

[MUSIC] 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 special guests as they talk all things in Wyoming garden. From plant variants to weather events, to pesticides, and the power natos. Our Lawn and Garden Podcast helps you improve your home garden and in small acreage. Good day and happy gardening. [MUSIC]

Good morning, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards. At KERM, Lawn and Garden program along with Jerry Erschabeck. Good morning, Jerry.

Good Morning Jeff. You know, I ran into a guy that said, "Hey, are you doing the laugh a minute?" [LAUGHTER] How are you this Friday," I said, yeah.

Yeah, I- I've apologized for the amount of laughing that we do on the program in the past, but yeah, we- we try to have a good time.

Absolutely.

And- and hopefully it's somewhat educational.

Yeah. That's why we have Jane with us today.

Speaking of which our guest today is Jane Dorn. Good morning, Jane.

Good morning, everyone. And I think a good laugh this early in the morning is just what you need. [LAUGHTER] If you can't laugh when you garden, you shouldn't be gardening.

That is true. Thank you very much we appreciate you being here. [OVERLAPPING]

Struggling with gardening? The University of Wyoming Extension has you covered. [OVERLAPPING]

And we'll take a few minutes and start options. And it will be right back after this.

See our publication, Wyoming Vegetable and Fruit Growing Guide, to learn more about growing fruits and vegetables in Wyoming, visit the Wyoming Extension website at uwo.edu/uwe.

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All right. Good morning again, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program. It's Friday, May 27th. We're happy to be here today. Our guest is Jane Dorn. Jane, if- if folks haven't listened before, you are a author, correct?

Yes, that's correct.

And a native plant specialist, is that-

That's- that's kind of a- I don't know what you call yourself but that's as good as any.

[LAUGHTER] Okay. Well, good. And so we're going to spend some time talking about,er, a variety of things. We'll probably laugh a little bit. But I think Jane wanted to spend some time talking about a program called Plant Select. Is that correct?

Yes, that's correct. And it's a program if you don't know all about it, it's one that every gardener in the region should sort of have on their list. This program has been developed by the Denver Botanic Gardens, which a lot of you probably are familiar with in Colorado State University on some of the commercial nurseries in that part of Colorado. And their aim was to find plants that were tough enough to live in our rocky mountain area and not succumb to late freezes and drought and all those wonderful things.

We- we never have those things to worry about.

Oh, no. [LAUGHTER] This is their 25th year that they've been going and they've been working on developing plants. And they now have a 150 different species of plants that they have released to the nursery trade. And I think there's something there for everyone now, a lot of these are native or native derived. But they've also got some that are not natives that they found that are just really suited to our conditions in this country and have those that they've released also.

Is- is there a catalog available?

There's no catalog, but they have a really good website with pictures of everything.

Do you have- is it just plantselect.com or?

Uh, it's plantselect.org.

.org. Okay. So that's where some people mess up is. We assume it's .com but this one is.org?

This is.org, yes.

Okay.

They have pictures. They have information on where each plant originally came from, some came from Wyoming. Some of these plants, so they found a particularly attractive native and then they took it in, bred- bred it for a while to get just the features they wanted. Uh, so they have pictures, they tell you where it came from, they tell you how to grow it and where to grow it. They give you a lot of advice. They even have some area there where they show you how to lay out some landscape design beds to look nice, you know. Call stuff and back and short stuff in the front type of thinking. Uh, they have stuff that if you're interested in attracting birds and native pollinators, they give you some advice on that. Great website. Any gardener is going to have fun at it because all the pictures are in color.

Because we all want one, right?

We all want several, yes. [LAUGHTER]

So, uh, the reason that we would want to plant natives is that of course, they are better adapted to our conditions, better adapted to our soil. Are they, uh, maybe a little bit more drought tolerant since that's one of the primary things that we are concerned with?

Yes. This particular organization has emphasized drought tolerance. Now I want to stress, this isn't growing cactus. This is a lot of very attractive plants with lots of leaves, but these are plants that get their roots down deep and kinda hang in there when the going gets tough.

When it gets really really tough. So,uh, there's a term it's called xeroscaping, which is spelled with an x not a z.

Correct.

And- and for the longest time, I always thought, you know, when I was younger, it's like, okay, that means a gravel patch. But that's not what xeroscaping is all about, right?

No, It certainly isn't. And the first thing you'll notice on this side, if you go down through it a little bit, they've got lawn mixes that they recommend for this,uh, area and climate. Uh, they've got gra- a lot of grasses because grasses actually, if you think about it, we're a grass climate out here. So they have a lot of beautiful grasses that are native that they've stressed. Some for decorative purposes, some for lawns. Uh, and you would not say looking at the selections that they have, that these are desert plants, these are just plants that- that can survive under dry conditions, low rainfall, most of them are adapted to our alkaline soils, can take the wind and still have attractive flowers and leaves. Something you'd be proud to grow in your yard.

Sure. Something blooming.

Definitely that, yes.

Do they have any, uh, varieties of fruit producing plants on their list?

Just a few. The one that comes to mind is the sand cherry, which of course looks a lot like the choke cherry. And they do have one choke cherry. Uh, I think they haven't gotten into the, what I call the fruit, uh, production yet.

Edible landscape.

Edible landscape. There are some things you could eat but not, they're not big on the edibles.

Okay. All right, very good. But a 150 different things.

Yeah, even some roses. So those people that love roses, they've got some beautiful roses on there that are really adapted to the climate conditions that we have here.

As you're looking through the list of things, is there something that stands out that you find interesting?

Well, I'll mention one that's not a native to any of this region, but is one, uh, that I've seen a little bit of around Torrington. And it's called the hot wings, uh, maple. And it has- it's a beautiful little tree. And the fruits on it turn bright red and stay red. And you think the dog on tree has red flowers all over.

Or cherries in it, right Jerry?

[LAUGHTER]Or cherries. And it's just a gorgeous little street tree.

Yeah.

Or yard tree. Not too big, but really gives you a lot of show. So that's one they've worked on and that's not a native all, but it just really does well in our climate.

Jerry and I both have one. Jerry, how is yours doing this year?

Yeah. It's doing really, really well and funny, you should bring that tree up. We first saw we had to go to Bridgeport quite a bit and there are quite a few hot wings maple going that way. And we've kinda say, gosh, what is that tree? And so we purchased one for our anniversary. And it's doing really well, although I don't want to ask it- it's coming up from the base as well. So just nip those off, right?

Yeah. That's what I do. I think that's kind of a characteristic of maples is they'll do a little bit of root sprouting if you don't watch them.

You call that stooling- stooling?

Yeah. Whatever you wanna call it.

Well, and- and maples when you trim them because- we usually do it in the springtime, those wounds will probably weep a little bit more because it is a maple, right?

Yeah.

So syrup production in the future.

I'm sure you could get syrup out of these if you wanted to go to the apple because most maples, even other than the, uh, one that is for maple syrup, you can get syrup out of them it is edible. In fact, you can even get syrup out of, uh, our- our native maple, which is called- we call box elder.

The box elder.

A few other things, yeah.

Yeah. I have a co-worker in extension who actually has collected box elder-
Juice?

Juice. [LAUGHTER] For lack of a better term, and has made syrup out of it. And he's- he's pretty- pretty good at it.

I suppose the proper term would be called sap.

Probably, yeah.

Sap. But he- you have to boil a ton of it.

You do.

To get just a couple of ounces of maple syrup.

It's one of those lot of work for a little retur- return.

You gotta be really dedicated. [LAUGHTER]

Although maple syrup is really good.

Yes.

And I've also found out I'm growing my mustache. I also found out that just a tiny little bit of maple syrup [LAUGHTER] really makes that mustache. [LAUGHTER]

Enjoyable for the rest of the day?

Very- very presentable. [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] We love our Hot Wings. Maple. It is- it's just- I think it's probably about eight foot tall now, and, um, it- it seems like it's really growing quite well in a position that we put it.

We've, uh, we've had ours in a couple of years longer than yours and which probably over 10 feet now. And I- I trim on it to try to shape it and stuff because it- when we got it, it was kinda going every which direction and- and, uh, we think we know best. So let's trim it and make it look like it should.

Ju- just to give you another example of the kind of thing that they have. Uh, this one is right back home to a native grass. And there's a variety of big blue stem, which is a native prairie grass called wind walker Blue that they've developed that gets about 3-4 feet tall, very adapted to our conditions, in fact, its native cousin grows around here. This one turns absolutely a gorgeous plum color in the fall as the leaves are just incredibly showy and you can leave it all winter and enjoy the color against the snow. And when you don't have any color, this one's color.

Is it a- is it a bunch grass or is it a spreader?

It's a bunch grass.

Oh, okay. Interesting.

Yeah, and you know, you always want something that has a little color in the fall.

It's a great ornamental grass. If you'd like some ornamental grasses at the back of your, uh, flower beds, this one stand up 3, 4 feet tall and resistant to everything we can throw at it.

Does it have a compact type of seed head or is it a-

The seed- yeah, it's fairly noticeable. In fact, one of the old names for it was turkey foot, so it has a-

Oh, sure.

A seed head that forms of- of tri-part arrangement and sticks out and you can see immediately when you see it in fruit why they would call it a- a turkey track or a turkey head because of that foot shape.

And since it has wind walker in the name, does it spread?

I haven't noticed this much of a spreader. It'll do a little bit. I mean, any grass will if you give it time.

Sure.

But it's not a- it isn't a grass that you're going to find all over your yard. You can safely plant it and- and have a nice, attractive perennial grass comes up every year. You can leave it all winter and then trim it back in the spring and have a start over again.

Okay.

Jane, two weeks ago we had a caller call in about their pompous grass.

And we talked about that last week.

Oh, did we?

Yeah. Well, the- they wanted to know- they weren't- I know where you're going with that, but we had another caller asking if the invasive grass that's on the waterways is related to Pampas grass?

Oh. And is it?

It is. It's related, but it's not the same thing.

Yeah.

So it's very similar. Pampas grass looks like the invasive one. It's the same family, not the same genus and species, but yes, it's related.

And- and Pampas grass it is not a native as you probably know.

Right, right.

If you want to plant a native and you want to use a decorative grass, this wind walker, big blue stem is a great choice and it should be available, pretty easy to find.

Okay. All right.

But the question was, um, when do you cut the old- old off or do you just let it break off on its own?

Well, if you just let it break off the average bed, it's just a big mess at the end, so I recommend cutting them off say late winter when you're- when you can- they're getting pretty shabby looking by then, and just- but- kee- let them go through Christmas into the new year because you're going to enjoy that beautiful colored leaf.

Or Memorial Day weekend.

Yeah, round here, yeah. [LAUGHTER] Even if you cut a few of the green- green off, when you trim it back to the base, it'll come right back.

Yeah. A- but- as we've discussed, I've kinda let mine go native. I don't trim them off. They just re-grow, they- they kinda [OVERLAPPING]

You know, let them grow native, you laugh at them, but bumblebees love to nest down in the base of these. So if you want to keep your bumblebees around for pollenating, few places like this are great for them.

Occasionally the voles like to hang out in them too.

Yeah, we've got those around too. [LAUGHTER]

I was planting my onions a couple of weeks ago now. And [inaudible 00:15:31] there's some vole, opening [inaudible 00:15:35]

Activity.

Activity and my neighbors says, don't step over there because you'll sink.

[LAUGHTER]

This week, uh, we finally had water coming to our property from the ditch system. And of course, it's got to clean out the ditch and keep things going. And I've got a, I don't know, 100 yards of cement ditch, maybe 150 yards of cement ditch. And of course, chasing- as I'm scooping tumble weeds out, I'm also chasing voles around and they're out, their moving around, they're moving.

And they're always hungry which is the problem.

[LAUGHTER] Yeah. We had heard that there were supposed to be some possibility of rain in the near future.

Yes.

So I got my hose out and started watering hard.

Just- just because [OVERLAPPING] go away.

Just cause. Because you know, you- weatherman. Let's- let's put a little bit on weatherman. You- it's- it's a nice average or a nice approximation of our temperatures and- and as we're- and speaking of temperatures, God, it's been cold and some people, unfortunately it put their stuff out only to see that Mother Nature is, kill them.

They've- they'd need to redo it. Uh, we, uh, everything at our place is pretty much protected. You know, it's hard to remember when that last dip in temperature was, but I think it was the 16th and 17th.

I think so.

Monday and Tuesday.

And, uh, the only thing that really got nuked in our place was our potatoes.

Oh, did they?

But they'll grow back. It's no big deal.

Yeah. So did either of you guys have issues?

Well, we lost all the blossoms on our fruit trees on our- which is pretty typical.

Yeah, yeah. My apple tree is- is no buds on it and either.

It didn't harm the tree, the tree is fine. It's gonna make just be a pretty shade tree this summer, but we aren't getting any fruit.

Nothing wrong with a little shade. Might have to buy our fruit this year.

Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

But yeah, things questions. Uh, so if folks have questions for Jane, the number of the radio station is 532-2158 and phone just started ringing. Uh, let's see, first water. Things on my notes that we- o- okay. Sounds like- sounds like we have a call. Okay, welcome. You're on the air. What, uh, what can we do for you today?

Good morning, Jerry, Jorry, and Jane. This is Kathy Beam and, um, I have a question for whoever might be able to answer it. We have some, uh, sumac that apparently the Burgess decided we needed some sumac to the west of us here and- and, um, it was doing really well. It's been there probably, I'm gonna say established pretty well for three years and frost got to it pretty- pretty sadly. And we have orioles that have kinda taken to that little tree right thereby our windows, so wondering, um, additional watering, will that help with it?

Thanks Kathy, I'm going to defer that to Jane. What do you think?

Our sumac, uh, the tops froze too, and I've seen it happen before, they always come back. A tree is capable of producing a second set of leaves when the first set gets frozen. Just give it good care and it'll probably survive and come out of it. And by the end of the summer, you'll never know anything happened. What does get a tree is if this were to happen twice in a row real close together, then sometimes that'll kill a tree or anything even in this- even though a sumac is a pretty hardy tree, but just give it some time and the orioles should be sensible enough to move if they can't nest in that tree.

Now my experience with sumac. They are one of the toughest trees I've ever been around.

And they're usually spreaders. They s- they like to spread.

And so if you want them to move somewhere, you just put the water where you want them to go and they will find in that water. So we had, uh, sumac growing along our foundation and we decided that we wanted to put a deck there. So I cut them down way, way, way low and put the deck over it. And they still grew underneath the deck until I painted them with.

Glyphosate?

Glyphosate and that finally killed them. So, uh, I wouldn't worry about those at all. And if you're worried about your orioles, they really love grape jelly.

Yes, they do.

And oranges. Yeah. Yeah. I've been feeding the orioles [inaudible 00:20:22]

They're just beautiful.

Great to show up. So Kathy, thank you for your call. We appreciate you calling in.

Thank you very much. And you guys have a wonderful day.

All right. So, uh, hey, you know, it's about that time to take a break and listen to our sponsors and we'll be back right after this.

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Now back to the lawn and garden podcast.

Good morning again, everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the K-E-R-M Lawn and Garden program. Our guest today is Jane Dorn. And Jane prior to the break or a little bit before that, we were talking about the plant select, uh, items and the possibility of ordering them online. Are there places where we can get them locally?

There are and one that is right here locally is Great gardens. There are plants select distributor. I won't say they have every plant that is available, but they have some. And I'm sure if you're interested in something, you should definitely go and talk to them.

Okay.

And look at what they have and maybe you'll see something that you like there that- that they are getting started in. But I firmly believe in supporting a local effort like this because this is really great for everyone.

Sure. So I- if - if I was a customer and interested in their- in the plant, select items, ask one of the people, the employees. And say, what's your inventory of plant select item?

Yeah. And they'll take you out and show you and if you have something that- that they don't have on there- in their nursery right now, at least talk to them about it.

Maybe it's something they can order for you. I haven't tried that yet, but I know they're really customer-oriented and want you to grow things that grow here.

Yeah, sure, exactly. Jerry, You've been kinda quiet today to you. Do you- do you have question?

Well, there's been interesting things [LAUGHTER] going on, yeah. So I was interested in- in the roses that were in the plant select we bought a ketchup and mustard rose. And that's pretty it's red and yellow together.

Does it make you hungry?

No, but [LAUGHTER] it makes me want to put my nose towards it. [LAUGHTER] Uh, so do you know, either one of the roses, are they fragrant?

I don't know the roses that they are listing. I mean, I know I- I couldn't give you a name for them, but if you're interested, do go online and look at their pictures and you might see something that you like and give you some ideas, but that's certainly a place to start. Now, they won't tell you that they're the be-all and end-all of every plant that will grow here in this climate. But it's a great starting place.

But it's so important. I mean, if - if we have to know that we're Number 4 on the list or so.

Yeah.

And if you try to grow in the sevens and eights, they will not survive they'll survive for maybe a season-

Yeah. You'll get them to grow at least a season.

-you can dig them up and put them in your garage, I guess. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. You can move them into live with you in the winter time if you want, but that's about the only way you're gonna get some of those more tender plants to grow.

Yeah.

Yeah- yeah.

Or a high tunnel or- or-

Right a high tunnel or a green house.

Or your own little greenhouse or- [LAUGHTER]

I have to confess, I do some of that, but that's not, uh, the way you really grow things around here.

Do you heat your greenhouse Jane?

We don't have- we have two greenhouses. The one that's outside or detached is strictly a spring, summer, and fall operation and we don't heat it. Then the other one is- is on the side of our house is basically part of our house. The entrance south-south entrance to our house. And we don't heat that one either, but we do have a lot of thermal mass in that one which is called barrels of water for those of you that have ever looked at it and it never freezes, er.

And do you have to go to the point of having shade cloth?

We haven't in that one because the way the sun comes in this- this latitude, by the time it gets really hot, the roof overhead shades that greenhouse.

There you go.

Yeah. Usually south-facing exposure stuff by, you know, this time a year it's in midday. It all depends on the angle of the sun and the tilt of the Earth and all that stuff.

We've had experience with greenhouses now for probably almost 50 years. And, uh, a south-facing greenhouse that's properly oriented, and designed with thermal mass. You can pretty much run them all, all year round if you begin to learn a little bit about their operations. Our main problem, I remember we had one in Cheyenne and we had a bad infestation of bugs. And I said, I know the solution to that we'll freeze them out. It took us three weeks to get them cold enough to freeze them out.

Just take those plants outside. Just leave them outside overnight it will do it. That's all you need in the middle of winter that's should take care of it. [LAUGHTER]

But it's really hard if you keep the plants in there to get the temperature low enough to freeze, it is amazing how much heat our south-facing sun will generate the wintertime. Jeff knows that with all of his high tunnels and everything.

Oh, yeah.

So I'll ask a question; about three weeks ago, my brother-in-law said, and they live in Parker, he said, er, you have miller's? I said no, we don't have any millers. And then they go, gosh, we have millers like crazy. Do you get them in the high tunnels? And -

Oh, yeah.

- and then-

Yeah. You get them in the high tunnels in the greenhouse. In the house, if you were a little slow shutting the door, they're just- just a part of life.

So on my high tunnel, I have roll-up sides on it but I have screened the roll-up sides.

Yeah.

The moth still get through the door. So I mean, the cracks around the door.

Sure.

They get through everything.

You just have to learn how they lay eggs and their larvae are in the soil and you start getting what we call cut worms, cutting things off. You need to know how to go out at night with a flashlight and you grab them after dark. There up on the surface then where you can find them.

And the cut worms are?

Yeah.

Yeah.

And so we've also talked about [BACKGROUND] an exclusion method, putting a collar around those plants of some for some time.

Aluminum foil collar works great.

Oh, yeah.

Or paper cup with the bottom cut out will work too. You don't have to be very fancy to get them out.

Yeah- yeah. One thing I'm struggling with right now and I never thought they would ever be a problem are the rowly polys, the pill bugs, the sow bugs. It's, you know, everything I read is, oh they are just the detritus feeders, they feed on mulch and decaying or organic matter. Well, when they're hungry. [LAUGHTER] Uh, I- the other day I walked in and I was looking at my cabbage plants. And there was a leaf that was touching the ground. And the only thing left of it was the- about a quarter of it on the leaf tip, and it was just entirely rowly polys. So they had consumed that whole leaf and, you know, uh, I'm currently looking at control or management type options and-

That always reminds me. I'm sure you have callers who say, can you recommend things that a deer won't eat. And there is no such thing as a deer proof plant. [LAUGHTER]

There's deer resistant, and then there's the sprays, the repels, and- but you really have to stay after it.

And then there's having a good dog.

Oh, yeah or radio. That only works for a little bit. [LAUGHTER]

And there is nothing that works for a very long on deer. I mean, they get accustomed to your dog, your radio, your spray, whatever it is, soap. I mean, there's a probably five. Somebody's probably written a book on how to repel deer. And you just go through the list of things and everything works for a while. And then they get

used to that. And then they get to the point where even if you run out and practically hit him with a broom they just look at you.

They just look at you like, yeah, whatever. I'll be back tomorrow.

Morning, Ralph. [LAUGHTER] Morning, Joe. [LAUGHTER]

Exactly.

Yeah. And- and particularly for the folks that live in town, uh, you know, Jerry and I we've talked about the herd deer or the town deer. Uh, they're- they're exposed to so many different things, dogs everywhere and people and, uh, basically are the town pets.

Yeah.

[LAUGHTER] The wandering vagabond of eaters.

My brother calls them stinking deer. [LAUGHTER] Because they come and get his tulip, right- right as it's opening up. They get his rose bud, right as it's opening up. And he goes, Guys look at all these rosebuds, Jerry. And I go, Yeah. He says, I hope they- they get to the age where they can open. And I said, Yeah, me too.

So I always thought, okay, deer eating tulips was kind of a little naughty. I- I didn't really ever think about it until this year where there was obvious evidence around our tulips in the form of tracks. [LAUGHTER] And no tulips, so-

And no tulips. And the stems were just barely above the leaves.

Yeah, just- just nipped out and it's like, oh, that's why we don't have any tulips. Now, the tulips that we have in the fence portion of our area, beautiful this year. But anything out in the free range area, yeah. Well, I told Diane we're not planting any more tulips.

I said- I- I told my brother I was going to make him a- a scarecrow base and he could dress it, you know, and have maybe some little glittery, uh, silver.

He'd have to change it about every 10 days. [LAUGHTER]

About 10 days.

Every time you do the wash you should put clean clothes on the scarecrow.

[LAUGHTER] Strip the scarecrow, throw it in the wash, put new clothes on. Yeah, nice. [LAUGHTER]

Or spray the crap out with the- with the repelled stuff, you know, the-

So Jerry, you mentioned that the poss- there is the possibility of rain coming this week.

Oh yeah, possibility. I mean, we're getting 20s-50 percents.

And- and so if everybody is interested, uh, now would be a good time to apply pre-emergent products, uh, because they need water to be activated, they need to be incorporated into the soil generally, uh, but for controlling weeds in your turf for various other places it might be a good time to think about doing that this weekend before it rains. Um, so turf and flower beds, uh, and probably after this weekend the water is going to shut off and we'll go from green to brown in about 10 days.

[LAUGHTER]

Ten days. My iris really liked to harbor cheatgrass in between-

Yeah.

- them and the only thing I can figure out is mechanical- mechanical removal.

Hand removal.

Hand or digging up the iris themselves and replanting them.

In a different place where there's no cheatgrass.

Where there's no cheatgrass. [LAUGHTER]

Where there will soon be cheatgrass.

Where- where there soon will be.

Yeah, so there's some options out there. There are some pre-emergent products but cheatgrass is a funny thing. Uh, if you see the seeds, they're viable. So, uh, if you clip them, control them, whatever, if those seeds fall into the soil they will germinate. And- and they winnow annual. And so what that means is they traditionally will germinate in the fall and then kind of grow a little bit. So the timing of a pre-emergent product has to be-

Really important.

- just- just right. But because they'll germinate in spring too. So it's kind of a continual thing were they're-

No wonder it's so hard to get rid of.

It is very hard to get rid of.

Aren't they working on some new controls on- for cheatgrass that I've heard that they're trying some different things.

There are- there are some chemical things available. Um, I don't know that if they can be applied over the top of stuff like iris or not, but they- they're- they're working on it.

Again, would- could you paint your cheatgrass with glyphosate?

You could, uh.

And would it go down to the root? Would it take it up and-

It would. Do you know how tedious that would be? [LAUGHTER]

Oh, yeah.

Using the paintbrush painting each one.

But- but now, [LAUGHTER] I mean, we've- we've taken them about an inch off of the ground and rip them out,-

Yeah.

- so I was thinking of painting that area.

Oh, yeah, you could do that.

Yeah.

Or- or what might be a little more efficient would be a squirt bottle with directed spray.

Oh, yeah.

Uh, and then give them a little squirt and move on.

Now I've seen where people will put a- a milk jug and cut the end of it off and have your sprayer, is like a- like a tank sprayer,-

Sure.

- and stick that [NOISE] that sprayer into the plastic and so you really contain and really control your spray.

That's a hood sprayer.

Hood sprayer.

They use those in crop land and crops settings.

Yeah.

Yeah. So you could do that.

Cool beans. [LAUGHTER]

Lot of work, no matter what.

Lot of work. And you know, work- it seems like-

By the time you do that, you think okay, I've been down there pulling them by hand. I think it's about equal, isn't it? Because you're probably bent over down on your knees either way.

Oh, yeah. [OVERLAPPING] Knees- hands and knees. Uh, yeah, just doing a three point and then grabbing with the other hand, yeah.

What's the saying, six one way half a dozen than other. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Yeah. And it's either that or else moving your iris bed. And I hate doing that too many times.

Well, uh, don't you every few years divide them and rework them to get, you know.

Well, when the circle- when the middle of the iris starts to die out,-

Right.

- I- I try to straighten- I take enough that I make a row. I- I take the ends off and then pick a row for that, so-

You cut off half the circle.

Yeah.

Yeah. Okay.

Yeah. And then move half of a circle so you don't have to move that much.

Sure. But-

We haven't had- we haven't had any die off in the middle now for some time. We do.

Why don't- I wouldn't consider it dying off. They're just- so they're- they're just growing out and then [OVERLAPPING] the new- the new green part is on the outside of the growing area.

But my project going around the apple tree with iris, it protects the- the base of the tree-

Right.

- and hopefully is keeping-

Doe- it doesn't prevent deer from getting to the apples. [LAUGHTER]

No, we're working on that as well. I know- you know, thumbtacks it's just not- not a- not a way to go.

Do you have plans this weekend for gardening projects?

Oh yeah. Uh, we have- we're going to take the boards off of our carrots and our

beets because we planted our carrots in a strip tape this year.

Okay.

And hopefully they're going to do better, but we put a board on top of them and-

Why did you put the board on top?

To keep the moisture next to the plants so that- next to the seed so the seed would germinate.

Okay.

Evenly.

Yes. Correct.

And so hopefully, you know, that- that produce- that's the first time I've tried it but I've heard it enough time so I said, okay, we're trying it.

Did you make your own tape?

No, we did not.

Okay.

So we did spill [LAUGHTER] some of the beet seeds though and we have this- this, uh, eight inch little circle that's just completely red. [LAUGHTER] So I thought we would try to take those and transplant them into a row, maybe. [OVERLAPPING]

We- we- I must have had a carrot seeds spill because I noticed yesterday when I was hooking up my sprinkler, well, my watering system for my flower beds, I use my frosty hydrants for that. I have carrots germinating around one of my frosty hydrants, [LAUGHTER] so like, okay.

Well, and the other thing if you've got a lot of extra beets and [inaudible 00:37:59] , you know, beet greens are really very edible and delicious.

Are they?

Oh yeah. So when they're- Jeff doesn't like them but that's Jeff. His mother would- he wouldn't eat vegetables when his mother-

No, I ate vegetables but my- my mom is disappointed that I never appreciate to eat.

But when they're small, the- they're pretty doing good in the cell.

And do they taste like beets?

Yes.

Yeah, a little but not strong.

Yes.

So they don't taste like [inaudible 00:38:21] [LAUGHTER]

Definitely not.

Now, for me a red beet- my wife just loves red beets, pickled red beets. And she'll hoard them and-

She'll- she have any-

No, I don't want it.

Does she- wait a minute, does she hide them in her closet so- [LAUGHTER]

I don't know where she hides them.

Well, let me put it this way. You guys all know- you two guys know what Swiss chard is?

Yes.

It's beet.

Yes.

It's a beet.

Really?

Yeah, you're eating beet leaves.

Well, I don't really like it either. [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] Jeff's mother gave up on him a long time ago.

But the red beet to me tastes a little earthy, soily [OVERLAPPING] like dirt and-

There are varieties of beets you might wanna try. The golden beets.

The goldens.

They don't have near that much tastes that.

We love them and I've told Jeff that I'll- I'll make one for him on the grill. Because you kinda them in half, put a little olive oil on them and- and- and put just a little seal on them.

Yeah.

Man, they're good.

Anytime anything is described as having an earthy taste.

Yes.

I am not interested.

Well, that's that red beet so [LAUGHTER] more for other people.

That is correct.

More for the others that really enjoy those.

I think what is it elder berries are described as having an earthy flavor as well?

I'm not sure.

Or something like that. I don't know one of those things.

It's been a long time since I've had eaten anything, elderberry. We- we- I can remember my grandmother making a syrup out of them.

Sure.

And but they- that was pretty sugary, you know. Even a kid could take some-

You can cover enough earthy flavor with sugar if it'll work.

Well, you know, it's like they are used to talk about making jelly and she used to swear you could make jelly out of anything if you put enough sugar with it.

[LAUGHTER]

And maybe, you know, this guy, I can't- I- I can't remember his name. He made the elderberry wine. He lived in Lingo.

Don't know him but I can understand.

Oh, yeah. And G he had a good recipe. He made the best elderberry wine. Yeah, it was really good.

We might have digressed a little bit there. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

Yeah. [LAUGHTER]

So let me ask you about a greenhouse tomato or- or a tomato that, uh, more than likely is a determinant but I read this on the side of the container. It says, hey, you just go ahead and keep it in this container.

Yeah, give it, you know, depends on the size of the f- of the plant, the mature plant, because they've got plants that are now almost minis in the tomato world, that little determinants and then bigger one. Just be sure you haven't no big enough pot for the size of the plan. You don't wanna put a great big plan in a little bitty pot because it just- it stresses it.

So they had tomatoes on them already?

Yeah.

And, um, I'm thinking.

Tomatoes by the 4th of July or sooner. [LAUGHTER]

If you've, you know, got them in a real warm spot or you wanna put them in your front porch or something like that.

But would you normally go ahead and just take them out of that pot and put them in a larger container or in the soil?

Typically unless it's- unless it's a really good size pod. I kinda- yeah well, it might be. It depends on how big the fi- final plan is. Whatever they say on the label is probably good advice.

Probably good advice.

One of those lick barrels usually works really well for tomatoes if you want to grow them in a container.

Or other and I happen to have a-, an abundance of lick tubs if anyone's interested and would like-

Oh, are you- you're offering them?

I'm offering them.

Okay.

My wife says, Jerry, get rid of them, barrels. We have- we have- we have enough of- we have a plethora [LAUGHTER] of lick barrels.

And they're, so attractive. They're usually blue and very nice and green [OVERLAPPING]

Well, green, yellow, lot of different colors. We went to Lusk, went to with the neighbor to put flowers on- on graves and stuff and by the way if you take a screwdriver and if they're plastic flowers, if you take a nice size screwdriver, you can put that into the soil and then put one shank of plastic flowers down in that whole, works great.

You're making your little microhabitat, aren't you?

Yeah.

This is not a girl plastic flowers [LAUGHTER]

But on the- but on the way to Lusk, we saw off the road, this woman had red lick tubs and they looked very attractive and there was probably, I don't know, 15 or 20 of them and I thought her soil must be really crap. [LAUGHTER]

Actually, I grow almost all of my garden stuff, annuals, and vegetables in raised beds and big pots. It's just so much easier. You only have to enrich a certain amount of soil and-

Right, the older you get.

The less bending you have to do, yeah.

That you wanna do.

Yeah.

Yeah

You wanna.

So almost everything we grow is in raised beds and big pots.

But we wanna grow cantaloupe so, eh-

You could do that.

You couldn't do that.

You could still do that.

Yeah. You might wanna think about trellising them so that you can hang them up a trellis and-

Or let them walk down?

Or let them walk down. I- I've had of squash type plants, you know, they're in the raised bed and they grow out of the raised bed and down over the edge and out across the prairie and here's the fruit 15 feet from where the roots sits.

Yeah.

It looks kind of funny with something like a big squash sitting out there in the grass but works.

Yeah. It does work.

Yeah.

Very good.

Jane, do you have gardening plans this weekend?

Uh, Well, there's always clean up, mowing, whatever, yeah. Just the general stuff. I-, uh, we've still got- I think the carrots still have to go in, we kind of held off on them because they like warmer soil, our soil was a little cool. And by the way, if you haven't ever stumbled onto the fact that soil temperature is important for germination, let me tell you that it is. Most of your good seed sources will tell you what kind of soil temps you need for germination and if you plant something in 32 degrees soil, it does nothing.

It ain't happening and soil temperature probes are relatively inexpensive.

You can actually use an oven thermometer with the probe on it again.

Correct. We need thermometer too.

Yeah. Just one that you stick in the ground.

Yeah.

I have a couple extra.

Oh, well, there you go.

And there readily- there's good soil temperature thermometers readily available and they're very inexpensive and they're worth using.

So would you say that we want the soil temperature at four inches? At two inches?

You don't have to go any deeper than that two to four inches down because that's where you're putting the seeds on.

All right. All right.

Except for potatoes, right?

Yeah.

How do- how do you- do you plant your potatoes?

A shovel.

Shovel depth, eight inches?

Sure.

Sure.

Depends on the size of your shovel.

And how- [LAUGHTER] how hard the soil is under your shovel?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah. So I- the- the older I get the smaller shovel, I want you to use. [LAUGHTER].

And the shallow it will be.

I happen to see a blister on your hand. You've been using a shovel.

Oh yeah. Well, that was fun.

And you can even grow potatoes in a big tub, very easily.

Yeah.

Oh yeah.

Yeah. Now-

I might try that.

Jane, have you done any, uh, straw bale gardening?

I have not. I know people have been very successful with it. I have seen it. Apparently, it- it works around here, works well.

Okay. And it- it's a fertility thing if it's straw that you have to really keep monitoring and those types of things, but it can be done. Yeah. We apparently have another caller, so let's try.

Good morning. How are you?

Question for us.

I'm sorry, what?

Sorry. Can you repeat that?

Okay. Um. Let me get into a room. Get out of that we're in a radio station here.

Okay. Um, I have a- a suggestion. I'm- I'm Italian. My mother used to take beets and, uh, dice them up into small pieces and, add olive oil and garlic, salt and pepper and oregano, and onion and a little vinegar and just mix them up, and make a salad.

Okay. Are you suggesting that for me because I think that there are earthy?

Uh, I don't know. Uh, you might try it. It might taste better. [LAUGHTER]

Another disguise vegetables for your kids.

Yeah, exactly, or your adult children. [LAUGHTER]

Thank you.

I take my-

Oh, wait, I think he- [inaudible 00:47:11] Yeah. Sorry. Can you please repeat that?

When I harvest my beets, I don't peel the skins off, I cut them up in chunks and cook them and- and, uh, put them in a half gallon jar with vinegar and all the fixings and just fill them up and put them away.

Your own- your own canning version.

Yeah.

Well, uh, thank- thank you for the call.

You're welcome.

And the suggestion, we might give it a try.

You know, you won't. [LAUGHTER] I've known him a little- little time and through that time. Yeah, beets, yark.

Well, wait a minute. I said might that's a 50/50 chance.

My mom used to say, oh, maybe. [LAUGHTER] I think that means no.

Well, in my family we'll see means no. Oh, yes.

We'll see was another good.

Yeah. Will see, that means no. [LAUGHTER]

Well, I'll have to think about that. What's the other one?

I say Monday, let's plant it right over here.

We'll see.

We'll see about that.

We'll see.

So Jerry, you got a couple of minutes left in our- our, uh, things going on in the county that folks need to know about oh, and we might have another caller.

We don't have time.

Oh, we don't have time for the call, so.

All right, well, my appreciation towards Lilacs. Uh, man, they are really doing a- a- a great bloom and drive through Torrington. We- we like to drive and just take a little drive and look at plants that are in bloom, right in, and the Lilacs are just gorgeous.

Yeah.

Some of the real, real deep and I know that they have to be an older version, the deep dark gray purple and then there's the real light new purples. I think they're miss me, Ms. Mini me I think.

Yeah, there's some new colors out there.

Yeah. There are a lot of new varieties. They are blooming.

And we have a white one that our neighbor gave us and it is just doing spectacular. So tell me Lilacs, can you when we were talking about making grapevines sprout. Will Lilacs do the same thing?

Well, I certainly wrote sprout very readily and that it's very easy to dig up a- a root sprout and transplant it so that's the-

You wouldn't cut it off. You do a root sprout off the ground?

Uh, I've just gone out and there's one coming up a little sprout away and you dig with some rot and some soil and plant it.

Plant it, there you go.

Usually, they'll grow, yeah.

Yeah.

And 15 years later it will be producing blossoms. Okay. So John is giving us the signal that we are to wrap up. Thank you, Jerry, for being with us this week.

Thank you so much,.

Jane, we appreciate you, uh, being our guest and entertaining us today and- and, uh, oh, Jerry's got one more thing you'd better hurry up.

And our next guest, next week is Joyce Evans from Fort Laramie. She's the Mayor of Fort Laramie.

Very good. Thank you, Jane, for being with us today.

Thank you. I've enjoyed it.

Good. Thanks, everybody for listening. We'll be back next week.

[MUSIC] You've been listening to Lawn and Garden with the University of Wyoming Extension specialist, Jeff Edwards and co-host Jerry Erschabeck, 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.