].

>> I have had so many clientele over the years tell me, "I can't keep pulling in them, just so many of them". If you can spray them in the springtime before they start getting flowers and reproducing, you'll be way ahead of the game. But once they start producing seed, you can't just spray them and leave them because those seeds are still lay on the ground and germinate next year.

>> Well, in this time of year, spraying weeds that are mature, that already have seeds on them, it's a revenge killing. It makes you feel good. But those seeds are mature enough that once they fall off that plant, they're still going to germinate.

>> But isn't it the best of dandelions in the fall?

>> It does depend on the weed.

>> Isn't there some perennial weeds that you try to get after in the fall?

>> Thistles in dandelions and those types of things that have a rosette to them when they grow, it's good they get them in the fall. But I guess the things that I'm talking about as far as spring than now is not a good idea would be things like kosher, lamps quarter, those big weeds that people have around, the Russian thistle. When Russian thistles go, I guess the best term is spiny.

[LAUGHTER] If you read Jan and you get poked on a Russian thistle, they're beyond any type of treatment. This time of year, all of those weeds, they've already produced seeds and pigweed falls in that category.

There's some others too, but it's just one of those things that you have to know your weeds and know how to take care of it.

>> We all need it burn pit like Jeff's that's wide and open instead of, I have a chimney in my art because we have some burn limitations where I'm at. But a single tumbleweed would have to be squished to fit into a chimney yard.

>> You've relieved all of the seeds from the plant that just put it together in there too.

>> Yeah, that open burn pit that Jeff has.

>> I use it a lot. [LAUGHTER]

>> Bonfire pit comes to mind when I think about the open pit that you have. But burning those is a really great way to make sure that none of the seeds succeed next year.

>> They pop, they sound like popcorn.

>> Anyway, but with the fire hazards that we've had, we've been getting warnings through the weather service that we have fire conditions, and you have to be really careful when you're going to plan those fires so that they don't escape that controlled environment that you have for them.

>> Around here you call in and you say you're going to burn and then you call it and say you're done. If someone happens to say, "Hey, Erschabeck's burning again. " [LAUGHTER] They know, well.

>> [inaudible 00:46:37] is on fire. [LAUGHTER].

>> Drop, roll, drop.

>> Stop, drop and roll.

>> Stop, drop and roll. But we've appreciated that idea that you can burn with appropriate conditions. I need to really stress that, appropriate conditions. Well you may see the county out burning, they really do have their selves ready. They have a tanker, they have a spray truck. They're ready and still accidents happen but got to be girly go for with fire.

>> Hey Jerry, I've got a confession to make in our last couple of minutes here. All these years I've been anti-chain saw.

>> I've heard you be anti-chain saw.

>> But I have a confession.

>> You bought one.

>> Several weeks ago, actually, several months ago, I used a battery operated one. I was impressed by it. Part of my reasoning, not just the safety issues that go with chainsaws, but part of my struggle with them is the oil and gas mix, and getting them started, and keeping them running, those types of things. I broke down and I bought one. I have actually been

taking out trees and throwing them in my burn pit and getting rid of them, the dead

ones. After having this saw available to me, I can't imagine continuing to live on this property and not being able to take care of some of those limbs that are ready come down. I think my hobby for this fall will be tree trimming around my property.

>> Let's put a little PSA say about that as well. Be really careful around chainsaws.

>> Exactly, yep.

>> What power size did you get on your chainsaw or you're better off with chainsaw?

>> 16-inch.

>> Sixteen. I just recently got a 14 inch for use at the office because we don't have quite as many trees at the office, but I contemplated getting the 16-inch one, but decided against that. It was a really great purchase for me, for at work, because there were many that were too much work for me at my job for a handsaw.

>> Yeah, and that's where I've gotten too. My trees have gotten larger and I needed something a little more heavy duty.

>> Are you maintaining your cottonwood trees with that chainsaw or is somebody else is maintaining your cottonwood trees?

>> I have not yet tackled the cottonwood trees.

>> Okay. All right.

>> Go ahead Jerry.

>> Some may tackle themselves, but a Sawzall is also another good weapon of choice. You can do small trees, small limbs, that thing. The battery powered industry has really come around in weed eaters, especially those weed eaters. Myrna can do almost the whole yard with one charge.

But this battery is big.

>> Sure.

>> It's really big. I heard it's a 20 volt. The battery-powered lawnmowers. I'm not real sure about.

>> We have one. My dad had one. He bought one clear back in 2002. He could get up at 4 o'clock in the morning, mow the lawn at 5 o'clock in the morning and the neighbors were never upset about it.

>> Yeah.

>> Then have that all done before the day started. We have one and I can almost talk to Mark when the lawnmower's going, and carry on a conversation because it's that quiet. But I can certainly ask a question while he's mowing and he can hear me

as opposed to with the gas powered mower. You have to turn it off to be able to communicate.

>> Now, what I think is really cool is the idea of having a remote lawnmower. [NOISE]

>> I agree.

>> A Roomba for your yard?

>> Exactly.

>> A Roomba for our yard. Supposedly when it starts getting low on power, it returns to the dock just like a Roomba. I think those products really have merit. I haven't submitted myself to being that Guinea pig for having one of my own, but I sure read about them and I look at them, they're quite influential. [LAUGHTER]

>> Jeff, were about the same age. One of my favorite shows as a kid was the Jetsons.

>> Sure.

>> You and I may live to see some of the technology in the Jetsons come to fruition.

>> Donna, I think you just excluded Jerry from that conversation.

>> Well, maybe, yeah. [LAUGHTER]

>> You know what, we're already using Jetson technology.

>> That's true. Some of it, yes.

>> Yeah.

>> Yeah.

>> I can't think of anything that I'm looking forward to, but I probably will be excluded from some of those techniques, especially the flying car. Although there's some of those that are in existence but not readily for the public.

>> Right.

>> We're having more trouble with electric cars running into each other.

>> Yeah. Hey, Jerry mentioned that we weren't going to go down some rabbit holes. I think we have [LAUGHTER] to wrap up for our program for the day. Thank you Donna for being our guest. We appreciate having you here today. I think we're probably done for the year with you. I'm sorry, it's just how it is.

>> Yeah.

>> But thank you very much for joining us.

>> Please sign up for next year.

>> You've been listening to Lawn and Garden with University of Wyoming extension specialist Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Look for this week for details on newer events and how to make your garden flourish. Good day and happy gardening.