

Hey, Wyoming. Welcoming to the Lawn & Garden Podcast with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Originally aired on KGOS and KERN in Torrington. Join Jeff, Jerry and all their special guests as they talk all things gardening in the great State of Wyoming. From plain variant, to weather events, to pesticide, and pollinators. Our Lawn & Garden Podcasts helps you improve your home garden as well as your small acres. So let's welcome Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck.

Welcome to the KERN Lawn & Garden Show. I'm Jerry Erschabeck, filling in for Jeff Edwards. With me today is Gary Stone, Nebraska Extension Educator from Scottsbluff, Nebraska. How are you doing today, Gary?

I'm doing well, Jerry, [OVERLAPPING].

Good deal.

How is everything with you?

I'm really good. Hey, what about this weather?

Well, I tell you, uh, I guess Paul is here.

Paul is here. [OVERLAPPING]

It's, it's Stone Gary.

Let's, let's get into that a little bit more after a word from our sponsors.

I'm the first Lady Jennie Gordon, Wyoming Hunger Initiative. It's [inaudible 00:01:18] 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 based in 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.

All right. Good morning again, I'm Jerry Erschabeck with me as Gary Stone, Nebraska Extension Educator from Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Gary, this week, the temperatures have been up and down. I think the overnight low on Monday night was like 36. Have you been covering crops?

I haven't yet but I haven't recommended my clientele to do so just yet. I've been watching what the National Weather Service has been putting out and, yeah, it's gotten down the freezing, you know, the higher elevations and the ports, mountains, and stuff. But so far for I see here out on the Great Plains it's still hanging around that upper 30's, lower 40's. So we still have a little bit of time. But the area on caution side you- if it makes you feel better probably get out and cover some of those veggies.

Yeah. Uh, Monday night we, uh, went out and covered are cantaloupe. We planted

quite a few of them, but we didn't get such a good crop, but now we have one larger one and three little ones. So we went out Monday night and covered them. I would imagine that, that, uh, yeah, we will just continue having to watch that, that thermometer and see if we're going to recover or when we're going to cover it again.

And that's all you got to do is listen to the weather service and see what they have to say for us.

Yeah. Yeah. Now somebody asked me about the ground temperature and heck I, I've never really paid attention to the ground temperature except in the spring. What, what have you know knowledge of the ground temperature, Gary?

Yeah. Looking at our crop launch website the soil temperatures. So the four inch bare soil ground temperatures are right around 70 degrees. So we're still- our soil temperatures are still fairly warm.

Man, that would add a layer of protection for the frost, wouldn't it?

Yeah. Especially if you'd cover, I mean, often really heat or the cold snap real quick and cover them up. That soil temperature certainly keep the plants from- plants from freezing.

Yeah. Now do you recommend, uh, a- a row cover or just a towel or a blanket?

You know, uh, I guess I prefer the- the canvas or- or the fabric for- for a cover versus the- the a plastic so speak. I think that gives just a little bit better level of, uh, protection from the plants freezing or- or getting frosted.

Sure. Sure. Sure. So shouldn't- hey, since we're in the garden are you starting to clean up any of your refuse, uh, clean up around your edges. What are you doing?

Well, er, not quite yet, uh, yeah certainly you want to keep your weeds down here around- around the edges and through the garden to keep those cleaned out. But the sense of plants haven't froze off just yet, uh, we- we still got time. But th- that's something to really think about, uh, after our plants have, uh, gone through their cycle and it gave us all the produce that they can. We want to get him there, clean up, uh, refuse if it hasn't been a disease. To think about putting that in the compost pile with your composting, and then get ready to take care of your tools. But those wait for the winner.

Let's, let's get into tools just for a second. To put stuff into your compost, now, you- you can't put tomato vines in there, right?

You know, if they haven't been diseased, I do not see why you can't because they're just-

But if you've had in blossom rot?

In blossom rot is not a disease, that is a function of calcium and water.

Calcium and water. So even though that your tomato has gone to crap, probably could- could mulch that as well?

Yes. Yes, you certainly could.

Yeah. I know that it's awfully hard for us to- to anything with the pumpkin vine. We- we are lucky ourselves that we have a small space to burn upon occasion when the conditions are correct. And you've informed everybody that's supposed to be informed. And man they- they dry out, and if you don't do something with them, man, they- they are a trip hazard like crazy.

You know, they certainly can be. So, yeah, you know, you can burn you refuse, your plants that you've rigged up and things like that if you want, you know, as long as like you said, contact your fire marshal and make sure everything there is okay to burn.

Yeah. Now you- you mentioned cleaning up your tools. Now, some of us continue to use our tools, but at least once a year clean up should be a good deal, yeah?

Yes. You know, uh, especially when you know that you're done for the season, er, using your metal tools and such. Clean off all the dirt and everything. You may want to reshape them, maybe give them a coat of WD-40 just sprayed on there and wipe it on there to keep the rust away. If you have, uh, older tools like I do from even my great grand or my grandfather not my great grandfather, but my grandfather, uh, I've taken, er, a two-inch piece of PVC tubing, include a cap on the bottom, uh, of the tube. The PVC tube was just a little bit longer than the longest handle that I had. And then I've put that in there and fill it with a mixture of a 50 percent linseed oil and 50 percent thinner, and soak those wooden handles for a week or so, and then let them out, hang them out, let them dry, and- and that the oil gets in there and keeps that wood from splitting and breaking down.

That's a great idea. Now, do you mount that PVC on the wall?

You know, you can just stand it in a corner as long as you don't have any kids, or dogs, or cats that's going to knock it over, [OVERLAPPING] it should work just fine.

Yeah. Better- better mount that to the wall.

[LAUGHTER] Yeah, maybe probably around it but, you know, put some wire around it, you know, or wrap it to a post or something like that, but [OVERLAPPING] that's what I do, and the wire tell you makes a big difference. Makes a [OVERLAPPING].

Well, do you have to ever sand your handles in?

You know-

Not much?

Just rough spots, yes. But if you, you know, soak with that the mixture, that generally smooth things up, it gets that into the wood fibers, and it just makes it last

that much longer.

Yeah, I really like that idea. And I have a- I have a PVC pipe, but I think it's a four-inch. It just- it just being more linseed oil. But maybe you could do more than just one implemented at a time.

Yeah, you- yeah, you can try it. I mean, since you already have the pipe, just, uh, see how many handles you can put in every of it. Probably two would be the most that you could put in.

Yeah. Yeah.

Maybe if you had three hoes or something, you might get those in there. But there's shovels, rates, pitchforks, that kind of thing, might be little bit of a problem.

Yeah. My uncle had a- had a sharpening stone in which you sat on and you pumped it with a- with your feet like a bicycle kind of. And it even had a water tray with a little copper drip tube down to the- to the grinding wheel. I always thought that that was the slickest thing and he would let me sharpen some stuff. But I don't think he had let me sharpen any tools, but just a piece of metal and, you know, the inventions of mankind with electricity is- is great. But if he didn't have juice, if you didn't have electricity, man, one of those pumping grinders were- were really the thing to have.

Yeah, they certainly would be and, uh, but if you can find one now in auction, you'll pay a pretty good price for it, even just the stone.

Oh, no kidding.

[OVERLAPPING] Oh, yeah. I- I don't think you could find those anymore.

Yeah. They- they go at a premium, uh?

They do. So in- in place of that, by yourself, a good metal file, and then maybe, uh, a smaller stone to take the bars off, and that all will be just fine.

Oh yeah. You know, uh, during the season, a lot of times when Marina and I are going out weeding, I'll carry just a little round file in my back pocket, continue to put a sharp edge on it. There's nothing like a sharp hoe when you're trying to cut weeds?

Yes. Absolutely sharp [inaudible 00:10:16] good shovel that sharp.

Oh, yeah and you know, once- once, uh, you put ah, an edge on it, it doesn't take much to keep an edge on it.

Correct, that's right.

Yeah. You know, we had- we had- I've seen some lots that have overgrown and man, they had to come in with a skid steer and scrape the ground, like back dragging

some of those weeds were over five feet tall.

Oh yeah some of that kosher and those Russian thistles, uh, they can certainly get, you know, four or five feet tall, four or five feet across, and they've got a stem on them that is big as your thumb.

Yeah. Now, uh, those Russians thistles, they -they've- they're getting to a seed pod. What it do to- to cut those down and to takeaway, that seed population?

Oh, absolutely, uh, and that's where I was say- saying using shovel I've got the- of all the years I've been around, I still haven't learned to use that shovel right. I put that in that wooden end in the palm of my hand and I had two blisters to show for it. [OVERLAPPING] But- but using a very sharp shovel and getting down there, cutting that off, get it out of there, I did that and I waited too long and now they're all on my fence line and tree row.

Oh, yeah. And they're hard to get rid of, I- I swear. My brother lives next to the railroad and sometimes they're pretty delinquent about cutting and mowing, that sort of thing, and Russian thistle seems to come up in the railroad right away, so yeah, they- what is- what is Russian thistle respond to Gary?

Uh, Russian thistle responds to, uh, you know, 2,4-D, and Dicamba. You know those are probably the most common ones that folks will get. Uh, spray them early but they- when you catch them under 2, 3 inches tall, they're very easy to kill. I- I did that out my pasture, not necessarily around my garden that out my pasture and I thought I got a pretty good kill then we- for once got a decent rain and seem like overnight those things grew two feet on me. [LAUGHTER]

Uh, you know, we've talked on the radio about cutting down, uh, elm trees or, uh, a tree in particular that you don't want, and putting- as soon as you cut it down, putting gly- glyphosate around the cambium edge of the tree. Would you want to do the same thing with that or with the Russian thistle?

So now are we talking Russian thistle, or Russian elm?

The Russian thistle.

Okay, well Russian thistle being a weed, so once you cut that off, uh, from the stem or, you know, down at the base to the soil level, it should not come back.

Oh, wait, and I always thought it did. I thought it always came back from the root, but it does- it just come back from seed, correct?

Yes- yes, it's an annual, so it comes back from seed and getting back to your question about cutting those out and get rid of the seeds source, absolutely. Ah, a little bit of history here, uh, the Wyoming Weed and Pest, uh, districts, ah, were formed, uh, by the State of Wyoming years ago just because of Russian thistle. That was [inaudible 00:13:30] that got it going

No Kidding? Well, I'll tell you, we had a- we had- it wasn't a Russian thistle, I don't think that. We had one coming up in our backyard, my neighbor came down and she says, "You realize you're growing a noxious weed." I go, Really? She says if I report you, they'd come in [LAUGHTER] they'd come in and take that and wipe away a couple of square feet of your yard. No, sir, she says, "you want to try me?" I said how about if we just kill this thing right now? [LAUGHTER] So we dug at the [OVERLAPPING].

Did you get the find? Did you ever find out what it was?

No it was a thistle though because it had that nice purple blooming top to it and the- the leaves were- the leaves look like a thistle of some sort.

Okay, Well, probably most thistle. Probably some birds brought the seed in.

Oh, yeah. We didn't plant it, uh, but, uh, it's just one of those things, you know, that just come up and well, it had a pretty flower. There's- there's a lot of weeds that have pretty flowers, but they're not all necessarily the best thing to have for you.

Yeah, one of my pet peeves that the gardeners tend to like that, uh, makes me shudder is, ah, Jimsonweed. And the other name for it is moonflower.

Oh, Gary, you-

It has a very- very pretty flower, but it's a noxious weed. It may not be on the Wyoming weed list, but boy, you get those out in the field or in your garden and then once they get some size to them there like a small tree. And then you might need a hatchet or an ax or something to cut them out [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Oh, Gary, I hate to tell you this, you would hate us.

[LAUGHTER].

But we're responsible- we're responsible [LAUGHTER] growers, once fall starts coming around and we nip those off and, you know, those seeds never have a chance to blow or- or to open up, um, but yeah, [LAUGHTER] I guess we're on your- your- your naughty list for Christmas. [LAUGHTER] [OVERLAPPING]

Well, you know that weeds that are on my naughty list. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. You know, uh, I forgot that it was called the Gypsum weed.

Yeah, that's the- that's the probably the most common name for it. But then, uh, people would like to grow it like you do for the blossoms, which they are very pretty, or moonflowers is what they call it.

Yeah the- the flowers are white deep trumpet and, uh, good type of flower and they- they're effervescent in the- in the moonlight. They just seem to glow.

Yeah, they do.

But what a- what a cantankerous piece of plant to grow in a- in a field or a horse field or something. Now, is it- is it poisonous to horses?

Uh, the seeds, yes.

Horses, cows?

yes- yes, and even humans?

Oh yeah.

So, know it's- it's not one that you wanna have around where, uh, you know, it- it goes to seed or anything like that.

Yeah- yeah once you have a seed break open, it's- it's much like those, uh, cactus, those, uh, yucca.

Uh-huh.

Yucca has a- has a tremendous potential for spread with their seed pod.

That's true, but then there also is a moth that lives on that the Yucca plant. It pollinates it. But then when it lays its eggs, the caterpillars get in and they will eat the hearts out of the seed in the seed pod.

Okay.

If you ever broke- break open a seed pod, you might notice a lot of the seeds, so the hearts have been eaten out from that- from that caterpillar that's been in there. Chewing on them.

I'll be done.

Yeah, check it out sometime.

Yeah, even- even bugs and worms got to eat, right?

That's true. Everybody got to eat. [LAUGHTER]

So here what did you- what did you have- have best in your garden this year?

No guys, you know, ah. Well, I guess I won't say so much in my garden, but what I've seen, other people bring in, er, tomatoes and peppers seem to do very well this year for a change. Er, even in spite of the heat. So, ah, you don't maybe we got some cooler weather just at the right time. Those Boston's didn't drop off on us. Ah, Zu- Zucchini's always done well, and it seems to be doing well. Not too many problems. Er, had a lot of, ah, Anthracnose, you know, the tomatoes and Rhizobium. [OVERLAPPING].

And what's that Gary?

Ah, those are two diseases that those plants can get. And the best way to do it is, ah, when you get your seed catalogs or even right now, get them out, try to find plants or seed that is resistant to the their diseases. Fusarium is another one. And the- and plants may not be exactly the ones you like. You can still plant the wants you like, maybe tries some different plants that have those, er, actors in them to- so that you will have some fruit come- come this time, next year.

Yeah. And with everything, you try to rotate your garden, right?

Absolutely. You should know, you know, if you haven't been making a map, go out and make a map of the garden right now where everything ups. So you can sit down this winter and plan your garden for next spring and rotate the crops around as best you can so that you're not planting those same plant in the same area year after year. You might wanna move them around on every- at least every other year, maybe every third year, if you can. And that'll help cut down on the diseases that those plants could get.

Now we have a couple of- of raised beds that I think there are- there are four foot wide and eight foot long, two of them. So you should try to rotate those as well, correct?

Yes. You want to rotate those. And the other thing that you can do if you've got some clear plastic, is put a couple of sheets of clear plastic over those beds through the soil. Put those sheets or clear plastic over that for a couple of months, then go back in and kinda till that soil again. And put that plastic over it. And that is the- the heat and the sunlight will help kill any diseases [NOISE] in that very exposed soil. So that's why you want to till it up. It's definitely not a cure all for everything, but it can certainly help.

Oh, yeah. You know, and we happen to have a little plastic. We- I think we'll probably try that.

And the reason for the two sheets of plastic is that just helps trap the heat and the sunlight that much better.

Oh yeah.

A little bit here to the soil.

Yeah. Water at a little bit then too or no?

Yeah, you can have just so it's moist, you don't wanna, you know, muddy wet. Moist certainly wouldn't hurt.

All right. Hey, Gary, we're approaching that halfway mark and so I think we'll stop right here and- and we'll hear another word from our sponsors.

[MUSIC] Looking for the best way to keep up with all the news from University of Wyoming Extension, the College of Agriculture, and Wyoming Ag Experiment

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All right, welcome back to the KERM Lawn and Garden Show. I'm Jerry Erschabeck and with me as Gary Stone, we've been talking about garden and- and cleaning up garden. Gary, I would kinda like to talk about some beans. I'd seen something that this was like bean week or bean harvest month or. Tell me what that was.

Well, one thing I wrote an article about the bean harvest in the panhandle of Eastern Wyoming and how what's going on. And that's up on a crop watch website. If they're interested, just do a search for Gary Stone crop watch and you should see where are all my articles are up. But the other thing that I had over legacy of the planes this past weekend was a harvest festival. And each year they pick a different crop that could be potatoes, it could be sweetcorn. This year just happened to be dry beans. And so that was the featured crop for the rally. For the two days you could go over, er, pay a minimal fee and, ah, harvest all the dry beans that you can handle.

Ah, by hand.

Yes, by hand.

Uh. I got- I had an opportunity I was driving North out of Henry and I had an opportunity to see a picket bean picking machine, and I just thought that was fascinating. I did not get to see it dumped off, uh, your article, they had a picture of it dumping. This thing is like a big- is- is totally different piece of machinery that I've seen ever before. And Jeff said that there- they've been out there for like 15, 20 years, right?

Yes, the pickets have been around for quite a while and they are being especially combined just fo- for dry beans. The beans are cut in the traditional manner of undercutting the roots. And then when growing the plants, letting them dry out and then it come along with this, pick a combine and pick up the wind rows and it shows them out. And it's made just for dry beans. And then when that tank gets full it so holding the harvest had bean cropped, they're lifted up and then dump it into a truck and see- seeing him get that much weight up and yes, to me is pretty fascinating how they keep all that balanced from rotating or tipping over.

Well, if- they certainly have to be watching the weather and the wind, because I could see that becoming just as- a big sale to actually tip it over. Ah-I'm sure there's been times where that machine and that driver have been tipped over.

Well. I- I'm sure that's happened but it's-it's probably pretty well balanced. And, you know, they don't just lift it up right past and dump it, it's they lifted up gradually and let the beans slowly flow out of that tank into the truck box. But once it gets all the way up in the air, even though it's empty, it's still quite a sight to see. I bet you it's up there good 20 feet are better.

Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Now, do you think that they'll ever discover a way to uh, not have to cut the beam first.

Yeah.

Encode it into a windrow.

Sure, actually, uh, one of my counterparts Sir John Thomas, ah, he's in Box Butte County, we are doing some direct harvest studies. And ah, yes, that is where their grower would go out. Generally well, it would have to be on a pivot because you do not have any rows. You are, you can't have any rows and they will either go out and enroll the field flat, as flat as they can get it and then plant the crop, or maybe plant the crop and enroll it. Keep it flat. The beans come up and you've got a flat surface, and then you take a special header on a conventional combine and you would cut the dry beans like we were to soy bean, and uh, that's one of the things you're gonna be doing or have done one of these past weeks, its a go out to Alliance and in Broken Bow and uh, see how these combines are working and what kind of harvests loss would get with them.

So how many passes would you be saving if you could direct cut beans?

Well, you would save the-the undercutting and when windrowing. So there's one[OVERLAPPING] pass right there. So basically that's what you would save. And as long as the wind rose didn't get wet and they'd have to come back and what I call lift them up to get them dry it out. You know, I might save another pass, but for the most part it will say one pass. But uh, if they direct harvest generally they have to desiccate the crop. And then ah, make sure all dries down at the same time. They you are going to wait until the crops dry and then I just go ahead and combine it.

So that desiccation would be a spray?

It would be a spray? Yes.

So anytime[NOISE] you can-anytime you can excuse me, anytime you can ah, reduce the number of times going up and down near field that I think that's always a good thing.

You know, ah, the- the- the wind rose are prone to you know windstorm and we had a few come through and I noticed a few ah, growers they got caught for wind growers or wind grows out and field they hadn't dried yet. So they couldn't combine them when wind came along and picking up and scattered them across the field, and of course, you get shatter, so you get harvests lost from there. Ah, the other- the downside on the direct harvest is that if you don't have those lower pods, at least two inches above the ground, you're going to cut that pod open and your chances are you're going to lose all the beans out of their pod that you've caught with that sickle bar when you harvest.

Yeah. So there's always something, isn't there.

There's always something. So ah, hopefully our bean breeders are trying to get a more upright structure in the plant and get those pods higher off the ground so that the direct harvest to be even more of a thing that the growers could think about doing.

Yeah. Now, at the last part of your article you mentioned, yes, beans can be used for cake, chocolate, brownies[NOISE].

Yeah. Brownies, budge, and mashed potatoes.

Mashed potatoes? Now, that's ah, let- let's talk about that just for a second [LAUGHTER]. So here you have your white, nice white fluffy potatoes. Do you add like half a mix. The beans that have to be cooked and mashed, right?

Okay, so what you would want to do, and I don't have the recipe, right in front of me.

Sure.

This comes from one of the field ladies tha- that did this uh, to promote beans. Ah, she took great Northern switches are white beans and you cook them in and she put them in a food processor and, you know, basically turn them into a mesh because you don't want any clumps or pieces of bean.

Right

Your uh, a smooth, and she told me she mixed two-thirds uh, Great Northern beans with a third of mashed potatoes, served them at thanksgiving. And everybody asked her several, where's your beans that you always produce? Or ah, where is your bean dish the choice you have for us. The She said, you already had it. And then she told him what they did. So, ah, you know, starting out, I would recommend maybe a third of the volume be great Northern mixed in with your other mashed potatoes and beans and see how that goes from there. And you might be surprised cause they- they- they couldn't tell if they were eating beans with their spreads.

Now I've heard of cauliflower being spun- being stand up and spun up and- and have cauliflower mashed potatoes. But I've never heard of beans mashed potatoes and my mind just went to- to pentose. So I would like one, then wouldn't that add a brown color to your mashed potatoes? [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] Now, that's why I use great Northerns. [LAUGHTER]

You bet, but I imagine it probably be good.

Well, you know, uh- I mean, you're adding more protein to your diet, you're adding certainly a lot more fiber and there's lot other micro- smaller nutrients that are in the beans that, you know, it's- it's a healthy food.

Yeah, it's- it's a- it's an interesting way to use that.

You know, and for the brownies it's basically, uh, you take a brownie mix and get a

can of, uh, black beans and then drain them. Uh, again, mash them up real well mix them with the brownie mix and, uh, bake it.

So there should be no guilt in eating, uh, uh, a brownie filled bean- a bean filled brownie?

That's it. Yeah. I mean, you know, uh, the kids come home after school, and they want a snack and you're feeding them the snack brownies that have some black beans in them, no, you shouldn't feel guilty at all you're, you know, protein, nutrients, [LAUGHTER] fiber, they won't know the difference.

You know, we used to- used to- to feed a bunch of kids when our son was here at the house and Marina would hide the broccoli and the cauliflower and- and of course a few carrots all shredded up, but in a spaghetti form and- and, uh, kids just really like spaghetti, but they really don't know that they're eating cauliflower and broccoli [LAUGHTER] If you- if you spin it up, just like you said, if you spin it up and there's no chunks, yeah, people have a tendency to say Ben, this is good.

Any other great- great thing about it is, that we're su- supporting a locally grown crop, um, supporting the growers that helps all of our economies in both states, and it's an excellent product.

Yeah- yeah- yeah. So hey, Gary, was there any other, uh, garden clean up that we should be looking at as well?

Okay, well this will probably go to the trees and maybe our lawns and things like that, but, ah, if you noticed any of maybe your oaks, or maybe some of the other trees had some, uh, spots on them. Um, it might have had oak leaf blister or something like that. You wanna do a sanitation, break up those leaves, do not put them in a compost pile, uh, the disease scores on those leaves will survive the composting, so you wanna get rid of them, uh, don't use them as mulch or anything like that. Uh, so yeah, do a good general cleanup around the trees, around the lawn- lawns, maybe even look at the, ah, you know, checking for mulch. Ah, we have our little furry friends, the voles there'll be coming up this winter. You know, clean up all those flower beds, get all the, uh, dead flowers out of their bowls light cover. And if you deny them the cover, chances are you will have less problems with those little critters. So, ah, general things like that.

So Gary, your opinion, if one were to- to put plastic over their garden, you would advise to remove the plastic over the winter?

When you say plastic, are we talking, uh, over your beds like you had before?

Oh no- no. Uh, if we have- we've always wanted to have a little better control over our weeds and, uh, we're thinking for next year we'll put plastic on the garden itself, ah, but you would suggest then to remove the plastic if you had it on the garden, for over winter?

Yes. I- I would say take it off the garden for over wintery. And then, you know, you

said you wanna use plastic next year, uh, another thing to consider is, uh, maybe save up your newspapers 2, 3, 4 layers of newspaper covered with some nice straw on that would be a good mulch, and eventually that would break down, you know, help the soil out.

Oh yeah, that would be a good deal.

So something like that, but certainly something to think about.

Aha, have you have plans for next year? Are you doing something different next year?

Right now I'm going into my third year trying to get some, uh, more trees established. My windbreak right now is what 35, 40 years old, it's starting to thin out a little bit. So I'm working with our local NRD, and of course up here in Wyoming you'd work with your conservation district. So I'm getting some trees planted or get a source for the trees, and, uh, trying to get some more trees planted in front of my old wind road to kinda beef it up, that's what I'm doing.

Yeah, I had a neighbor tell me that he tried to plant, ah, a tree next to his walnut tree, but apparently the walnut tree puts out a little something that won't allow other trees to grow real close to it, is that true?

I believe you are correct. It's a paleoathic, is what it is, this is a compound that the prevents other plants from growing.

Uh-huh.

I found it does that with its own seedlings.

Oh yeah, I've heard of Alfalfa.

You know, so yeah. So that's how that kinda works.

So you really have to- have to like get away from that tree. Uh, do you have any walnut trees in your tree row, Gary?

I've got one. I have no idea how it got started there. I don't know if that was something my dad had planted or [OVERLAPPING] tout got going. It took a hit here two three years ago, I think from the freeze, but it's- but it's still alive and I see there's still some moments on it, but I don't know how good they are, but, ah, I guess let the squirrels have them.

Gary, we have a- we had a down burst of wind, tada seven years ago or so, and it blew over this walnut tree in town, and I- they must love that walnut tree, because it just went down on its side and you know, there are several big, large branches, so the- the main trunk is probably at a 30 or 40 degree angle, and they just put more dirt at the base of the roots and kind of pile it up. And you know, that tree is still alive and bears fruit.

Well good [LAUGHTER]

I- I drive by it once in a while just to look at it and- and, uh, yeah, it's- it's got walnuts on it right now.

And not to be, ah, a down the road wallets, but, uh, they did find 1,000 conkers disease in Cheyenne here this year. And it was a disease that really affects walnuts. So it's spread by insects. I can't play right off which ones they are but, uh- but it is around so they need to be aware of it?

Yeah- yeah- yeah- yeah- yeah uh, do you have your trees on a drip system? Your- uh, your cover- cover trees?

Well, my- the ones we established, uh, no they're not on a drip system. I mean, they're you know 35, 40 years old, so they're currently sizable trees. The others, uh, I kind of, uh, dug a furrow, uh, with one of my farm ditches that I had. And I planted the trees in that furrow.

Oh, yeah.

Then I run a- then I run a hose and just water the length of the furrow, my trees.

Yeah, your irrigation tile- style.

Yes. Uh-huh, So that seems to work well, I, ah, censor ponderosa pines are what I'm shooting for, uh, maybe every other week, every third week, at least, uh, trying to hit them with some water, don't wanna get them too wet, uh, even though they're young trees so if I get them too wet, the roots will rot on me.

Yeah- yeah. Well, the furrow shed should gather some snow if we get any snow this year.

Yeah and a- and it gathers all the leaves off my hackberries and that's where the bowls live under there. So I gotta get out there and rake them zone after the leaves fall so keep them [inaudible 00:37:28] away from my young trees [LAUGHTER]

They are one of my nemesis. Well, we built a garage and you could just see that they went right underneath that cement pad and they found a new wintering spot?

[LAUGHTER] I'm sure they did.

[LAUGHTER] So that's- that's what I was, uh, considering when I thought about putting plastic on the garden next year is, will I just be making a good habitat for the bowls that are there.

You know, if you're watering your garden, and if you're using a drip line, probably not, you're gonna be walking on that enough. You know, the chip probably really keep away now you putting the plastic around the plants or down the un garden area? [LAUGHTER]

I think I'm gonna try to shoot for covering three-fourths of my garden with plastic.

Okay. You know, unless it stays real moist under there. Uh, yeah, you can be providing a home form. If it's black plastic, it might be too hot, but they don't wanna stay under something like that too.

There's always that hope.

Yeah [LAUGHTER].

[LAUGHTER] There's always that hope. Yeah, I've been-my neighbor and I've been chasing voles for a long time. And they're- they're- they're fairly resistant critter. I don't think that there's very many of them. I think from what I've read, there's just one or two or three. That- that kind of rule the rest and they multiply.

Oh yeah, absolutely or you can simply do that.

You-you have had some nice articles that I've-I've been privy to. Would you tell people how to-how to maybe get in touch with those articles over the Internet?

Sure. Again, just do a search for UNL Crop Watch, and in my name, Gary Stone. And you will find the-find the main link to all of my articles. I've got like seven pages of them. Anywhere from, you know, what the snow pack is in the mountains, forests for river system, different obnoxious weeds. The tunnel will collapse that we had over their own negotiation ditch on tunnel number 2 and on the sugar beet and bean harvest. So yeah there's quite a different to choice to look at.

Yeah, there's there's a lot of information if you ever wanted to- to know more than what you know today. So for us, with that plastic we were hoping that we don't have as many weeds because for us the weeds get away from us and then we just use a weed eater to keep them low. But that doesn't prevent them from throwing off seed.

Correct. I mean, yeah. You'd be surprised how resilient those plants are, even though you've cut them off down to ground level, they will find a way to produce seed for next year.

Yeah. Gary, are you a cover crop guy?

Well, are we talking cover crops or forage crops? [LAUGHTER].

Cover- cover crops.

So cover crops, you know are being growers, they've got their beans off. They've got them off already. They've already gone in and tried to plant a- to plant a cover crop to hold the soil for the pivots. It's certainly wouldn't hurt if you've got your garden. You know, you're a smaller scale. If you've got all your old plants off of there, go in there, find some oats or some rye, you know, to hold the soil, traps some moisture throughout the winter, and of course, hopefully they're gonna die. So that next spring you don't have to contend with them as a weed. But if you go in there, you don't plant that cover crop and then if you till it under, you got, you know, added

more- more organic matter to the soil. And that soil certainly a big plus.

What does the bean guys plat for a cover?

You know, they'll probably trying to get some wheat seed maybe some rye, triticale, probably they can anything like that. And then of course that'll come up this fall, hopefully hold the-hold the soil form. They'll let it grow up a little bit. And then generally they go back to sugar beets in those areas. [OVERLAPPING]

So if it was wheat, not at all about triticale but wheat would grow back in the spring would they spray that before they put beans back in?

Yes- yes. What- they'll go in and they'll spray that cover crop out with usually glyphosate or around up product and then kill that and then they'll wait a few days and then a plant their next crop into that.

They won't-they won't do anything to take the weed off the drill right through that.

Yes. You know they- they don't want it to get too big, you know, maybe three or four inches tall. They'll scrape it off and then that dead crop will provide some wind curl protection to the newly seeded or new-new sugar beet seedlings that are coming up. So yeah it's a win-win all the way around.

Yeah. That's sounds like- like a good deal. I've done cover crop before. And usually wheat. And I've let it- [LAUGHTER] I've let it get too tall before, you know, like me high. And that's an bummer to put underneath. But if you have a good rototiller, you can do that in three or four swipes.

Yeah. So yeah you don't want to let it get too big if you're gonna do it in your garden, like you said, maybe 6-8 inches tall at the most and then till it under as best you can. I mean, [inaudible 00:43:11] or organic matter and nutrients for the soil.

Yeah, I like that idea about cover crops but the triticale. What does that do? Does that come up now and then again?

Yeah, be similar to wheat.

Similar to wheat. Okay. Good. And people talk about some sort of peas, winter peas.

Winter peace. I haven't seen people do that as a cover crop. They're I think at least our studies here at the center, they're thinking about doing that an actual crop. Instead of just a cover crop.

Oh really. And then they'd harvest and spring?

Yeah, they'd harvest in the spring. Now regular dry peas that they plant them, gosh, March. If it gets too hot later in the season, you know, they dropped their blossoms. So that's why they're looking at the winner pea because if it'll overwinter, you are harsh winters and come on and produce a crop for the grower next year. That's probably what we'll be looking at.

Yeah, so are our best stuff in the garden this year was onion. So we had pretty good crop and got those into the well shed and we're utilizing them, but they appear to be kind of hot to our eyes when we cut them. So I've heard of running water, cutting them underwater, burning a candle to stop- wearing goggles to stop your eyes from crying?

Well, [LAUGHTER] I'm sure cutting under water would help because when you cut an onion or something like that, you're breaking those-those cells open and then they get that chemical reaction that causes your eyes to water. So yeah, usually I can get through one or two and onions when I'm cutting them up for my chili or something like that. About the third onion it finally gets to me. So I don't know if there's any who real way of getting around it.

Yeah. Myrtle say bad memory. I said no. Onions-onions making me cry.

Oh Jerry I'm curious you're going to think about it. It's-it's a little light this season, but they're planting garlic. You ever tried that out?

Oh, yeah, I have, you know, Jeff and I talk about garlic quite a bit amongst ourselves. And we like the scapes, he likes him a lot better than I do. That's- the scape is when the garlic actually comes up, does the little pig twist on its top and produces a little bulb. You can actually take those off and spin them up and make a garlic paste with them. They're- they're really good, but yeah, usually I plant my garlic in August. It might be just a little late but I think you could still probably plant garlic.

I know my younger brother [inaudible 00:46:13]. I don't follow so he really gets in me to plant his garlic he's so proud that he has maybe 10-12 squared feet and he has bags of garlic that he harvests every year. Of course they eat a lot to.

Does he send you a Christmas sac?

No he keeps it all doing so. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Either you really like garlic or you don't like garlic and for most of my wife's dinner preparations or preparations period. It starts with onion and garlic. So how do you-gosh, how did you make this? Well, you've cut up some onion, you put some garlic in it. Those are the two things, and olive oil. Those are the three things that are a must in our household. [LAUGHTER]

Well, that's good. Garlic is good for you.

Oh, yeah-yeah. Well, one of those-one of those good ones. Except if you get too much and then it- it gives everybody heartburn, and they asked, "Are you trying to kill us?" [LAUGHTER] We made a chicken pot pie and took it over to our neighbor. And that's exactly what he asked me. "Gosh, are you trying to kill me? Can you reduce that garlic the next time you give me something?" So whenever you're given away-giving stuff away, you know, it's better be beware. Whether it's onions, garlic or zucchini.

I guess I'll go back there before we call it quits here for the season- for the session. If folks are running some more bean recipes, they can certainly contact their local bean processor like Kelly, Trinidad, New-New Alliance. All of those, I think just about all of them have a bean cookbook. The other source is to do a search on the Internet for UNL food and then type in the search box. So dry beans and you'll find 10 pages of different dry bean recipes.

I'll be done. You know, funny you should mention that my-my grandson gave us a five gallon bucket. We said, hey, are you doing beans? He says yeah. He says, Hey, could we have a few? And he says, yeah. He gave us a five gallon bucket full of them. And man, people are going to be getting Christmas presents. [LAUGHTER] Five gallons is a lot-is a lot of beans.

Well, you can do that and send a cookbook with them.

Oh you know what? I've heard of other people buying- going into like Kelly bean and buying 100 pound sack and then giving that as Christmas presents and with a cookbook, what a great idea.

You know, yeah. You're promoting a locally grown product it's healthy. Helping the farmers out, you're helping everybody else out.

And I can attest if you cook fresh beans, they cook faster than beans that have been sitting for a while.

Yes, I guess I'd have to agree with you.

Yeah-Yeah. Well, Gary, it's been a- it's been a joy talking to you and I appreciate you coming on our show. And it's going to be about that time that we need to wrap up. Hopefully next season maybe we can contact if you're still working.

Well, I plan to be so yes, I'd be more than happy to take part and always enjoy it with you and Jeff.

Yeah, we always enjoy having it. Well, thank you, Gary and everybody. Get out there and clean up your garden and we'll talk to you next time. [MUSIC]

You've been listening to Lawn and Garden with University of Wyoming Extension specialist Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Listen each wee for details on new event and how to make your garden flourish. Good day and happy gardening.