

Hey Wyoming, welcome to the Lawn and Garden podcast with the University Extension Specialist Jeff Edwards and his co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Originally aired on KGOS and KERM in Torrington. Join Jeff, Jerry and all of their their special guests as they talk all things Wyoming Gardens from plant variants, to weather events, to pesticides, and the power of all those. Our Lawn and Garden podcast helps you improve your home garden and every small acreage. Good day and happy gardening. [MUSIC]

All right. Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck, for DRM Lawn and Garden radio programs. [MUSIC]

It's like magic.

Okay. All right. It's mayhem in the radio station. So, uh, we are learning and, uh, getting ready to go. New things have changed since we've been here last. It's been a while. Good morning, Jerry.

Hey. Good morning, Jeff. How are you doing today?

I am fantastic.

Good deal. Hey, you know what? It's kinda nice being back in studio.

It is really nice to be back in studio and, uh, be able to, um, see each other in person and ask people- ask our guests questions.

Yeah. Now, we will have occasion to zoom and we will, um, we'll be here- Jeff and I'll be here, but we may have a Zoom guest once in a while also.

Right. But we'll still be able to have folks call in and ask questions, which is a benefit which we haven't been able to do for a while, but some people weren't aware of that. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. That's a plus or a minus there. I don't- I'm not really quite sure yet which way. [LAUGHTER]

Hey, speaking of our guests. Today, our guest is Amy Schuyler. Good morning, Amy.

Good morning. It's so good to see you guys in person. It's wonderful.

It's really good to see you as well. We- we love having you here. We always have a fun time, but before we really get into it, let's take some time to listen to our sponsors.

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Now back to the Lawn and Garden podcast.

Alright, good morning again everybody. This is Jeff and Jerry with the Lawn and Garden program- K- KERM Lawn and Garden program. We'll get things right eventually or not. [LAUGHTER] So it is really good to see everybody in person and be back in the radio- here in the studio and, uh, hopefully be able to take some calls.

And everybody's busting out for spring.

Yeah.

Everybody is so antsy and so gl- raring to go in the idea of gardening. And- and my wife has just biting at the bit and she's already planted some stuff and hopefully everything will be just hunky-dory.

Hey, what did you think of that light show we had last night?

My word. We were driving- my neighbor and I were driving back from Hartville last night, there was a program there.

Oh, yeah.

And a really good program. And what a light show. It just came from the south and just came east and then it headed north. It seemed to hit Torrington and then headed straight north. What a light show. We didn't get much moisture. Uh, Amy in this, did you get a lot?

Oh, we got hardly any. But I was driving up here this morning and there are puddles starting at the Wyoming border. Nebraska got nothing. Wyoming, there's puddles everywhere, like huge puddles. So I don't know, um, how much you actually got, but you got so much more than we did. We just got the thunder

We're just a mile north of Torrington and so we didn't get puddles.

Yeah, we had a tenth, and maybe- and maybe a dead bug in the rain gauge. That's kinda how it goes. [LAUGHTER]

Did you see puddles driving up here today? I was impressed by the implement dealership that it was a river or like a lake there.

I- I hate to say, but I didn't notice.

Oh, there's-

I think I was focusing on the traffic.

There's always- there's always kind of a lake there. [LAUGHTER] Honest to God. The- the, uh, water table is quite high right there.

Well, there- I guarantee there are puddles because I- I thought, oh, this is what this looks like. We haven't seen it for so long that I was just so happy about it.

But whenever we get a tenth, they have an increased puddle.

So okay. So speaking of our water deprivation that we've had for so long, how is it affecting the trees since that's really why we invited you to talk to you about it today. [LAUGHTER].

It's not good to see me. We just want to talk about our trees.

We just want to talk.

You want some- you wanted to talk about something of substance. Okay. I'm happy to talk about that. You know, this is- this has been rough, and I- you know, we've talked about this a lot in the past, how important it is to be watering your trees throughout the winter, and this year, it was very important. So if you did not do that, you know, not all is lost, but, um, you're probably gonna have a little bit of root damage because there was so little moisture in the soil that those young, um, little feeder roots probably a lot of those desiccated and died. That doesn't mean that, um, you know, your whole tree is going to die, but it'll probably stunt the growth. And, um, you know, anytime those types of things happen, it's a stressor that opens your tree up for, um, other insects and disease issues.

Disease and insects, yeah.

Yes.

So, um, tree growth rings, right? In really wet years, we have a lot of growth. In really dry years, the growth is reduced and not so much. And when you cut a tree down, you can see when those years were where we struggled and when we had adequate moisture or we think it's always had a quick break. [LAUGHTER] But- but that's what happens. The tree kind of shuts down. It's not really growing as actively as it could if it doesn't get enough moisture and those types of things.

So Amy, clarify that for me. So that the rings get really wide during a dry year?

No, that's during a good year that has plentiful moisture.

So the short little rings that are all hooked together, that's dry years.

Absolutely.

Okay.

And that's why it's so interesting to read those tree rings because you can really date back. So like we had cut some trees down, oh, a couple of years ago and you could go back and look at, um, the dryness of 2012.

Right,

You could go back and look at 2006, um, those years where it was extremely dry, those growth rings are really tight. And so- and you can even- it's so fun to do those in the big trees in the forest when you will cut those down because you can really track what the weather was doing during those, um, years. It's fascinating.

So silly question. Can you see those tree rings on a limb as well as the trunk?

Yes, you can. But of course, those are starting out at a different period of time, but they're always putting on rings- they're always putting on wood at every branch, every- every part on the tree, so you'll be able to read that, but it only starts once that, um, branch started.

So we talked about watering. How often? How much?

Well, how-

You can never water enough in our country. [LAUGHTER]

Wait a minute. Everybody likes a little water, but they don't like their feet wet, correct?

Correct. And you know, Jeff, that's- you know, that's what we would think, is that, you know, here and- and your soil appear in Torrington where there's places where it's pretty sandy and like around moral and some of those areas where it the- it's just a lighter soil, you- you do need to water more often because it doesn't hold the moisture.

That's me.

Oh, yeah. We're all riverbed. Jeff, you and I are all riverbed.

It seems that north of the river, it's more sandy. South of the river, it's more clay.

Yes. And I'm- I would be south of the river. And, um, you know, once that moisture is in that soil, it sticks around for quite a while. And so you have to be extremely careful how much you do water because you don't want those roots to be ro- waterlogged. And- and I can give a great example of this. In my landscape at home, I have, um, a serviceberry that I planted and it gets over-watered and that darn thing has not rooted in yet. And it's because I don't have enough oxygen in the soil-

Oh, yeah. Sure.

For it to have- um, for those roots to get out there and really get established. And so this is Year 3, I've been checking it and it's as loose as Year 1, and it drives me crazy. [LAUGHTER] And so I need to be much more thoughtful about the amount of moisture that I put on, um, so that-

Do you need to put in a French drain around it? [LAUGHTER]

You know, it's right by my gutter. I mean, it gets overlapped. I'm like, this probably was not a very good plan. But a serviceberry, it can handle because it's a- it's a creek bottom type plant. You don't really see it on the upland slopes. It's- and so I thought, oh, well, this will do fine here. Well, not in my gearing soil.

It's getting enough or too much.

Too much. In a- in a riverbed situation where you have good drainage, it's probably, you know, perfect, it gets the right amount. But in my heavy gearing soil, it's like forget this, this is dumb.

So I have one area that is like that soil. We built a garage and on the south side, well, we removed an old lilac- old lilac. And we needed some fill soil and so we purchased some and it was like the bottom section of where the- the- the basement was dug out. So that's really clay down that deep. And yeah, we call it 10-foot dirt because you walk through it when it's wet and you become 10-foot tall. [LAUGHTER]

Oh, gosh. I guess you hate that. [LAUGHTER]

And you can't get that mud off your feet.

No. That is the- that is the absolute worst.

So have one area like that and so I tried to manage it. I tried to grow grass and either we over-watered or something. And so I'm thinking turf might be the best-

Solution possible. Yeah. Ours- ours goes from sandy to more sand. [LAUGHTER] I have some- I have some caliche clay type spots that actually looks like cat litter. It's- it's broken down into the small chunks. And then when the wind blows, it blows the fines away, but then you have this cat litter stuff left behind.

Yes, oh.

Do you have cats? No. [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] So where did you grow in that? Um, probably absolutely nothing.

Absolutely nothing.

Uh-huh.

It's- it's- it's actually in front of our greenhouse high tunnel structure. Uh, and when I

was digging the goods soil out of that space, I got a little deep and then that's the leftover stuff.

Yeah.

Yeah. So it's okay. I- I've been trying to grow grass there for years but it doesn't [LAUGHTER] do very well.

So we went down [NOISE] a rabbit hole. Uh, how much water-

We always do.

[NOISE] - and how often for trees.

Okay. So the- the rule of thumb for trees is, you know, they really want to have a really nice deep watering of about an inch of moisture that ideally this would be perfect about every 10 days. That's what because they want it. Um, you don't wanna oversaturate those roots. So, you know, a lot of times we'll think, especially when they're- they're young, oh, we need to water three or four times a week. Well, that's- they don't want that we need that oxygen in the soil. And when we're watering constantly and we don't- if we don't have good drainage, you don't have the opportunity for that- that soil to become oxygen- oxygenated and it inhibits that root growth. And so, um, when trees are young, when we've newly plant them, you do wanna test that root ball and you're going to need to water those young trees more often because they're still kind of growing out of that really light, um, root ball soil from the nurseries. Um, but as they age, you're gonna wanna reduce that water but water more deeply. So our big, uh, thing that we like to say is deeply but infrequently.

Okay.

So that's the best tip that I can give you. So you can let that hose or I'd like to take a sprinkler out there and I like to put the sprinkler around the drip zone. I don't like to take a hose and just set it against the trunk of the tree. Most of your water absorbing roots are right under the drip line where the branches come out to the very edge of the tree. That's where the most water absorbing roots are.

Yeah.

And then you just sprinkle that area for a long period of time.

We have- we have found that if- if we use a [NOISE] spray cleaner-

Uh-huh.

- uh, [LAUGHTER] on our apple tree.

[LAUGHTER] I'm sure- I'm sure that there is a real name for those Jerry [inaudible 00:14:13] , [LAUGHTER] everybody knows what you're talking about.

Are they oscillating?

No, that's something. [NOISE]

Oscillating is the big rainbow.

Oh, yeah. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

But, uh, uh, if- if we do a hard spray on the apple tree, we get that, uh, that end death growth of our limbs.

Sure.

And fire blight.

Yes.

Is that fire blight? And what we find is we have a- a three sprinkler system that you hook all those-

Oh, uh-huh. Yep.

- together next to a tree. And that- just that nice soft moisture coming-

Yes.

- out doesn't give our tree any fire blight. So, you know, that's- that's how we'd like to water those. And sometimes when I'm watering a tree, I'll put those upside down and make a circle.

Oh, okay.

So-

Interesting

So bees carry fire blight.

From bees do?

Yeah. So bees or if they are, uh, pollinating a tree that has fire blight and go to another one, they can vector it from one to another. So it's not a- it's not a moisture born. You're probably just seeing-

Maybe it's damage that-

You can see other damage. Yeah. So yes.

Yeah. [OVERLAPPING] I am fascinated by that because I was always under the impression that on wet years when we had more moisture, that fire blight was more

prevalent. So this is very interesting to learn this.

It probably has something to do with more moisture, more blossoms, more [OVERLAPPING] growth.

Uh-huh.

So that-

Uh-huh.

- that tip is growing and I'm guessing that it- it's moving throughout the plant a little bit more effective.

Oh, Jeff, this is so interesting. Oh my goodness.

We learned from different people with different backgrounds, don't we?

Yes.

We- we do. [LAUGHTER] And I would be a miss if I didn't ask you a question for my brother, who has two apricots trees and one is-

Oozing.

- weeping, oozing. So that's what we said. [LAUGHTER] And-

Yeah, that was my opinion too. [LAUGHTER]

That's all three together. [LAUGHTER] But, you know, that doesn't mean that it's dying, but it's a good indicator, correct?

Are you through or you- [LAUGHTER]

Maybe.

I'm jus- I'm trying to think of, well, I really can't answer that can- correctly without really looking at it, but I'm- where's it oozing from? Is it oozing from the trunk? Is it oozing from just one wound on the tree? Where is that ooze- I mean, ooze is obviously coming out of a wound but are there a bunch of wounds or just one wound?

Yeah. There's a bunch of wounds.

Is it on the trunk or on the branches?

Trunk and where the branch connects.

Oh yeah, that tree is gonna die. [LAUGHTER]

I got some good news and some bad news. [LAUGHTER] And we shouldn't be laughing at a perfectly good tree.

Right. And I'm- I'm sad about this, so I'm just trying to be very gentle as I talk about this.

No, Jerry and I are a little more blunt. [LAUGHTER] It's okay.

Trying to be very sensitive. [LAUGHTER] Um, so basically when you have that type of situation, I- I'm- I- I can't say for certain, but my initial thoughts would be, you probably have bores in there and that ooze and so it's starting to affect this, that cambium tissue and probably further inside the tree, this the external structure, the internal structure of it. And so my guess is it's not good. It will probably hold on a little bit longer, but it's probably in what they call the death spiral. So the- the bore start, the oozing starts, that encourages disease to, you know, come in. And so it just starts this and then so it's not growing very much. So you have shorter growth, less blooms, not enough energy to store. And so it just continues to make this spiral of decline. So I don't mean to be-

Oh, yeah.

- bringing the bad news.

As- as blunt as Jerry and I could be. [LAUGHTER]

You are in trouble.

So, um, he should not spend any money for- because we had a tree once and- and arborist came by and he drill the hole and they [NOISE] pounded this medicine into it. And, I don't know, the- the tree broke on a real windy day. Imagine that in Wyoming. And, you know, we don't know of the- if it really helped her, if it didn't help.

So I th-, you know, I don't know what they were treating for, but when you have it, it's kind of like being a doctor, I can't really diagnose it without- I, you know-

Kind of looking at it.

- kind of looking at it and unders- I would never tell you to treat without knowing what the real situation was.

Sure.

It's a case-by-case situation.

Yeah.

It is. It is a case-by-case. You just one- not one size fits all type of thing. But when you have that much weeping from the tree and if it's all the way around the trunk, that means that you have, we say once 30 percent of that cambium tissue, 50 percent maximum. Um, if that is damaged, the- most likely the tree is not going to be able to recover from that. And so if you have tremendous amounts of damage along that base of the trunk, it's- it's probably not gonna come out of that. And- and I

would hate to encourage people to spend money on treatments when it would just be putting a Band-Aid on a major issue.

Right- right. So-

Amy, are you seeing or have you seen or started to see this year, uh, frost or freeze cracks from like the vertical splitting of the bark entries because of last fall's things that happened?

Not yet. And I have been looking around, um, at some trees but I've not seen anything as of yet. So we- I'd say we will- we will see what happens. My- my big worry is going to be this- the dryness that we experienced, all last fall, all this winter.

Yeah.

The strange fluctuation and temperatures that we have had. Um, I- I think that is going to be our biggest issue is just the drought that we have experienced.

And the wind damage, correct? I mean, have- haven't you seen [LAUGHTER] this?

If you could see Amy face [LAUGHTER].

This year? I mean-

Yeah.

Holy cow. We call that wind Mariah, [LAUGHTER] I think out here.

I think that's correct.

Yeah.

Can you hum that tune?

I can. [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] So I- I have just been amazed how many windy days that we've had.

And I think we're expecting more today-

More?

- and tomorrow as well.

And it's so funny when you see a red alert, uh, high wind warning, and there's somebody out there burning their ditch. Am like going, Come on guys. [LAUGHTER]

Hey, uh, uh, it's amazing how fast our time goes. I hate to be the- it's time to spend a little time with our uh, sponsors. So we'll be back right back after this.

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All right. We're back. This is the KERM Learn and Garden program with Jeff and Jerry. And we had a really interesting conversation during the break that we would like to start up again. So Jerry, do you think that you can redo it exactly like we did before?

Of course.

Okay.

I have- I have like a photogenic memory, [LAUGHTER] kind of. So Hailey?

Not me. Yes.

I have- I have my brother has- we had talked about his apricots trees. But the other issue that I wanted to visit with you about was that he thinks his apricots trees have very little flavor. So could we- could we do a round house on that?

Well, and so my response was when you were asking me off the air was that that was a COVID problem.

Oh, yeah. [LAUGHTER] My tree can't smell, my tree can't taste.

Yeah. Exactly. So-

Or maybe that's just my brother.

That's your brother. Yes.

Yes. So Amy, when- your response to Jerry about flavor.

Was, um, it kind of depends on what variety of apricot would be. I believe that different apricots produce different types of flavors. So that would be the first thing is just, you know, if- if this one in fact does kind of spiral down to death and he needs to pick a new one. He needs to research what are the most flavorful that would do

well in this area.

They would still live here.

They would still live here. [LAUGHTER] And then the other thing is, nutrients in the soil are extremely important. And I'm assuming that that would be related also to the flavor of the fruit a little bit. I'm just making an assumption.

And so I agree with Amy. What he probably should do is take a soil sample, send it to CSU, tell them that he is trying to produce flavorful apricots. [LAUGHTER] And ask them for the correct analysis and they'll come back with a recipe of what type of fertilizer to put on it to make it most productive and hopefully improve the flavor and those kind of things.

So one more little twist into this.

Oh, there's- but wait, there's more.

There's more. [LAUGHTER] So my brother got this tree from one of my neighbors who enjoys apricots. So she bought some apricots at the store.

Knew it didn't produce a really good flavor. [LAUGHTER]

No. No. She ate them, I mean. Obviously, she ate them and she enjoyed them, but then she went, she spat the pit out. And lo and behold here comes some trees. And so just like potato sets, some potatoes are- aren't they sprayed with a let's not grow kind of thing and produce eyes and grow retardent.

I don't know if it's necessarily sprayed, but there are treatments that they do to keep them from sprouting and they do that a lot with sweet potatoes. And I'm not so sure that they do that to regular eating potatoes.

Yeah. So that's how we came about this apricot tree. And they grew them. There are lovely tree, nice shade. They have a nice canopy to open up- open up like an umbrella kind of thing. So a lovely tree.

So that brings up an interesting conversation. So we've, in the last 20 years, we've- I'm skipping a little bit here, so bear with me. We've had a plethora of apple varieties developed. And all of those apple varieties came from seeds from red delicious. So well, and plus a little human intervention along the way. But they selected the ones that had better flavor, different qualities, those types of things. Well, maybe this particular seed that happened to be spat out by your neighbor was one of the ones that probably should not have been kept. [LAUGHTER] I mean, so that's- it's just the genetic diversity in the population in the seed.

Sure.

So it might've come from a really flavorful tree, but that particular one-

Yeah.

- shouldn't- shouldn't have made the cut.

So maybe that's part of his problem as well.

It could potentially be.

But since it's growing and since it's-

Producing.

I mean, yes. Trees are producing and his trees are eight or 10 years old, 8-10 at least. So-

Yeah.

I think CSU might be a viable option.

I think a soil sample would be a good place to start.

So here's the other thing to remember. Most of our fruit production, like Jeff was saying, they're going and selecting those that have trees that are producing the most flavorful and they're generally not growing those then from seed or they then they're taking cuttings off of those and then they actually graft them onto a hardy rootstock. And so you may have the seed, but there's no guarantee because of what he said, the genetics of it. But that's why they graft things because it's absolutely consistent. Because it's- it's an exact replica of the- the tree that it came from.

Right.

Do you know if apricots are grafted? Apples are all the time, I know that I don't know about apricots.

I- I would assume I'm making an assumption here. And so if anybody in the audience knows differently, you know, please set me straight. But, you know, a lot of fruit trees are grafted. I mean-

Yeah.

- the majority of them are, because they're selecting them for that great flavor, form, um, cold hardiness disease resistance. And so the majority of them, of any fruit trees are typically grafted?

Yeah. And apricots too was- they're- they're such a delicate.

Yes.

- blossom with early frost. Sometimes you do and sometimes you do not get fruit.

And- and so in my mother's case, the- the tree that she has that is really good and flavorful and productive. It is from the same seed batch as two others in her yard. And they're in a different location. They're not as productive, they don't grow as

well, and they produce less fruit. So, you know, it's-

Maybe.

And it- and it is again, seed. Plants from seed just like in your case. So it's just the different variability between plants, I'm going to say.

So I'm curious because I was always under the impression that you had to have two different varieties of apricots to cross-pollinate. So do you know differently on that? Because-

I can't tell you that.

Okay.

I don't want to take that out. [LAUGHTER]

Oh, my gosh we've stamped him. [OVERLAPPING] We are so good. [LAUGHTER].

Yeah. High five.

[LAUGHTER] Yeah. By the way, also, did we mention anything that it's Arbor Day?

We have not talked about this yet.

We've not talked about Arbor Day - Arbor Day.

Um, this is one of my favorite days of the year. I just love Arbor Day.

Wait a minute. Do you get it off?

I'm off today [LAUGHTER]

Perfect.

Cool on you.

I know. I'm so excited, you know, I- the- that little backstory. So my dad was born on the original Arbor Day, April 22nd. That was J. Sternly Morton's birthday. So that's the- that's the original date that they gave the National Arbor Day holiday. So every year when I was a kid, um, if it was raining, if it was snowing, 100 mile an hour winds, we were always planting a tree on my dad's birthday on Arbor Day. So it- you know it's special in my heart for many reasons. I think, you know that Arbor Day has transformed the landscape of the West because in Nebraska, I don't know if people are aware, but that very first Arbor day that we had over a million trees were planted. Um, and some of those trees are still alive today. That was a hun- this year is the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day.

So my- [NOISE] So my Arb- my Arbor Day story is that one of the banks that we were with at the time in this 20 years ago gave out ash trees and we- we procured three of them. One didn't make it, but the other two, 25 feet tall.

Now we have to worry about other things first.

Now we have to worry about other stuff with ash trees. [LAUGHTER]

But they didn't know that 25 years ago. I just think it's so cool that your bank did that because that's so forward-thinking one of my favorite quotes is that, um, you know great men plant trees that they will never sit under the shade [OVERLAPPING] of. I think that- that your bank is very forward-thinking, they know that this isn't necessarily going to benefit them in their lifetime, but they're doing it because they believe in their community and they want the benefits of those trees to be there way beyond they when they aren't.

Yeah. We have a caller. [BACKGROUND] We have a- hopefully a question. [LAUGHTER].

Maybe they're setting us straight.

I hope it [OVERLAPPING] Yeah. Let's go. Okay. Good morning. You're on the air.

Yeah. I went to a peach pits here a few years ago and I put them in the ground.

And do you have peaches?

I got producing peach trees.

All right.

They- they were from Colorado. [LAUGHTER]

Oh, of course, they were. So can- can you guys hear him?

No.

So the gentleman says that he had peach pits from peaches from Colorado that he planted in the ground and now he has productive peach trees.

No fooling.

No fool.

I love it.

Yeah.

Yeah.

It's awesome. Keep doing it.

Yeah. Then I hope someday you're selling them along the road because [LAUGHTER] I'm gonna come buy some.

Exactly.

Are you- are you kidding?

And thank you for the phone call.

- them all winter?

[LAUGHTER] He's- he's- he doesn't think he'll be selling them.

[LAUGHTER] he should do.

All right. Thank you for your call. Now, one of our neighbors, um, at the old office had a pear tree and-

- and the partridge?

I wish.

I didn't see any partridges there.

Okay.

So, um, we were watching and we had requested the year prior, uh, if we could pick some and- and they said, yeah, yeah, no - not a problem. We have way plenty. So we went by on - on one day and we grabbed a couple, ate them and they were just a little firm, should have picked as much as we could to that day. Then we went back, I don't know, four days later and they were just overripe. They turned so quickly? [OVERLAPPING]. Pears.

And, oh, pears, are they? It was a pear tree.

It was a pear tree.

Yeah. Okay. [OVERLAPPING] just remember I was to worry about the part of the Partridge. [OVERLAPPING] Yeah. I was actually thinking, um, squirrel and, um, [LAUGHTER] thinking about peaches, so sorry, Let's move on [LAUGHTER]

So I- you know what? I would do want to make a little comment when we're talking about fruit trees. Um, I- I love it when, um, people try all kinds of different things. I live in heavy gearing soil so we don't have - we do- we're not able to grow those flowering trees very well. They just don't, they get really quadratic and they just don't really like our soil. But what I do want to just, you know, express to the listeners is that it's very important that people do research before they purchase the fruit trees, because not all fruit trees that you see in stores should be growing here. They may say zone 4. But really we need to make sure that they are acclimated to our soils and that they will do well here because I see some really cool varieties in, um, stores sometimes and I just- it breaks my heart because people are spending money and planting and investing that energy into them and they're just not- they're just not going to do well. So-

Three to- 3-5 years [BACKGROUND].

If they're lucky, that;s right [LAUGHTER].

If they are lucky. [LAUGHTER]

Right. And so they've invested a lot of time trying to get this thing to go because it's gonna be really cool and- and they just aren't happy. So it's so important that we talk to our local nurseries and, you know, learn from them what they- what will grow here because these people have watched them over time and they've had to replace those varieties that haven't done well. So they do know what's really meant to grow here.

Exactly.

So would you drop down 1-1? I mean, we're- we're zone 4, would you drop down to zone 3 for adjusting case?

You know, I'd- I'd say Zone 3 would be amazing zone four, but don't- if there's something that's Zone five, that's a fruit tree. I would be very, very, very cautious. [LAUGHTER] I mean and I- I love it. People will say, "Well, I'm growing this and I've never had any problem." And I'm like, "That is awesome, but you are the exception, not the rule because, um, I know that when I worked at a garden center, um, nine times out of 10, you know, something in zone 5, it- it wouldn't survive. But you'd always have that one person that they're like, "Yeah, it's doing great for me." So I never say never, but I really, I- my goal is for people to be successful and enjoy their investment.

The success of a tree, any tree, depends on a whole lot of things, right? We've talked about it. We've soil type fertility, amount of moisture gets whether or not it's protected. Do you like to eat it? You know, that type of thing. Do they like to rub on it? So, um, you know, it- it- it depends on each situation. So somebody might have really good success. Other person might not get it to last a year.

And everything is like a little micro-climate. So I always say if I see that somebody has like a little courtyard or some little tiny space on the east side of their house that just has just the right amount of sun and it doesn't get a lot of wind, I say try zone five because I think you might be successful, but I'm never going to tell, um, Jeff out on the prairie to stick a zone 5 tree because the likelihood of its surviving is very minimal.

Here's a good example. A redbud. Red buds are zone five. There are some, I think in Scott's bluff, right?

And [inaudible 00:36:30] has a bunch of them.

Yeah. But the further you go this direction, the less likely you will see those trees.

Now, I have another example. It's not trees but it's Canna lilies. So my- my friend Johnny Russ, he- he's passed but he was growing cannas and I said, "Johnny, how do you get your cannas so huge?" I said, "how do you store them?" He says, "I don't." I

said, "What do you mean?"

I leave them in the ground.

I leave them in the ground. [LAUGHTER] They're just perfectly happy. South-side brick building up against the house. So just enough radiant heat from that and I'm like Juan, dang, I need to build a brick house [LAUGHTER] or my cat. [LAUGHTER]

Well, and that, and that is absolutely true. Those are things that I always think about when I'm making recommendations. That's why it's sometimes hard for, um, people in the nurseries, they're going to, kind of, try and meet you and direct you, but until they know exactly the situation that they're putting the plants and they can't 100 percent guarantee that something will be successful or not successful. Um, they're just giving you their very best recommendation. Then everything- and this is what I love about gardening. It's trial and error.

Yeah.

You get to learn and, you know, process and analyze. I- that's what I love about this little hobby that we have.

But when somebody goes, you can't do that. I'll show you.

I'll show you that. [OVERLAPPING] That is the master gardeners motto. The heck, I can [LAUGHTER] [BACKGROUND].

Hold my- hold my soda. [OVERLAPPING] [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. I- well. Jerry, that kinda goes back to your brother's apricot tree. So, you know, I'm talking about the death spiral and I think it's going to die and, you know-

Depressing, depressing. [LAUGHTER]

No, I'm just seeing so, yes, Exactly. What I love is when trees prove me wrong, I- and I love it. So when I- when I say this is going through the death spiral because this is what I generally see. But trees just like humans are - they're amazing how they can overcome and survive if they're - if they're cared for and maintained, kinda like our health, you know, you may have a very grim prognosis on something and kind of like lose, you know, there's really a 25 percent chance of hope. But you know, it's- it's just kinda the will of, um-

Dang, I'm a survivor.

I'm a survivor and this is not going to get me and I don't want to humanize plants, but damn it. I absolutely love it when they prove me wrong. So they are- they are living things and so they're not predictable. It's not like Newton's law of gravity. We know - is that Newton's law of gravity. That is the [OVERLAPPING] apple fall from a tree.

Yes.

You know, we know that's going to happen. Um, we don't know what's going to happen with plants because there's so many variables in there that can, um, change the situation.

Yeah. All we can do is make a best recommendation based on what-

Yap.

-we know. I went on a yard call last Friday to look at an ash tree that had been looked at probably 10 years earlier, which was having issues. So, um, it's still alive. There needs to be some trimming on it a little bit to clean out the dead. But, um, there's some type of Bohr in it. I'm not going to say that it's emerald ash Bohr, but because there are other Bohrs that affect ash trees, um, but it's been in- in- insect cycle, insect populations are cyclical too, so you'll get a bad year, you'll get a lot of damage. But the next couple of years, the insect population might not be so high, it might not be affecting that tree so much. And then the tree does a little bit better. So- but then, you know, it's just one of those things [LAUGHTER] unfortunately, ash trees are victims.

They- they- they are victims. But here's the cool thing, and I think it goes back to you know the year that the Bohr came in. Maybe there was, you know, a freeze that, um, fall before that impacted the tree and maybe there is a late spring freeze and so it's lost them canopy and the Bohr is in there. But then the next year you have ideal growing conditions and you have plentiful water and it shuts down just at the right time and you have maybe it's warm and you have a lot more growing days. And so it's able to actually put on more- more growth and, you know, can put more energy into pest, um, you know [OVERLAPPING]

Defense.

Pest defense. [LAUGHTER] They're so cool how they can defend themselves. And so, you know, everything has to align perfectly, um, for these things to survive. That's why it's so crazy to me how many things actually do survive because of really harsh conditions that we have out here. I'm always astonished at, oh my gosh, this tree is still alive after the, um [MUSIC] torture that it's been through.

Shame on you.

Shame on me. That's- [LAUGHTER] that's my phone.

Someone has a question, Jerry.

Don't they know where you're at?

I thought I turned that off [LAUGHTER]

So Amy, if we can- just check it out the door, Jerry? [LAUGHTER] I have, er, so I think this is the third year that, er, our new tree row has been in place. And we were talking about our soil being very sandy and those types of things. Um, for that

particular tree row, I, er, do a 12-hour drip line set once a week. Um, and they seem to be doing fine, at least the ones that have survived the original plant. [LAUGHTER] Um, and- and so, uh, the- the main ones that are doing the best, they are junipers and very hardy. They, you know, they're two and half feet tall now. And- and, um, so to me in my mind, once a week, 12 hours set for water on a really slow drip is plenty for them. Um, but I have other trees in my landscape where I'm watering them twice a week, but less amount of time and they- they all seem to be doing okay too. I'm- I- I think I'm doing the right thing. I hope I'm doing the right thing. Um, but it just is one of those things that it's kind of a guess, right?

It- it's kind of a guess. Now you can do a few things to, um, be a little bit more, um, I don't know, technical-

Precise.

Precise. So you know and I always say, um, test your soil to even see if you need to water because, um, and I love to do the screwdriver test. I have a screwdriver that's about 12 inches long. And, um, like in your tree row, you could take that out there, you know, and just kind of probe in a couple of spots. And if you have gra- and it's sand, so I mean you're going to have a lot more. [OVERLAPPING] But just to put it in there.

Yeah. It's sand, it just goes right in. [LAUGHTER]

Right on it. You can actually feel you know kind of test and see if there's any moisture about an inch below and if there is, maybe it's- maybe you don't need to water. Um, but if you have a really hard time, um, getting that screwdriver into the ground, it's a pretty good indicator that it's time to water.

It's that it's very dry.

It's very dry. So like we are working on a project in a- in a really nice cornfield or former cornfield in gearing. And we've been trying to dig in it and we can't even- it's like hitting concrete. We can't even get.

Hardpan.

A shovel- hardpan, but just, you know, it's like concrete, there's no moisture in it any longer, so it just stuck together. And I said we're supposed to be planting in that. And I said, we're not planting until there's moisture because it's a- a total waste of our time un- unless we get some moisture. So going back to your original question, um, you- you've got to be- because you have different zones of soil and your yard too, you're going to have some sandy a little bit heavier. And so you really do kinda need to be familiar with those areas in your yard and know that you might need to give some spots more water than others and exposure is another-

Yeah.

-thing as well. Obviously, west-facing area is probably going to need more moisture

than your east side. And so we find that we tend to overwater sometimes on the east side of our landscapes because it doesn't dry out as quickly. So I- there is no silver bullet on, you know, how you should do your watery. And we- and I know that people want that.

Yeah, exactly.

Because people are very scheduled, but sometimes we can't be that way.

Right. Well, here's another one that Jeff just dearly loved this story. I had been reading about how to put your pre-emergent down and it was, er, in relationship with forsythia blooming.

Forsythia.

Forsythia.

Forsythia blooming, and low- [OVERLAPPING]

Cynthia.

And it's all for Cynthia.

And lo and behold, on Main Street, this woman had- has a plant in a planter. And, uh, you know, I'm like, oh, here it is. We'll come to find out it's a plastic plant. And then she says, Oh, yeah, [LAUGHTER] I pull this out every year I go, What do you mean pull it out? She says, "Well, it's plastic, Jerry." So this has been a running joke for us for a long time.

Jerry has been doing all of his gardening timing based on when the forsythia shows up on the front porch.

So I have some other little ideas about that. Is this weight for apple trees to bloom before you pa- plant your bush beans.

Okay.

When the-

Which variety though? That- you know Jerry [LAUGHTER] here, we have early blooming apple trees, late-blooming apple trees, they're all different. So you really can't count on that.

There's always a wrench.

Sorry, Jerry.

So what's the next one?

When the apple blossom falls plant pole beans and cucumbers.

I've gotten nothing on that.

All right.

Which blossom is that?

You know they may not last very long because the wind blows them all off or they freeze. So I [LAUGHTER] don't know if you can use that one either.

Transfer.

Look how negative, I am.

Transfer your tomato plants transplants to the garden when lily of the valley is in full bloom.

Okay, so [OVERLAPPING]

That's interesting.

So what's your soil temperature when all this stuff happening?

Yeah, I don't know [LAUGHTER] Full-size maple leaves signal time to plant Morning Glory.

How many maple trees do we have in our neck of the woods?

I have one.

No way.

Okay.

But it's not what you think. It's, uh, um, rocky mountain maple.

Oh, yeah.

And so don't we both have that Hot Wings maple.

We do have that Hot Wings maple.

That's actually native to China. So I don't know if we can really utilize that as our nature.

Yeah. But maples really as a whole don't grow well here in Ocean County. Uh, uh, peppers and eggplants can be transplanted when bearded iris are blooming. [OVERLAPPING] specific. So that would be temperature and water dependent. Because if you really hosed down your iris, they will bloom faster.

Right.

Than if just relying on- on whether. When peonies blossom, it is safe to plant heat-

loving plants like melons, such as cantaloupe.

I think that's interesting. [OVERLAPPING] I would agree with that because I- those peonies are such an indicator of temperature. I like that.

I- I hate to shut you off.

Oh, man. Can I have one more?

Mr. Gun is trying to make sure that we wrap up at eight o'clock-

Oh, no.

-so that we're on time. Can you guys- can you guys believe it that we-

How quickly time flies when you're having fun?

He says we have two minutes. Do you've got time to read your last one?

I do. Baking soda for sweet po- tomatoes.

Baking soda.

Do you think there's anything in there?

Baking- put baking soda.

In the whole.

Well, that's, um, what's that bicar- [OVERLAPPING] sodium bicarbonate? Yes. Jeez, that is very interesting to me. I would say it depends on what your soils are, because if your soils are already high in sodium I don't know about that.

And it depends on how much you put in the hole with the plant.

Now, I got all this information off the Internet. [OVERLAPPING] be true.

It's gotta be reliable then. Hey, let me-

Wait one second more.

Okay. Go ahead.

Happy May Day to everybody that gives us coming up.

And we're going to miss it.

And you know, hey, here's my virtual basket to the both of you.

Oh, okay. Thank you very much.

Thank you.

Yeah.

I'm not going to run around the office. Coz you tried to kiss me, that's inappropriate. [LAUGHTER]

In a way and as well. I think we can all try to dance around an imaginary maypole.

If you would like. Wow. [LAUGHTER] Yes, exactly. Amy, thank you for being our guest today. We always enjoyed having you here and the rabbit holes in the serious stuff and the laughing, it's always lots of fun. It's great to be in the studio again. Um, we will have a variety of guests. Jerry, do you know who are guests is gonna be next week?

By chance, I do. It- his name is, er, Ben. Okay. [LAUGHTER] I just have his- his [OVERLAPPING]

Mr. Fungus Amongus.

Mr. Fungus Amongus. And his first name is Ben. And he will be zooming in, er, that's going to be one. He's from Casper. So I saw the article in the newspaper and thought, he's right up our alley.

That it'd be kinda interesting so. [OVERLAPPING]

With Morel mushrooms getting ready to bloom snow or not gloom but grow soon.

Yeah, not bloom.

Sorry.

As- as a word of caution, you gotta know what you're looking for.

Exactly. Yes. Yes. So again, I think Mr. Gun is like, time's up.

Time's up.

I gotta go. Thanks everybody for listening. We'll talk to you later.

You've been listening to Lawn and Garden with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist, Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck. Presented by KGOS and KERM Radio in Torrington and by the University of Wyoming Extension, where we're growing people, knowledge, and communities by extending the land-grant mission across the great State of Wyoming. Good day and happy gardening.