

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 pesticide 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. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden Program. Good morning, Jerry. How are you?

Good. Thank you. And how about yourself?

Uh, hanging in there. It's been kind of a fun week. Interesting.

Interesting.

They're always fun, right?

Yep.

Our guest today will be Catherine Wissner. Good morning, Catherine?

Good morning, gentlemen.

Catherine is the horticulturist for Laramie County down in Cheyenne, and, uh, we'll get to talking to her in just a little bit, after a few messages from our sponsors.

Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative is on SPA 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](http://www.nohungerwyo.org/grow). Wwww dot N\_O\_H\_U\_N\_G\_E\_R\_W\_Y\_O dot O\_R\_G slash G\_R\_O\_W.

Good morning again, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program, along with our guest Catherine Wissner. We're into September and things are starting to cool off, hopefully. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Oh my gosh.

Just when it seems to cool off, it seems to creep back up to 90 again. So we're- we're getting- we're getting to that apex or that- that- that finalization of- of summer and into the Indian summer, wouldn't you suspect?

I- I would think so. It's, uh, it's starting that way, you know, fall harvest for our local producers is kind of in full swing. Bean- beans are coming out, sugar beets are coming out. Um, it's- the corn is starting to dry down. I think they're hauling a lot of

silage right now. So, uh, those things are happening, everybody is very busy and we acknowledged that, and we're glad that you guys are working, so, um-

Yeah, and give them a break, watch out, slow down. [LAUGHTER] Big- big machinery is being transported across highways.

That's right. Do not pull out in front of them and then expect them to slow down. [LAUGHTER]

Don't expect them to have good brakes.

Well, no, don't be saying that, Jerry. Just-

Oh no- no you're right.

That's very- [LAUGHTER]

You know, I- I had an old truck. I had a 52 Chevy pickup. And what made me so angry is I'd pull out or I'd be going down the road and people would say, "Oh, look at that old truck. I'll pull out in front of him. He's got good brakes." I'm I going I can get it going. [LAUGHTER] I have a little more trouble getting it stopped.

Yeah. These guys have to be inspected so everything should be- [OVERLAPPING]

That's true.

-be in order, right?

Yep, yep.

But- but just because they're big and heavy doesn't mean that you can pull out in front of them. They'll just-

They can't stop on a dime, let's put it that way.

Kinda like those train crossing warnings that we get, right? [OVERLAPPING]

Oh my gosh, yes. Yeap. [LAUGHTER]

They might see you but they might not be able to stop. [LAUGHTER] So anyhow-

And the idea behind all of that information was if you- if you pull out in front of a train, you can't garden anymore.

That is true.

Yeah.

You won't be gardening anymore. Somebody else might be gardening in your place. [LAUGHTER] Okay. So that's enough of the public safety announcement. Let's move on- [LAUGHTER] let's move on to our topics of th- of the day. And Catherine, you know, as we are moving into fall, I know you wanted to talk a little bit about, uh,

getting your garden, your trees, your lawn, your turf, whatever, for- ready for, uh, winter. So I'm gonna turn things over to you and, uh, let you start, and if we find a weakness-

Or a rabbit hole. [LAUGHTER] Or a rabbit hole.

-or a rabbit hole, we'll- we'll pursue it. So, uh, let's go ahead. [LAUGHTER]

Okay. Thanks, gentlemen and I'm glad that you're gonna keep me on my toes and make sure I'm giving accurate information to your listeners, so here we go. As everybody knows, we have had a hot, dry, and occasionally windy summer again. And that hot dry really translates into a lot of stress on trees. And- and I- I see the trees starting to turn color already. And I've had people point out and look, "Oh, isn't that a beautiful yellow?" Well, [LAUGHTER] that beautiful yellow is really a very stressed tree, and it has only one thing it can do and that's to get rid of its leaves and shut down. And so it's really going into dormancy a whole lot sooner than it really should. So what to do? What to help that tree? The- the worst thing you can do is fertilize. So don't fertilize your trees, don't- don't give them a dose of- of anything. But what you should be doing is taking the garden hose out and just putting the garden hose underneath the tree, and turn it on to a trickle, and water your tree deeply. So instead of what- I know a lot of people are gonna go, "Oh, well, you know, I get water when I water the lawn." Well, the lawn's gonna take that water up first and then whatever is leftover the tree gets.

The- the lawn is taking the water. [LAUGHTER]

The lawn is taking the water at the expense of the tree. And-

Sure.

And wha- and what happens is a lot of those tree roots come to the surface. Those feeding roots, the roots- those fine hair roots that want food and water, and they come to the surface. So what you can- it's really not desirable. So- and those deep rooting ones are useless because they just put water in one space. They have a tendency to rod out the- the soil around the roots, so I don't like those deep root feeders at all.

They can cause a sinkhole in your yard is what you're saying.

Or a duck pond, or- [LAUGHTER] yeah. They're not a good idea, and people put them down too deep, and they leave them there for an hour and you know. Just take the garden hose, you know, turn it on, watch a trickle, time it, find a bucket, find a one gallon or five-gallon bucket, and time it. And how long does it take to fill that bucket if it's a one gallon bucket? So the formula- the rule of thumb formula for watering your trees is for every inch of trunk diameter- diameter, so not- not circumference, not going around but just the diameter-

Across.

Across. Thank you. So for every inch across or diameter is 10 gallons of water. And you measure that diameter up from the ground a foot. So a foot off the ground, that diameter times 10 per inch, and then whatever that- so if it's a 10-inch diameter tree, that's a 100 gallons of water. Take your bucket, time it, and then start moving- drop the hose under the tree, move it around and give your tree a good deep drink. So the- the importance of having a tree well hydrated into winter is it will do a whole lot better. It'll survive the winds, it'll survive the extreme cold a whole lot better. You'll see a lot less died back on those trees.

So- so Catherine, you- you gave us the formula, you gave us an idea of how much water that tree will actually need. Is that on a daily basis?

That's on a weekly basis.

Okay.

If you can do it once a week- if you can afford to do it once a week, I don't know what Torrington water charges per gallon or how that works. I know in Cheyenne that can get pretty pricey. But-

But it's necessary.

-but it's necessary. I- if you- those trees are valuable assets to your landscape. They can literally increase your property value from a- a resale standpoint by 10- 10-15 percent depending upon the type of tree, the health of the tree, and the size of the tree. So a good landscape is worth protecting and watering- and it's- it's worth the investment. Right now tree- [OVERLAPPING]

And- and- sorry to interrupt, and if these trees are well-hydrated, they're more able to, uh, defend themselves against insect, pests. Uh, pathogen problems don't seem to be so prevalent that it's just all- all around general health of the tree is better. Um, so everything- it- not only is winter survival, but it's other things that are happening as well.

Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. The better water to tree is, the more it's able to withstand a lot of environmental stresses. And that's the biggest thing I see here in Southeast Wyoming, is the environmental stressors that the wind [LAUGHTER] that- that we can't escape here in- in Laramie County, at least you guys are a little more protected.

Maybe some days. [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

Maybe? Yeah.

So Jerry, uh, when you're watering your trees, are you, uh- what's your method? What are you- what- how are you watering your trees?

Well, uh, I have two ash trees and I was told, oh, I don't know quite a ways ago that I should be watering them to fend off the emerald ash beetle. And that was my only

defense, particularly was to make sure that they're watered. I have three, um, sprinklers that I hooked together on one line, and for two trees, I give one- I turn these sprinklers upside down, so they just go straight down. And I- I put one in the middle and two on the side, and then I- I let that run for- oh, I don't know, couple hours or so.

And you know exactly how much water you're putting out too, don't you?

Yeah, I know. [LAUGHTER] But I have this set up. So all I have to do is hook a garden hose to it- to it and- and the other trees, uh, unfortunately, I'm probably one of those ones that- that think that I'm getting enough water for my cottonwoods. And I'm surely I'm not, uh, I- I need to alter my- my agenda on those. But for the small bushes then I- I just- again, I still put those three sprinklers right next to them and just water the crap out of them.

Yeah, um.

It's very scientific.

It is. How much is- how much is [OVERLAPPING]

They are used for measurement. [LAUGHTER]

Then I- I- I time it from- from time to time, and unless I forget about it. I mean, [LAUGHTER] you know, it's- it's one of those kind of things that my neighbor, he's always looking at his watch and I'm like, uh, time to reset and he goes now. I said okay. [LAUGHTER]. So- so he- he times it pretty close and- and gives each one of his lawn sets, I think 20 minutes and he moves around. So, uh, I- I try to- I try to water deeply and often.

So-

Well, not that often, but I'll try to water deeply.

Yeah. So every- [LAUGHTER] every place where I have, uh, landscaped flowers, trees, I have 1/4 inch irrigation line with emitters that are already built into it. And I spread that out in all of my beds. And so I'll let it run for an hour or 90 minutes twice a week, and my landscape doesn't get stressed. So-

Yeah.

Uh, it seems to work pretty well. Do I know exactly how much water the tree is getting? No.

No.

Is it probably a little wetter than it needs? It's possible. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. On a side note, just because, uh, you- you brought up your- your trees, how are your new apricot trees doing?

Uh, some of them are living. Some of them are not. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Well, thank- thank God for the ones that are living.

Yeah, exactly. So, um- go ahead and Catherine.

So Jeff, what- what variety of apricots did you get? That's-that's important because apricots is a big word, but there's a lot of different varieties.

It's mama's variety [LAUGHTER].

Mom's?

It came from my mother's house in Riverton [LAUGHTER].

Okay.

That is- that is very productive there. So-

Okay.

Uh, I can ask you- go ahead, Jerry.

And my brothers- and my brother's apricot tree is- is my neighbor's apricot [LAUGHTER] tree that he- [LAUGHTER] that she was eating, and she just kind of was throwing the pits out the back door, you know, sitting on the back door and eating apricots and throwing them out, and just lo behold, here are- here's these plants come up, and so Dennis bought one of those trees or a couple those trees.

I would be happy if they've produced fruit. I have three in my yard already that are probably-, I don't know, 10 years old. They're just starting to produce a little bit of fruit now, uh, but the squirrels have been enjoying them before I get to them. And, um, if in 10- they're attractive trees to me I- I kind of like the way that they looked and the things they- they do in the fall and the flowers that they produce in the spring, so whether or not they have apricots, that's kind of a- that's a bonus.

Catherine, what kind of apricots do you recommend?

Well, again, we're going- we're going to go back and have kind of a- a little bit of a basic horticultural list lesson on that one because, you know, the USDA has set up plant growth zones, and they have Cheyenne and I believe they have the Torrington area listed as zone 5 and we are not or zone 4 and sometimes we are zone 3. So you have to buy plants and trees that are appropriate for zone 4, and so that really kind of brings you into the Manchurian variety of apricots. And I've tried growing those. I found they don't like the wind. And so I lost mine to the wind. So they do need a little bit more protection in my- my area. The Conservation District, Laramie County Conservation District is planting a lot of Manchurian apricots and their windbreaks now because-

They can.

They like them.

[LAUGHTER] Because they can.

Because they can and they like them, [LAUGHTER] and- and according to Sean, they're having pretty good luck with them. So- [OVERLAPPING]

And it's- and it something different than plums, right? So a lot of windbreaks in- in the past and they planted plums as the fruiting variety. And if you have plums and- or apricots, it's just something different. Edible landscape.

Yeah- yeah, absolutely. And I found that the birds absolutely adore apricots. And when I had my trees, and they were producing apricots, the birds, I'm looking at the fruit grow and great, great, you know, it's almost ready, it's almost ready, and poof, birds ate it [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

When we lived in Riverton before, excuse me, when we lived in Torrington before we live north of town and- and the previous owner of the house that we were in had apricots, and every year we'd- I'd- I'd go out there and go. Okay. We going to pick apricots tomorrow. [LAUGHTER] that night- that night, [OVERLAPPING] we would have one of those wind storms that just stripped everything out of the trees [LAUGHTER] So, uh, you know, those types of things happen. [LAUGHTER]

Now, uh-

Yes, they do.

- with apricots, I mean, they don't have to fall too far to the ground, but you find that they bruise too hard to be used if they fall.

So currently- yeah, currently my- my mother's apricots, it's- it's planted in- it's planted in a hell strip between her driveway and the neighbor's yard?

The neighbor?

Yeah, we- well- yeah. Anyway, um, it- when the apricots drop fruit, it will drop them onto the pavement. And my mom goes out, and picks them up every day, and of course there's 1/2 that's bruised and half that's not bruised, so it just kinda depends on your- your preference and how bad you want to work at there.

And what you going to do with it?

And what you're going do with them? Yeah- yeah.

Yeah. They make amazing jams and jellies and apricot butter is divine, so you can't go wrong. Yeah.

And they're- and they're great to eat fresh. [LAUGHTER]

Yes, they are.

For those of us who can.

Yeah, can be that it beats the birds to them Yeah, well, you know, fruit trees, whether it's an apricot or a cherry or a plum or apple, they- they're not drought tolerant. And a lot of people come to me and- and raspberries too and Jeff, of all people, you probably the best to talk about raspberries. But people have a tendency to go, oh, well, they don't need water.

I just wanted them a week ago. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. [LAUGHTER] You need to water a lot, almost every day.

Yeah, when- when things are fruiting- when- when fruit is developing that tree, that bush, whatever it is, uh, really is using the water to push that fruit to ripeness, so they need to be watered every day.

Every day, yeah. And-and that was the drip or not with a soaker hose because that's- that's unreliable and you can't- you cannot measure the water. [LAUGHTER] So, Drip tape is the best.

Come on - come on Catherine was wondering in general, whether you know how much is going out or not would be better than not.

That's - that's true - that is true [LAUGHTER] If you've got a raspberry patch, you know get the holes out and flooded keep it watered keep it wet and - and then I've been telling people with raspberry patches that, you know, cut it down and it gets a shout back out and - and cleaned it up with a shot back. So hopefully this fall I should see, you know, a couple of dozen people out in their yard, [LAUGHTER] to shop but queuing up their garden.

So uh since we're on the raspberry rabbit hole right now, um I got to say our - so we've taken all of our raspberries out of the field. We have one variety that we're growing inside the high tunnel and that is uh, Joan J. It's a thorn less variety. And I specifically chose a thorn less variety for the high tunnel. [LAUGHTER] Uh just because - just because they're easier to manage. This year - I've got to say this year has been the uh, the best year of production in our high tunnel. Uh, I think I got the fertility just right. I've got the water just right. Um, we do not have issues with the fruit flies that we've had in the past. We've also had issues with mites on the raspberries in the past, we don't have that. I can say that I have a very healthy spider population living in them, [LAUGHTER] which I think has been a benefit. Uh - uh, it's a - but we have been producing raspberries since the middle of July and they're consistently producing it. We just have a small amount. Um, they're - they're consistently producing about, I don't know, a pound every time we harvest. So, um, they've been - it's been working out really well.

Great. So what kind - how often are you watering your raspberries in the high tunnel? Because that's a whole different growing system and - and. [inaudible 00:21:43].



It's everyday.

Everyday. Okay.

Drip system, yeah.

And - so how long are you watering and how much - how much water does each emitter put out?

Half an hour and I think it would be half- I'm probably putting about a half a gallon. We'd have to figure out the space that - the size of the bed that there in.

Right

In order to understand the gallon edge, but my emitters are a tenth of a gallon per, uh, hour.

Okay - okay. So you're not drenching?

No.

You're just giving it enough water to meet its requirements for that day?

I am - I am not flooding it that's correct.

Okay - okay. Yeah. Most people are growing outside and they're growing in just, you know, regular soil.

Oh, yeah, it's a - it's a totally different environment than to try and come outside.  
[LAUGHTER]

Oh, yeah - yeah. But - but that's one - the one of the biggest things I run into is that people grossly underwater their raspberries and they underestimate how much water they need - they desperately need the same thing with your fruit trees. It's like, well like tree didn't produce much fruit. It's like, well, how much did you water the tree? Well, one water, no get the hose out and drop it underneath there and really water it.

Well, and you have to remember if you're looking at raspberries, they're 90 percent water, the free [inaudible 00:23:11] or - or - or more. So they really rely on good watering when they're fruiting.

Yeah. So what would you recommend for fertilizer? Because that's another big question I get. I have my answer but I'm curious to know what - what you recommend? [LAUGHTER]

Well, I can tell you what I do. I'm not gonna - I'm not gonna tell you what I would recommend. Well, I mean I could, it's the same thing. So I use commercial fertilizer. I think it's a 12: 10: 4 and it's high iron and high sulfur. And when I say high, I'm thinking that's got about 12 percent of both of those in it and that combination

because we have high pH soils, I need that extra iron in them to keep them green and growing well. So raspberries and strawberries, instead of just dumping fertilizer on them once a season, um raspberries, uh, you need to add strawberries. You need to figure out, okay, if - if you - let's talk about strawberries first. If - if you fertilize them in the spring, you're going to have mushy fruit. So you, the - the plan is to after they are done fruiting, then you take a date in each of the next three months and you split your fertilizer for that crop, uh, by three and then apply that amount each time, at one month intervals. And that's usually later. So you start that in July, August, and September or the end of June with those three things. It depends on if you're producing June berries or day neutrals. But, um, uh, what you're doing is you're setting up that plant to produce next year's flowers. Well, uh, raspberries are a little bit different and that could be, because you're trying to produce fruit in the fall. So you want to fertilize March, April, May, May, April, June. Because in, by the - by the time July gets here, that plant is producing fruit. So that's how I do it. I kind of figure out how much fertilizer I need, divide it by three, provide a little food once a month, and then by the time it's fruiting season, you're no longer applying fertilizer.

Okay.

That's how I do it.

Right so [OVERLAPPING].

Which - which is against what you do. I know. [LAUGHTER]

I know that's -, that's fine because not everybody wants to make their own fertilizer.

Right.

And you know, I'm just - I'm just geeky enough and you know what, my master gardeners to be just geeky enough to do that. And a lot of people really wanna go this organic route as they reach for miracle grow. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

It's not. [LAUGHTER] It's not organic. And so it's just everybody has a different level of - of work they want to do in the garden for reward.

And it's one of those things that, you know, I can make a recommendation, but it's - you're probably gonna do what you wanna do. However it works best for you, right?

Yes. Exactly - [LAUGHTER] exactly. So [LAUGHTER] I - I - I'm I'm good with, you know I'm reaching for that bottle or bag or box or whatever on the shelf and I just - I like to be fiddly enough that I make my own fertilizer. And we talked about that method and the [inaudible 00:26:52] [OVERLAPPING] and fish emulsion and the corn syrup method. But not everybody has that kind of time or inclination.

Well - well that's just fiddly enough. I don't want to mess with it.

Yeah [LAUGHTER], exactly.

Why don't you forget your recipe.

Oh If you do it long enough, Jerry you won't forget it, right?

Yeah, that's true.

Yeah.

Make it a habit.

Yeah, you know, but my thought is okay, I'm ready to make fertilizer, but I'm out of fish emulsion and nobody else has it, I can't find it, so I kind wait [LAUGHTER]. We've - you know, we've - we've talked about that in the past and it just depends on what people want to do.

And how labor intensive it is for - for the - the - the particular individual.

Oh, exactly. And how much time do you have? And a lot of - lot of people want to grow their own fruit and vegetables. So I still really appreciate that. I don't wanna help people be successful and it can be daunting to be successful here in Wyoming with trying to grow fruit because people want to grow all this exotic stuff and so I kind of want to stick to the basics and see how well we can do on the basics and then move from there. But the biggest thing I run into is that people grossly underwater their raspberry patch their strawberry patch, they underwater their fruit trees and - and sometimes I just run into where people just flat out don't want to spend the money. Some water, [OVERLAPPING] their produce. So it's like, you know, you're just not going to be productive if you don't water it.

Yeah, speaking exotic things, I met a gentleman that I believe it was this spring up in lost who has been growing pineapples in his greenhouse.

Oh, my world.

[OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER] Yeah, I know it's awesome. So there are some crazy things that - that can be grown and that - that are. You know I think we've talked on air about [inaudible 00:28:58] who's over in Alliance, who he has a greenhouse that's - he calls it Sit person in the Snow and he is producing lemons and limes and grapefruit and uh, oranges and uh- and selling it commercially. He is not just producing one or two pieces of fruit, he is - he's got enough, [OVERLAPPING] sell it at the farmers market. So it - it's pretty - it's just an amazing thing if you are interested and dedicated and have time. And we are fortunate enough that we can do that kind of stuffs.

Yeah. Oh gosh, yes.

Yeah. If you want exotic stuff, it can be done.

It can be, yep. So - I'm - I'm gonna jump back to the watering.

Sure let's go back there.

Just brief - just briefly. I know a lot of people are so pinched for time nowadays and they got so many other things going on that I'm - they [LAUGHTER] trying to remember to water can be daunting and so one, um, one more chore on their - on their list of things to do, go by a timer. Timers are cheap.

Yeah. I agree.

Put a couple - put a couple of batteries in that thing, plug it into the host and, you know monitor it. You'll make sure that it's working and it's not springing leaks and doing tricks. But that's your best employee in the garden. Absolutely, your best employee.

My- uh, my experience with timers is that they are awesome. I am not one to go in every year and change out the batteries. So [LAUGHTER] I need to make sure that, uh, throughout the course of the season that things are working like they should, uh, I actually cut things this year and- and, um, I had one the- the batteries were no longer functional. Uh, probably had to let- probably let things go a little bit too long, but they have since recovered and are-, uh, I am going to have a winter squash crop. So [LAUGHTER].

Thanks, Jerry. Yeah. Very good. Very good.

Sorry to interrupt Catherine, but I think it's time to take a break. And, uh, we will take a few moments and listen to our sponsors and we'll be back right after this.

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Morning again, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program. Our guest today is Catherine Wissner. We've been talking about the need for watering, uh, prepping things for winter. And cap- a couple of rabbit holes, fruit trees and raspberries and [LAUGHTER] stuff like that. So, uh, I think the, um, portions of the rest of the program we're gonna continue with the, uh, topics that Katherine had. But we also want to get Jerry involved in the conversation towards the end and spend a little time talking about a fall in the pumpkins- in the pumpkin season. So Katherine, we kinda left on, uh, watering. Uh, we- were there more things that you would like to talk about with watering?

Okay. I'd- I'd like to jump over to turf.

Okay, Let's hop to turf.

Turf management. Um, once- once- people get really excited and worked up and over think their lawns, and I'm being nice. [LAUGHTER]

Well, it's gotta be the best look in one in the neighborhood.

Oh, yeah- yeah. mine- yeah, no. I- I thankfully, I live out on the prairie, and I don't have neighbors for about a half a mile all the way around me.

So what, you don't care?

I don't care. I don't mow. I don't water. I don't have lawn, I don't want a lawn, I don't want that worker. I don't want that- I don't want any of it. It's a small pass through the prairie. And it's also ideal [LAUGHTER]. But- but in town it's- it is-, you know, part of the code to have at least a semi-nice looking lawn. And again, I run into a lot of situations where people over-fertilize- fertilize once- once a year is the recommendation coming from the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University [inaudible 00:33:45] Collins from Doctor Koski is once a year. Kinda debatable whether it's spring or fall. I prefer spring so that you can give that lawn a good boost, in that the fertilizers stays with the lawn and doesn't run off with water or the snow. And the other thing is don't mow your lawn to the ground. I see a lot of people mow it to like two inches and then wonder why it struggles.

We talked about scalping last week on the program, didn't we, Jerry?

Yes. And that's- that's a no-go. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. So there- is if you look at your lawn mower. Everybody, you know, after the end of the show, go look at your lawnmower and look at the wheels and down at the front wheels and sometimes the back wheels, the pro-mozi is a little levers. And you can adjust the height of your lawn mower at these little levers at the wheels. And you really want it as high as it can go. There's higher- the taller the grasses, the healthier it's going to be. And if your grass is long right now, leave it long it going into winter. It'll hold more snow, It'll be- it's got more green leafy material, so it's going to photosynthesize longer and it's gonna have more energy in the spring. So you wanna set your lawn up now for good spring re-growth. So- so I'm gonna take a chore away from everybody. [LAUGHTER] I- I'm gonna give you one chore just to go check your lawn mower and adjust the wheel heights to maximum. But then put the lawn mower away for the rest of the season and don't mow again. If your lawn might look a little long and little- little shaggy, don't worry about it. It'll be a lot healthier next spring and you'll have fewer weeds. There's a bonus few weeds [LAUGHTER].

Yeah. So- so one of the guys that I've had give presentations for our pesticide classes. He uh-, he says that the best herbicide is a healthy lawn, right? If you're trying to keep weeds out of your lawn. If it's healthy and- and growing aggressively, it will compete with those weeds or out-compete those weeds and keep it weed-free. So, yeah.

Abso- Absolutely.

[OVERLAPPING] So on a ramp into that, we have a honey locust tree- female honey locust tree because she produces a lot of pods. And rather than to rake them up and try to contain them, we mow them. So we're moving into November, crunching up

our- crunching up our- our honey locust pods.

So- so remember Jerry, uh, again. It says we spoke of before. That was a recommendation from Catherine.

Oh, yeah.

What- what works for you, might be different recommendation [LAUGHTER].

Yeah. I just thought I'd throw that in there. That's my monkey wrench. [LAUGHTER]

Okay. So- so an interesting note on honey locust trees is that they're a member of the legume family. And the leaves are naturally high in nitrogen, so it's a natural fertilizer. So when you use your mulching lawn mower, raised as high as it can go and you're crunching up all those seed pods, keep in mind those seeds can actually be viable. And someday you might have a little honey locust forest out there, maybe.

Already do. [LAUGHTER].

Yeah

Many years is rototiller to give it at that. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. They- they don't survive a rototiller well. [LAUGHTER].

Yeah. No, they don't- No, they don't. [LAUGHTER] I- Um, I forgot where I was going with this.

It's funny- it's- it's funny, Jerry, Catherine just shakes her head at the things that we do and- and then she tries to recover. [LAUGHTER] It's fun to watch it..

No, she shakes her heads at what I say. [LAUGHTER]. Ho- how to you survive Erschabeck? [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. I can make all the recommendations on how to be successful in your garden and how to understand lawn fertilizers and make your own yadda yadda, but it really comes down to what people ultimately want to spend their time doing. And- and I like to- I like to take chores away from people and make gardening simpler and easier. Stop mowing, stop mowing right now, put your lawnmower away. You know, don't mow up those seed pods until next spring, unless it makes you crazy seeing them on the lawn [OVERLAPPING]

[LAUGHTER] I live with also another- another gardener that insists that we do that, you know. So hey, it's just as easy to do it as to argue.

[LAUGHTER] Well, yeah. The picture- picture your battles, right? That's-

Yeah. We were talking, you said, uh, they have and contain quite a bit of nitrogen, those seed pods?

Well. The leaves of the- the honey locust tree are- are natural, you know, they have a little bit of nitrogen and so it's a natural source of- of nitrogen, which is a fertilizer, mac- macronutrient nutrient. So, you know, those mulched into the lawn, are good for the lawn, good for the soil, good organic material putting back. Yeah.

Yeah. We like honey locust trees, that- that's one of our favorite trees to grow.  
[OVERLAPPING]

I'm starting to appreciate all the locusts. Uh, I have several in my landscape, but particularly the uh, really spiny ones [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. I don't like that one for you. [OVERLAPPING] Not for me.

Yeah. It's okay. Best part about it is that the deal even long. [inaudible 00:39:46]

Oh yeah.

[LAUGHTER] So, I'm going to-

Jeff, when you say you've got spiny honey locusts are you- locusts, are you talking about the black locusts or- [OVERLAPPING]

They are not- you know, I've had several people here look at them. They are- I think- I believe that they are just, uh, honey locusts that-

With thorns?

With thorns. Yeah.

Okay. Yeah

Yeah. They're- they're very healthy trees.

Yeah.

Jerry is showing how big these thorns are. Uh, they are- they are very aggressive thorns. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. It's uh, they're a little scary [LAUGHTER]

No- no kid would be climbing that tree.

Yeah, but the squirrels still do.

Oh yeah. [LAUGHTER] Jimmy can move around them thorns.

Yeah. Jimmy can. [LAUGHTER] Okay. So, um, Katherine just, you know, we're- we're getting to the point where I want to give Jerry plenty of time to talk about them.

There you go.

Anything- anything else that you would like to uh, add today- to today's program?

Well, for anybody who lives out on the land on acreage, you know, don't mow your prairie. Worst thing you can do to your prairie is mow it unless you like ground squirrels, prairie dogs, snakes, spiders, weeds, soil erosion, drifting snow. If you like all that stuff by all means go ahead and mow your prairie but if you want to prevent all that stuff, don't mow your prairie. So, [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Okay. On that note, Jerry, let's talk veining stuff and pumpkins.

Okay. So, uh, they're part of the- the- the family called Cucurbitaceae and you had mentioned that yours kind of have some winter squash. What are- what are you growing?

So I have, so yeah. This thing that I'm holding up now we're going to talk about in a minute because I -

Okay.

But I have, um, I have kabochas which are, um, in the Hubbard family, um, spaghetti squash, and butternuts.

Oh yeah. All favorites. I don't know about the kabocha's, but any of the- any of the winter squash, men are good keepers, they last long, I would- I would encourage someone to go ahead and put some of those in your garden or like an acorn squash maybe if you're just getting started. But, uh, that's for next year of course, but, [OVERLAPPING].

Sure.

Any of those squash, please don't hesitate to try to eat them, cook them, bake them, anything you want to do with them, it's okay, and they'll usually turn out pretty damn good.

We're- we used to grow [OVERLAPPING].

Saying that [OVERLAPPING].

Oh sorry, Jerry, I interrupted you.

Go ahead.

We used to grow a lot of acorn squash and, um, we've decided that they're kind of boring [LAUGHTER] There- there are so many other different squash out there. Uh, they're good, they're nutritious, the acorn squash but, uh, if you- if you're not familiar with the kabocha, um, they have much more flavor, particularly after they have been in storage for awhile. So- so they are one of those things that actually gets better with time, um, [OVERLAPPING]

Oh, yeah.

And I think all winter squash do. You know you can eat them when they- the- to me



the- the harvest test is if you poke your thumbnail into them and their flesh doesn't scar or scrape off, then it's ready to be harvested. So, um, but all those squash get better after storage I think.

And even pumpkin, here's my segue. Even pumpkin gets better with a little storage and a little time and a freeze.

Yeah.

So, um, we always used to pick our stuff, uh, right before- for the pumpkins, of course, if they were going to be shown you want to protect against a freeze. If you wanted to eat the pumpkin, just go ahead and let it freeze and then harvest, and then don't let them freeze again.

They are a whole lot easier to harvest after they freeze. [OVERLAPPING]. After the [inaudible 00:44:12] [LAUGHTER]

That can't be wrong. Then you just have to watch out for the vine. They will reach out and grab you and trip you and make you fall on your face.

Exactly.

But the- they're very fun to grow, to see it, something in the garden and you kind of go and hey, what am I going to do with that? But, if you're not going to do anything with them, you can display them on your porch, your sidewalk, or on top of your fence, you know. So there's a lot of things you can do seasonally with acorn squash. We always like butternut, buttercup squash, and like you said, it gives you more, more fruit. Acorns are a little boring, but you know, that's my brother's favorite, so we always try to throw one plant in for him. So the pumpkins uh, and there's some crazy people that want to grow giant pumpkins and everything that we know about fertilization gets thrown out the window because they throw micronutrients and mass quantities of fertilization at these pumpkins in order for them to grow large.

And a lot of water.

And a lot of water and hydration, just like Katherine was saying, when a- when a fruit tree is starting to fruit, you need to put more water on it. Pumpkins are one of those things that just need lots and lots and lots of water. So they get watered every day as well and then there- there's even failure of feeding if- if the sun is too hot on the leaves, they even talk about putting a blanket or a shade on the pumpkin itself to shade that skin. They want that skin to be so easily stretched because if they gain seven or eight pounds a day- a day, uh, that skin needs [LAUGHTER] to be able to stretch. You know, uh, women when they're pregnant always put lotion on their- on their belly and uh, I don't know if that keeps stretch marks from appearing but, you know, it's- self-massage is always one of those good things when you're- when you're pregnant. I don't recommend massaging your pumpkin, and I don't recommend [OVERLAPPING].

Lotioning your pumpkin.

Or what?

Lotioning your pumpkin.

Not lotioning your pumpkin [LAUGHTER] or allowing people to smoke in your pumpkin patch because of disease, tobacco mosaic probably [OVERLAPPING]

We lost Katherine. We lost Katherine on the lotioning [LAUGHTER].

[OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER] Jeff, you showed a-a leaf of- of- looks something of a- of a squash, and it looks hand packed. It looks- it looks, it looks like it's in trouble.

I have- I go for a walk every morning, and along a ditch that I am walking near, there is this viny plant. This is one leaf.

Wow.

There.

Okay.

And it is a viny plant. I have never seen flowers on it. I've never seen seed pods, or a fruiting structure, but in my book that would be a weed that you do not want. I don't know what it is. I'm trying to figure it out. I've submitted a sample to different places to try to understand what it is, but It's a vine and it occupies about 30, and 50 foot patch [OVERLAPPING]

Wow.

In one of the ditches. It is in that [inaudible 00:48:03]. Did I say that right. I think I might have [OVERLAPPING].

It sounded good to me.

[LAUGHTER] Okay. I'm trying to figure out what that is, and hopefully it doesn't invade anywhere else, other than where it is.

It looks like it's heavily infested with spider mites.

No, there's nothing on it. It's totally clean. It's just a little off-color.

Oh, I'll be darned.

Yeah.

Yeah.

It's showing much of the on the screen, and what it actually is.

Than what it is?

Yeah.

There will be a pumpkin weigh-off here in Goshen County as well as in Warren and as well as at Fort Collins, at their nursery. If you've never been to a pumpkin weigh-off. Probably, the one in Warren will be the most spectacular because they dropped a pumpkin onto a car. [LAUGHTER]

Before, or after they weighed it? [LAUGHTER]

I'm not even sure that they weighed that one. But it's one of those spectacles that if you've never seen a pumpkin drop from, I don't know, one of those large boom trucks, large.

Yeah. How big is this splatter zone, or the shrapnel hole?

They move people out at least 30 feet, and I would suspect even further, because it's under pressure, it's falling 32 feet per second squared. It hits that car and bursts apart and squashes on the car as well. Pun intended.

Yes, squash the car.

Squash the car. That will be all coming up end of September, 1st of October. Kudos to those people. That's the labor intensive stuff, Katherine, that we were talking about before. How much do you want to put into your pumpkin and how big do you want it? Well, you always want them as big as you can, but there's some labor associated with that. You don't turn the pumpkin at all. You just keep cutting vines back, and keep shaping your pumpkin as it grows, because it has a main vine, primary vine, it has a secondary vine, and a tertiary vine. You want to keep the tertiary vines cut off.

Okay.

That allows the pumpkin to grow on the secondary vine or the main vine. They start early, and they try to end late. Ending late, they put a cloth, or they put a tent in their pumpkin, they put a tent over their pumpkin, they try to protect the canopy as much as they can but of course, like you said, when it freezes and there's a heavy frost, that canopy will drop. Now, most pumpkin growers will not cut their pumpkin off the vine right then, they will lose weight due to what's called transpiration. They will keep that vine intact as long as they can. Then once they decide that that's the pumpkin that they're going to do, they load it on a pallet and put the vine in a plastic gallon jug, and tape it to the vine so that the vine still has a little bit of opportunity to take up a little more water.

So it can gain more weight if it needs to?

Well, it won't lose it as much.

Yeah.

I doubt if it would gain much.

Sure.

Some people go, "Oh, you should put lead in it."

That's cheating.

Yeah. It will leave a mark on the pumpkin. When your pumpkin is presented for weight-off. It should look like a fair pumpkin, something that's going to win a blue ribbon. There shouldn't be a mark or a cavitation, or a plug hole, none of that kind of stuff. My uncle tried to put dairy, that powdered milk substitute for calves, in a bucket, and he put a vine, but it just made the pumpkin turn to mush.

[LAUGHTER]

We don't suggest that.

Not a good idea,

Yeah. I don't know the details of the weigh-off here that we're going to have in Trenton. I've been hearing a little bit of smack talk that, "Hey, we've got some contenders coming on." It'll be interesting to see what we've had. This has been a hard year for large pumpkin growers just due to the cold start, the heavy wind. Katherine, I'm thinking that you must have heavy wind because I think we have heavy wind. I think that, the people that run the solar blades, I think they do a pretty good job in all areas of Wyoming. Unfortunately, we don't have a pumpkin to present, we have a little one. We'll probably gathered it around, and take it in and present it at our weigh-off.

Use it at Halloween.

As well, use it for Halloween decoration. That's what I miss the most about growing pumpkins on a larger scale, is because when you go to harvest them. Every one of them look pretty. When Murnane and I would harvest and go, "Oh, Murnane, look at this one. This is a pretty one." You had said something about having more spiders in your greenhouse.

Yeah.

Well, pumpkin usually attract spiders to them, because pumpkins attracts spider mites, and a whole host of other nine voracious critters like the cucumber vine beetle. I believe that's what it's called. It'll decimate a pumpkin pretty quickly.

Squash bugs.

Squash bugs, oh, yeah, and mites. They all have their specific duty but spiders are one of those critters that just eat them all up. Jeff?

Yes.

I saw on TV that there were remarking that there were a lot of spiders on the move. They said primarily the ones that are on the move, are the males spiders looking for female spiders. Can you shed any light on that? Not on the mating or courtship, but

have you seen a lot of influx of spiders?

Have I seen? Yeah. Thanks for not asking me to do the Sex Ed show today?

You're welcome.

[LAUGHTER] Have I seen a lot of spiders on the move? I wouldn't say that this year is any different than any other year for- for me, uh, I'm sure there are places where there are many spiders out and about. One thing that spiders do to help them disperse is called, um, I want to say threading, but I don't think that that's right. Parachuting. They'll actually shoot out a- a piece of thread. If they'll get to a high spot, shoot out a piece of thread and then disperse in the wind, so a lot of times in the fall, uh, if you're traveling, you'll see a lot of webbing on different places and it's this spiders they're trying to disperse themselves.

Yeah. Thank God. We don't have those- those spiders around us that- and have you seen the pictures of those? The- the- the webbing is just phenomenal. I mean, it covers a tree and three or four uh, yards on either side of it and you- and you think that it's a Halloween prank.

I think most of that's coming out of Australia, isn't it?

I don't know [LAUGHTER] but, you know when you see pictures, you go Oh my gosh, not here.

I'm glad it's not here.

Yeah, it's not here. If you haven't seen it yet, you probably won't- we usually see the- the nice, uh, spider webs in the corner of a garage or that sort of thing. Now- so the reason I bring this up is I've-I've gotten these, uh, uh, glue boards and they're just, uh, - they're just a piece of cardboard with some really strong glue on it and I've put them in the garage and every so often I- I tip it up to see what I've gotten, what I've caught and I've caught quite a few large spiders. So I thought maybe perhaps there was an influx of spiders as the season goes into fall, uh, I know they're probably looking for a place to get into-

Place to overwinter.

Overwinter and that sort of thing. As- as most bugs will, correct?

No. Oh- there are many types of insects that like to find harborages for wintertime.

For winter. So Catherine, you had said earlier that one of the reasons for cleaning up your garden was to get rid of pests that might overwinter.

What about the good guys?

What about the good guys, Catherine?

Yeah, exactly. Well, when- I when I tell someone to take a shot back to their

raspberry patch and thinking about the Spotted Wing Drosophila and-and try to get rid of that- that monster because most people aren't aware of it. Most people probably aren't aware that they're eating bug larva and their raspberries either, so we're- well, it will keep quiet.

It's nice to know that raspberries have become a protein source as well.

Exactly. [LAUGHTER] So trying to mitigate some of the damage is just really good sanitation, you know, that's- that's a whole Integrated Pest Management approach is good sanitation is-is key to mitigating a lot of problems and diseases and- so if it's something as simple as taking your shop back out and cleaning up that raspberry patch so that you have a better harvest next year unless pest and disease pressure then I'm sure the spiders will still up here. I- I have no doubt that they will still

So spiders will show up. Yeah. [LAUGHTER].Okay. Very good. Jerry, any other comments? Anything's- anything that, uh, going on in the area that you know of.

Well, I know what I'm doing. I am already thinking of next year.

Oh, yeah.

I'm- I'm starting to contemplate, uh, looking at the sunlight, looking at where, uh, I'm thinking that where my garden sits right now and how the sun is at ten o'clock. Where my shade still is, uh, I'm- I'm starting to-to look at my garden as far as what and where am I going to plant stuff next year because we like to try to rotate as well, uh, part of that sanitation, uh, we tried to rotate the crops and- and now is a good time to think about, well, where are you going to put your pig wire? What are you going to grow on it? Where are you going to put it? The tomatoes, um, I think we got way too much sun this year and um, I'm thinking morning sun, afternoon or a morning shade, afternoon sun or vice versa. I don't know which is going to be better, maybe afternoon sun or maybe afternoon shade because it gets really hot in the afternoon.

Yeah.

So that's- that's kind of what I'm looking at right now and- and, uh, making my approach for next year.

Well now is a good time to, you know, as- as our garden start winding down to start thinking about next year and then, uh- uh, making a plan. I don't- I-I'm pretty bad. I don't write things down. I just rely on my memory and my wife's memory and she is usually correct. [LAUGHTER]

That's what we do as well and then stand and argue a little bit and go. All right, hey, "let's put them here." "Yeah, that's a good idea, let's do that, " and, uh,- uh, you know, when we- we- when I say we have pig wire, it's- it's uh, the really heavy duty cattle panel, I guess it's what it's called.

Or it can be called hog panels or cattle panels I think.

Okay. I think we're hog panels because they're- they're like 4 inch squares.

Okay.

And, uh,- and we replace those- or we place them in different positions about every two years and they're needing to be replaced and uh put in. Not replaced, just put somewhere else.

Moved.

Moved- moved. So Catherine, uh, you had once told us that you like to put plastic down on your garden. Do you put it down in the spring? Tell me how you do that?

So I put plastic down. You know, it's uh,- it's part of my work for us in-in the vegetable garden, right? and so it's- it's their work to put it down in the spring. I have my soil preps. You only prep the soil when it's dry, right? Only work the soil when it's dry and I also amend the soil at that time with my own homemade compost, and whatever else I think it needs based on a soil test. I put uh, the irrigation down, my drip irrigation then I put the black plastic down on top of that irrigation and it's black side up because I'm trying to warm up or cold warming soils. You're warm season vegetables to a whole world better if the soil is warm and that's including your pumpkins, your winter squash, your summer squash. They all like warm soil and it wouldn't surprise me if you could even get your pumpkins- your giant pumpkins to do a little bit better if you put down black plastic so that they could grow on a very warm surface instead of just the ground. So this kind of a thought, I- I don't grow giant pumpkins to me they too fiddly. [LAUGHTER]. After our discussion, I am a geeky horticulturist and I love making my own fertilizer, but giant pumpkins are too fiddly for me [LAUGHTER].

Everybody's got their own amount of fiddle.

Oh yeah, we do it always. We have our quotas and that's- that's kind of beyond mine. Yeah, the black plastic goes down in the spring. I tried to take it up at the end of the season and I get rid of all the junk and debris that's on top of that so that I start off with clean.

Oh, yearly.

Next year.

Yeah.

Can you use them- can you use them multiple years?

Oh, absolutely. I've got some that are ten years old and they just keep on going. Yeah, I'm keeping them out of my land, so- for a while. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

For a while.

Yeah, feel us all one big bunch. [LAUGHTER]

Exactly. They- they eventually just kind of fall apart on their own. They sort of start to degrade and unravel and it's okay. That's right. I got to use all of them, they are free.

I'm for new yeah. Yeah. Um, I really hate to say it, but I think we're bumping up against our- our- our time limit here, so um, Catherine, thank you for being our guest today.

You're welcome. Thank you for having me.

I appreciate you being here, Jerry, always good to see you.

Thank you so much.

You know final parting shot here. You're talking that folks are talking smacked about, uh, their giant pumpkins. I keep seeing videos showing up on Facebook of uh, local producers that I think they're doing- they're out there with their bragging rights, so- [LAUGHTER].

Well, and as well, they should.

As well they should. Okay, everybody, I hope you have a good Friday. Thank you for listening to us and uh, get out and garden this weekend.

[MUSIC] You've been listening to Morning Garden with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist, Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. With any tweets for details on new event and how to make your garden flourish. Good day and happy gardening.