

Hey Wyoming, welcome to the Lawn and Garden Podcast with 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 Wyoming Garden. From plant variants, to weather events, to pesticides, and the pollinators. 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 and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program. And we are live today fortunately. Good morning, Jerry.

Lives. Hi, good morning.

[LAUGHTER] Our guest today is Donna Hoffman. She's the neutropenic county horticulturist for University of Wyoming Extension. Good morning, Donna?

Good morning.

Hey, all right. Everything's working, woohoo. [LAUGHTER] Can- can you hear?

I- I can.

All right. Excellent. We- [OVERLAPPING]

Good morning Donna?

Good morning, Jerry.

Good to have you on the program. We're going to take a few moments and listen to our sponsors and we'll be right back after this.

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Now back to the Lawn and Garden podcast.

Hey, good morning everybody. This is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program. It's really good to be back with you again on this Fri- Friday. I was going to say fraught hot Friday.

Oh, yeah, too hot, too cold. [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER] So I was telling John this morning when I walked in, you know, uh, the winds blowing, it's going to be hot and, ah, the bugs are biting, the weeds are germinating, and our allergies are acting up. So what else can we have, right?

I tell you.

[LAUGHTER] It's, uh- it's just one of those things. So Donna?

Yes.

It's good to see you. We're glad that you're with us today.

Yeah.

What would you like to talk about?

Oh gosh, there's all kinds of things we could talk about. Uh, today is kind of a busy day at the extension office here. The, uh, federated garden clubs in Wyoming are having their convention at our office starting this evening. So [OVERLAPPING] I've been doing lots of planting and a lot of weeding. Cheatgrass has gone berserk.

Oh, yeah.

In our gardens at the extension office. So we filled bags and bags and bags of very tall, the tallest I've ever seen cheatgrass.

Hopefully, you're not alone.

No. Well, yeah, ah.

[LAUGHTER] Yeah. [OVERLAPPING]

There is a little bit of that. Yeah.

That's- that's another topic. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

Donna, we- we- we cleared out our cheatgrass from our iris beds. And I looked at them yesterday and the cheatgrass is back and we- we pulled them. We pulled not all the way out of the roots, but we pulled all the cheatgrass we could in between the iris. The heads anyway and part of the stem. And I noticed we have a fresh crop. We have a fresh crop coming.

That's one of the joys of cheatgrass.

Except it's just evil in my list right now. [LAUGHTER] And- and it's beginning to turn tan and burgundy colored and I just can't move that fast kind of thing.

And so if that happens, you know, even if they're green and they have seed heads on them, those seeds are mature enough to germinate at some point in time. So

cheatgrass is not a fun thing to be dealing with.

Yeah right. [OVERLAPPING]

Now round around our countryside that cheatgrass is really flammable. So everybody be aware temperature is 101, spark cheatgrass goes up quickly.

Especially with 20-30 mile an hour wind that we're having. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

Right. Yeah- yeah.

So- [OVERLAPPING]

Well, I had been started weeding and our groundskeeper and our maintenance gal from our office had all started weeding in the urban orchard area that we put in last summer.

Yeah.

And, ah, then she got sent to work in a different building one day and the rest of the maintenance crew came to mow and they mowed the rest of the cheatgrass. And so they just basically spread seed everywhere so.

They're just getting ready for next year.

I just started watering it and hopes that the wildflower seeds that we put in there last fall will have finally come up. So anyway, I've also started- last Thursday and Friday, I attended the annual meeting for plant select and brought home new plants for our trial gardens for plants select and- [OVERLAPPING]

What kind of new things?

Go ahead. What?

What kind of new things?

Um, there is a new liatris. Um, it's a- it's a closer liatris to the native liatris, but it's- I think it was selected for the flo- the color, floral color form.

Is the liatris is that the one that looks like a rose but isn't a rose when- [OVERLAPPING]?

That's a Lisianthus.

Oh, okay, sorry.

But liatris is a tall, spiky flower. Um, it's a native wildflower, I know to Kansas and probably Eastern Colorado. I don't know if it comes up into Nebraska or- or Eastern Wyoming.

Is it a hummingbird attractive?

But I knew it originally as a cut flower that we used in the floral industry.

Okay.

But it's- anyway, it's a tall spiky flower. It's the con- one of the common names as gay feather.

Okay.

I suppose somebody stuck one in their head at one point in time. [LAUGHTER] But, ah, that one, and then there's a new grass that they're calling caterpillar grass. I tried to find the Latin for it and I couldn't find it. But it looks very similar to ah, blue grama grass, except there's two rows of seed on the seed head instead of just one row of seed on the seed head. So it looks like a fat caterpillar hanging out on the end of the stem where the- the seed head is.

Interesting. So don't plant it - [OVERLAPPING]

Yeah

Near- nearer in your irises because you'll be pulling it out later.

[LAUGHTER] I don't know how they- they do trial to see how stuff spreads. And, ah, they really try to avoid stuff that spreads prolifically. So I don't know if it's- if it, um, develops sterile seed or what, but, um, anyway, we're hoping that it doesn't seed around too much, but that one was fun. Um, I got some more of a, um, blue donkey tail sedum. And there's a couple of new penstemons, um, and a penasedum. Um, so anyway, yeah, some really cool stuff and it's giving me an opportunity to fill one end of our- the farm and that we have at the extension office with some, um, drought resisting plants, which of course we all need more of right now with, um, water restrictions in- in different parts of the states and, ah, um, concerns about reservoir storage and- and water availability in other parts of the state. So- [OVERLAPPING]

Yeah- yeah.

Um, anyway, glad to be able to do that.

We need to redirect, some of that water that's up north that's heading down to the Missouri instead. [OVERLAPPING]

No kidding, if only we could transport it.

Yes, diversion. [LAUGHTER]

That was- wow. Yeah, I have a- a second cousin who runs a little hotel in- in Red Lodge and I guess their house is okay but their hotel flooded, so-

Oh, sorry to hear that.

Yeah- yeah.

And when you saw that house going off into the Yellowstone River, your heart just kinda bled for those folks.

Yeah. I- I can't even imagine.

Yeah.

Um, bad.

You know, we- everybody has to deal with what they got, right? Not enough. Too much [LAUGHTER] those types of things. Yeah. So, uh, Donna, are- how- I know that you have a- a high tunnel-type, uh, structure in your backyard. Are you, uh, are you having success this year?

Well, it's gotten really warm really fast in there but the peppers and the tomatoes love it. Um, we should be harvesting carrots here pretty quick. Um, Mark planted some nasturtium, and only two of the nasturtium seeds came up in there. So I don't know if that was an inconsistency in watering or what, um.

It sounds like my green bean germination. I only have two green beans.

Okay. [LAUGHTER] We did have one green bean come up randomly in- in that, we decided not to plant the beans in the- the high tunnel this year because they've just got to be a tangled mess in the raised bed. But, um- um, anyway, one of them has come up in there. So we will have some beans in the greenhouse even if it was unintentional.

So, uh, one of my oops is this year that I don't know if I care to announce publicly or not, but, uh.

Oh, go ahead.

There's a product out there, it's a *Beauveria bassiana*, I think it's a- it's a fungicide for- is fungal pathogen for aphids. And, um, I've been using this on occasion. I tried it last year and it was a little phytotoxic to the tomato plants that I applied it to and I didn't really think much about it. But this year the aphids moved into my peppers and I applied this particular product and I think I've nuked my peppers. So I'm- this particular product formulation, whatever the surfactant and that I think is more detrimental to the crop [LAUGHTER] and, but- but again, if you kill the plant, you won't have an aphid problem either. [LAUGHTER]

Right, that's one way to look at it. [LAUGHTER] So it is labeled for use on the *Salmonella* family?

Oh, yeah- yeah.

Okay.

But, uh, whatever the surfactant is, it's a little bit too hot for those plants to handle and I might be looking for some new pepper plants today. [LAUGHTER]

Okay. So just a curiosity, um, it wouldn't have anything to do with our hard water mixing with the chemical or the product, with it?

I don't think so. I think it's- it's pretty neutral. I just think whatever they've used to formulate it in is causing problems with the plants. Yeah.

So you're going to call them and do some research with them?

Um, no, I'm no longer recommending that particular product. [LAUGHTER]

Okay. Alright. Now we've had- um, here's bounce all over the place, but we've had a big problem. I've already had several samples come in and aphids on the boxelder trees in town.

Oh, really?

And I- I happened to notice yesterday that the, uh, bur oak that we have usually gets wasps in August but it's already sticky and there was a few wasps flying around it yesterday.

The gall forming wasps, you mean or just the wasps nesting there?

Just- this bur oak that we have, or it's labeled as a wasp point oak some people tell me it's a bur oak, so I'm torn between what it is. But, um, anyway, it gets a sticky surface all over the tops of the leaves, it's a real glossy leaf by the end of summer and then I think the wasps are just harvesting the sap on the leaves. Um, it didn't start getting the bullet galls on it until just a couple of years ago but it had always had the wasps visit over the past in 19, 20 years now.

So is the sticky stuff honeydew that's from aphids?

I think so but I- I have not found aphids in the tree, but the- it's coming from somewhere. I don't- I don't think that the tree is just seeping that much sap through the leaves and dropping it to the leaves below.

Some of the scale insects, some of the other homopterans will also produce honeydew so be on the lookout for other stuff.

But I haven't seen little critters. I just see the flying ones.

Interesting. Okay.

Yeah.

Yeah.

So anyway, I think I'm gonna- because we're gonna have that convention at the office. I think one of the first things I'm gonna do this morning is hookup a garden

hose and spray the foliage of the oak tree around that entrance to the building.

Is there, uh, any reports in your area about grasshoppers?

I haven't seen any at all.

Okay. Interesting. Yeah, I've- the numbers near my house and where I've been are very low. So I don't know if, uh, I'm sure that'll be problems in different places, but I think Jerry, have you been seeing?

No, I have not. I've- I've been watching for them. The only thing I've discovered is- is- is a little praying mantis that appeared on my forearm and I was going to brush it off and go, wait a minute.

Wait a minute. I'm gonna to keep this. [LAUGHTER]

Hey, I like this guy.

Beneficial.

Until they bite you.

Well, [LAUGHTER] you know, there's some risk involved with having a predator. [LAUGHTER]

They can actually bite you?

You just have to be aware that it's coming because when you're not expecting it, it can startle you.

Yeah. They- they will- they can bite you.

Really?

It'd be similar to a, uh, um, like a horse fly bite, I think. Yeah, it's kind of a shock.

Those mandibles do work. [LAUGHTER]

Very effectively. I- I've got a egg case on my property that I keep watching. I don't think it's hatched yet, but, you know, there's a lot of things that can happen to it over the course of the year, it could desiccate or- or, uh, other things but we- we do have them here and it's nice to see them when we get them.

I've seen some cases-

We found two different egg cases, um, and I kinda think one of them had already hatched and was still just hanging around, but the other one I don't think had hatched. So this weekend is Father's Day and if I remember correctly, that's the weekend that I bought an egg case, an ootheca, down in Torrington at one of the greenhouses several years ago when I happened to be down there early in the year, probably when I came down for your spring garden event.

Okay.

And, uh, um, I had left it in my car, so I decided I probably cooked it and it was dead and whatever. And I put it in the garage and I was getting ready to go somewhere and was moving stuff in and out of the garage and all of a sudden I realized there was little tiny praying mantises, just like frothing out of the egg case in the little plastic bag in the garage and so I was using a dustpan to scoop them up and take them out to a boxelder tree that was in the yard that I lived in then and I don't know whether the whole hundreds of them consumed each other to the point that there was only one later on or not, but, um, I never did see them again after they all hatched that day.

Well, as- as a good bug parent, you're supposed to just turn them back into the wild and let them go and not worry about them. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. But anyway, we're hoping that we get some more hatching in our yard, um, the summer from the other egg case that we found in the yard. One was attached to the site of one of our raised beds and one was attached to one of the sides of- um, one of those, um, feed supplement tubs that we plant, tomatoes and peppers and such in.

Another good use for a feed supplement tub.

Yeah.

So go ahead Jerry, you've got it.

Yeah. I've seen- I've seen old ootheca sacks and Jeff has told me that no, they're not reusable. But you're right. [LAUGHTER] How do you tell if they've hatched out or not? I mean, is there a telltale.

Yeah, there is- um, so that- that sac it's, um, it's a substance basically, it's a glue to hold the eggs together and protect them and so when it's- when it's still viable, it'll still have a smooth surface and when the eggs have hatched and the little individuals have left, it'll be more rough. It's- it's- the difference is subtle, but it's there and, you know, once you see it a couple of times you'll be able to figure it out.

It looks to me like there's little pockets that have opened up striations across- across it. So it looks like there's little slits in the one that I'm pretty sure it's an old one.

Yeah. Little individual cells, the eggs themselves open and they hatch out through the top. Yeah.

And it doesn't seem to me like they're little pinholes. It's like it's a slit.

Sure. Yeah.

Yeah.

We need to look at them under a microscope.

Oh, good idea. [LAUGHTER]

Jerry, do you have a dissecting microscope?

I don't. [LAUGHTER].

Everybody should have it.

Everyone should have. Hey, let me put that out on my 3D printer. [LAUGHTER]

Nice.

So when Jerry walked in this morning, uh, he was wearing his Star Wars t-shirt, which I think is awesome. Uh, I have- I've got to harassing every once in a while because he is a, uh, dinosaur nut. But, uh, to know that he's a dinosaur nut and a big fan of Star Wars, he's my- he's- he's just a geeking out kind of guy and I'm okay with that because I kind of do the same kind of thing.

They're both stories about stuff long ago and far away [LAUGHTER].

There we go. Well, the dinosaurs is not so far away, but.

No, they're in the movie theaters now.

Yeah. Even closer.

Oh, okay.

Hey, so, um, how's your garden doing, Jerry?

Oh, my weeds are spectacular.

Fantastic [LAUGHTER].

Uh, I've had some cantaloupe, uh, hills that have not come up, so we're going to replant those.

Okay.

And, uh, basically, you know, we planted some green beans and men, a lot of them came up, although the amount of seeds we planted versus the amount of seeds that germinated and are up, were just crazy.

Really?

Oh, yeah. We put it in like a 150 seeds in and now there, I don't know, 40 plants maybe.

Well, that's all you need.

Well, yeah.

I'm- I'm guessing two is all I need [LAUGHTER]

[LAUGHTER].

Yeah. And are you going into the farming business?

Yeah, I think so. You know, there's gonna be some reduction going on. You know, who lives, who dies, that sort of thing.

Jerry- Jerry likes to overproduce when he can [LAUGHTER].

He can put a farm stand on the- on the corner of his house, he'll be in business there?

Yeah. No [LAUGHTER]. There's- there's already enough of that farm stand stuff and, you know, we need more of them to come to Torrington for the farmers market.

What night is the farmer's market in Torrington?

I think it's Thursday.

Thursday's. Okay. Yeah.

Yeah [OVERLAPPING]. And the location-

And has it already started or do you start later in the summer?

A little later, I'm thinking.

Yeah. I don't know anything about the farmers markets.

And I think it's over by the swimming pool. Um, I forget the name of the park there.

Oh, is that Jordan park?

Jordan park.

Yeah. Okay. Interesting.

Yeah.

I had not heard that.

You should all know that park.

Yeah, we should [LAUGHTER]. Um, Let's see. I think last week I reported that all of my melons are up and all of my winter squash are up. Uh, hopeful that the, uh, sand blasting that they've received this week, uh, hasn't sent them back to bed, um, but, uh, yeah, I think other than my little mistake with my peppers, things are going really well [LAUGHTER].

Has the wind blowing for you, Donna?

Yeah.

Wait.

Full force.

Wait a minute.

Yeah.

Jerry?

What?

Natrona County.

It's Casper.

Casper.

Yeah. Okay [LAUGHTER]. Yeah [OVERLAPPING]

We had a calm day the other day and I said, oh my gosh, I should be spraying something [LAUGHTER].

Hey, uh, on that note, let's- let's take a few moments and, uh, listen to our sponsors and we'll be right back after this.

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All right, everybody. Good morning once again, this is Jeff Edwards and Jerry Erschabeck for the KERM Lawn and Garden program along with our guest, Donna Hoffman. We were talking about a variety of things, and the last subject was

spraying. Uh, do you want to talk about that anymore, Donna? [LAUGHTER]

Oh, you know, there's- there's always time to spray. And up here in Casper, it just seems like there's at least 6 to 10 mile an hour wind most of the time. So-

Well, It's okay

Around the garden-

Yeah. It's okay.

You got to be careful what you use when there's a breeze.

Uh, around the garden and around your neighbors and those types of things. Um, a little bit of breeze is okay, but, uh, really hot days are not and really windy days are not.

Yeah.

And so I've been- myself I've been trying to get a little pre-emergent down on my turf because I have a problem with, uh, goat heads and sandbars, excuse me, puncturevine [LAUGHTER]. And- and, uh, the product that I'm using has to be watered in, so I have to time it. So I'm- I've been applying it the night before my sprinkler system comes on and I've got- I've got two more, uh, zones that I've got to get out. And unfortunately, it's been too windy for me to get, uh, get it applied, but I have been seeing, uh, puncturevine germinate. Unfortunately, one of our favorites, uh, in an area where I had not applied anything yet, and, uh, I'm guessing based on the size of the plants that probably this is what Friday, it probably germinated on Monday. So, uh, just be aware that, uh, those things are out there and it's happening.

I have- I've one thing to report. Martin and I were driving around Torrington and you- you may all recall my pre-emergent flower that my woman in- in Torrington always put out.

Yes.

The forsythia.

Yes.

And she has removed it.

Okay.

And take it back into the garage [LAUGHTER].

The mobile-

And I go, hey, what's happened-

What's happen plant?

What happened to my forsythia?

I don t know if Donna knows this story or not. Now do- so uh-

It's a good one.

It- it is a good one and we have to repeat it. I think, uh, so year- for years Jerry has, uh, used as a, uh, bell- [OVERLAPPING].

Marker.

A bellwether, I guess we could say [OVERLAPPING].

Yeah sure.

A forsythia plant on one of the folks in town who- it- it always blooms in the spring on their patio. And so Jerry, if you would like to tell the rest of the story.

So, of course, I've, you know, that's the time to put out your pre-emergent for stuff and Michael on all right, so temperatures are good. Yeah, I'm- I'm- I'm doing this correctly and- and then I happen to stop and visit with her and she goes, "Oh, Jerry," yeah. I said, "What happened to your forsythia?" Oh, Jerry, I put it away. I said how do- how do you put a forsythia away? She goes, "Well, she- you just pick it up out of the- out of the platter and you put it in the garage. She said, it's plastic [LAUGHTER]. I said, Oh, my God [LAUGHTER]. So I've- I've been utilizing a plas- plastic floral arrangement.

As his indicator plant [LAUGHTER].

Well, it's an indication of something.

[LAUGHTER] Her deception and my stupidity.

So Jerry, roughly, how many years had you done that?

Four or five.

Okay. Perfect.

I mean, long enough- long enough to kind of go.

Huh. [LAUGHTER].

Wanna to drive by your house every so often to check on progress? Oh, there it is, it's starting to bloom.

You know, we all do funny things like that and, uh-

Well-.

Whatever.

Does it start to bloom or is it always in full bloom?

Oh yeah. It's always in bloom, but, you know, of course, if I didn't drive by for a week or so. Well, here- there it is, you know. We- we- we like to go through Torrington and see the flowering trees and flowering almonds, and the bushes [OVERLAPPING].

And the forsythia.

Iris and the forsythia. We- we like to see some of those things.

So early on the spring-

I did get a forsythia this year. We just haven't decided where we're going to plant it.

Okay. Early on this spring, Diane and I took a little road trip, uh, to the southwest and, uh, one of the places that we stopped, the forsythia was blooming. So I had to take a picture of it and send it to Jerry [LAUGHTER].

Yeah. As in, take that mister [LAUGHTER].

Not to rub it.

Maybe he was helping you with the different bellwether?

Yeah. Not- not to rub it in or anything [LAUGHTER].

So uh, did you get the text message about Dick Young being on our show July 8th?

Yes. And I would love to be able to listen in, but I don't believe I can pick up that broadcast.

Well, we're sending them to the University of Wyoming to be converted to podcasts, so they're available.

[OVERLAPPING] Podcast afterwards. Yeah.

Yeah. It might take a month or two but it will be available eventually. [LAUGHTER]
And Donna, maybe you could drive down. That's always another option.

Maybe, yeah. [OVERLAPPING] It would be great if- if, but substance that protract-protects my vehicle that direction wasn't so costly right now.

No Kenny.

Exactly. Other lawn and garden things going on that need to address. Have you fertilized?

Oh, I've fertilized prior to tilling my last go around and that was prior to planting. So I thought I did a nice little broadcast on them. I said, okay, if- if this isn't enough, so be it. If it's too much, so be it, I'll put more water.

Okay. So um, we've had some tough programs and some of the folks that we've talked about say, fertilizer in the spring, don't fertilize a lot during the heat of the summer and then aerate in the fall. Is that- Is that what you have heard, Donna and what you.

Yeah. I do encourage people if they've got really thick patch buildup on their lawn to aerate in the spring if they can do it before it heats up. Kinda got hot pretty quick this year, like it.

Yeah.

Did last year. But fall is a really great time to do that. So the nutrient gets down there, it's stored and- and ready for the plant to start using as soon as it greens up in the- in the spring.

Yeah. So that- that in turf in Wyoming to me is an oddity. [LAUGHTER] It doesn't seem to happen a lot that people should need to detach. Would you agree with that or do you see it more there than in what situations do you see heavy fetching of loans?

Well, I think I see it where people water like 15 minutes every day. And there's a lot of growth on the surface in areas that it gets compacted from a lot of traffic on [OVERLAPPING]

Okay.

The grass. But I am kinda surprised at the number of samples that I get people to bring in. You know, bring in a two or three or four inch square from your lawn and let me look at it. And there's a good inch, inch and a half. I've even seen two inches of just spongy grass and roots on top of the soil.

So was that originally- was it originally sorted or was it a seated stuff?

I think most of that probably was sorted and not seated.

Okay.

I just had a lady and we had a plant help desk last night at the extension office and one lady came in and they're sorted. Backyard is doing really well, but they're seated. Front yard is struggling. But she had not learned the deepened infrequent watering technique. And I think she's going to try that and see if she can get the desirable grass to come back so that she doesn't have to kill it all off and start again.

Yeah- Yeah.

Donna, have you had reports of June bugs- Junie bugs?

I haven't seen any of those little creatures, big creatures either.

Yeah, we've nicknamed them Junies- Junie bugs now they're June bugs.

The family trait?

Yeah.

It's- it's like we name our cats after our aunts and uncles and so or our nephew, you know. Don't you want this to look at it? No, just put my name on it you'll be all right, you keep it and put my name on it.

[LAUGHTER] Fun.

I have a friend of a friend whose- whose little girl is named Junie, so it's immediately who I thought.

I'm sure.

You said Junie.

Yeah. So we were moving compost this last weekend and the June bugs, those 13 lined ones, those great big ones. I'm.

Oh, yeah.

I'm fairly certain that's what the larva were because they were thumb size, so they were very large. In enjoying the compost pile.

We're just getting the black ones. They're just pure black but they still fly like a June Bug.

Oh, the adults. Yes.

What about- what about the ones with this the they're bigger but with a gray stripes? Are those young guys?

No- no- no. That's the 13 line one.

Thirteen line.

Yeah.

Okay.

Yeah. So you're talking about adults? I was talking about the larva.

Okay.

Yeah.

So the larva goes into making grubs?

The larva are the grubs that go into turf?

Yeah.

Or other things too. So yes Donna. You've confused [inaudible 00:33:24]
[OVERLAPPING]

I realized that there was a black June bug. The black insect I'm familiar with is a
stink bug.

Okay.

Kind of the same shape but a little more pointy on the backend.

Yeah, we've had this discussion before. Color is not a good determination of
identification.

Right.

For an insect. So.

Right.

It could it be really dark brown?

Maybe it's on the screen and it's at night.

Yeah. [LAUGHTER].

They look- they look dark. I haven't- I haven't captured one to stick onto my why
strip.

That's.

Why strip Yeah.

That's the reason. It's at night. [LAUGHTER].

Okay

I'll get one on my fly strip and bring it in.

Great. [LAUGHTER] Don't bring the whole flies through.

Okay.

Just bring the insect. Yeah. So other things that are happening, you know, biting flies
are out, mosquitoes are out. I guess when you're outside working in the yard where
your sunscreen and where your mosquito spray.

I haven't a whole lot of mosquitoes or felt a whole lot of mosquitoes. Butterflies are
kind of troublesome.

Yeah.

They land and like to kind of stick onions done well.

So the biting things really like me, I don't care if it's a tick or a mosquito or a biting fly or whatever, they find me first. So neighbor said he's been seeing a lot of spiders. Yeah- Yeah. [OVERLAPPING] We've got a lot of spiders, lot of pill bugs, lot of oligopolies.

Because you don't have the preservatives in you Jeff. [LAUGHTER] Sulfites here?

Yeah. Maybe that's it. I don't know. No- no migraines causing problem.

They could just spread it over. [LAUGHTER] Great.

Alright.

Yeah, last night Mark just put a little chunk of the larvicide for mosquitoes in our little pond.

Oh yeah. I know what you're talking about. Name is escaping me. Which one of those dunk things?

Uh-huh.

Yeah.

Yeah. It's BT?

Yeah. It's a BT, it's a Bacillus product. Yep.

Do you need a couple of goldfish, Donna for your pond instead of that?

I would love to, but right now the problem is it's kind of a thick green substance in there.

[LAUGHTER] Little they love that kind of stuff.

A little mossy. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Mark- Mark was talking about us getting a plecostomus the other night, but he didn't get a platypus.

What- what was the first thing?

Plecostomus.

What's the first thing?

It's a gla- it's a glasscutter.

Like the algae eater, but you put in a fish tank.

Oh, okay. Yeah, I'm not- I'm not a fish guy. If it's not a trout, I don't know.

Donna. I had- I had an aquarium and one of my plecostomus was really after one of my other fish. It was actually a newt. And he's- the plecostomus just actually sucked the newts body in half and sucked him in. I'm like okay. You're going to the pond. It's trial by water. And I don't know if he survived or not. I don't think he did because it was too cold at the time. But I think you could probably put up with plecostomus in your- in your outside water feature and do well once- once it's these temperatures, they do really well in there.

Or maybe a dozen of them.

But I'm- I'm telling you I don't really [OVERLAPPING]

I don't want to watch them eat each other.

I don't feed my fish much. They just eat the algae.

Or each other.

No they don't not coy or. [LAUGHTER]

Yes, that one.

Goldfish.

You know, that's something we don't talk about very often on our program is water features.

Aquatic?

Yeah.

I can tell you is something about him.

Well, I've had them. I don't have one currently, but I think they're very enjoyable.

They're very enjoyable in the trickle of water. I just- it's just lovely. But you always have to do something, you know, if you have five or six things planned you know when walk out and your pond isn't running or working, pond gets precedent and Myrna goes, I thought you were going to do this and this- and this. And I said, yeah, the pond wasn't working well locked out. It- It took me down.

Yeah, so you need a filter and an aeration system and I'll sort this stuffs [OVERLAPPING].

Even if you have all of that?

Yeah. Electricity is not to it. [LAUGHTER]

You still need- you still need to mess with it a lot.

So not only can they be relaxing, but they can be very aggravating at the same

time. Yeah. So when we lived in Iowa, we had a guess it was a four by eight structure that I built underneath a pergola. So we had some shade over the top of it. And one day I walked out and the blue heron had poached all of my goldfish. Turkeys. [LAUGHTER] No. Heron's. [LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

Yeah. So I'm afraid you-

I have Shri goldfish. I just bought like a 25 cent feeder fish just to see how it would go. And I don't think they lasted three weeks in the pond and then they were like gone. And we did have a salamander that lived in there, but it seems to have vacated. I think that would've taken care of some of the algae too but it's- it's not there anymore.

Interesting.

We kept it going all winter long and- and then when it started warming up, all of a sudden it was kinda neon green and we had not solved the problem even though we've been adding the algae side in there, but-

Yeah, it takes a while to get the- get a, uh, new water feature balanced.

And a good pH gone.

Yeah- yeah. We had one here in Torrington where we lived before and, uh, it was just a large stock tank. And every year we would have a, uh, new flush of new fish. Uh, and it would- we didn't have an aerator in it, so we deoxygenated- oxygenated. So we'd have a big fish keel. [LAUGHTER] And it was always a problem.

Right.

We grew up on a small-

Even keel would be great.

Yeah. We grew up on a small farm ranch and stock tanks always had goldfish in them and- and the way they got oxygen was we refilled the tank often.

Yeah- yeah. We didn't- we didn't refill ours very frequently. So I don't know, you know-

You have to get some critters to drink the water, Jeff?

Yeah, I know it's a management issue. [LAUGHTER]

Or just put a little oxygen into it with a- with a pump?

Yeah.

Yeah.

So Donna, what kind- what type of things do you have, uh, coming up in, uh, Natrona County that, uh, folks can attend or participate in?

The master gardeners are planning for their garden gate, garden tours, which will be on July 16th, and I will be in Florida-

Perfect.

-when they hold the event. Uh, I put on a couple of this spring, but I don't have any going on right now in June. I do have an interesting tour coming up, um, that I'll have to report back on you, um, back on with you. Every year when I take the master gardener soil samples down to CSU to their soil testing lab, I park in the same parking lot. And like two years ago I was like, "Hey, Mark, look at that sign." And it's the USDA germplasm research repository laboratory down there.

Oh, okay. So a seed- a seed bank basically.

Well, yes, except not all of it is germplasm. Um, so kinda background story Scott [inaudible 00:41:22] mentioned several years ago that his wife Diane worked at the germplasm laboratory, but I didn't know where it was and kinda just stored the information in my head. So I saw the sign and I went, "Hey, Scott's wife works there." So when I went to Belize, I was looking for information about what seed I could take to Belize and how I take seed, foreign countries and all that good stuff. So I contacted her, um, and then in the process, um, mentioned it to the master gardeners and they wanted to do a tour of the place. And I said, oh, I'll ask if we can. Um, so we have a tour scheduled for June 24th. Um, in fact, I don't have enough people signed up to fill the sheet so if anybody else wants to go on the 24th and 25th, we're going on a tour to Fort Collins. But, um, anyway, uh, she has moved from the seed storage area to doing research on bananas because bananas no longer develop seeds. So they have to be, um-

Clones.

-recreated from, um, catalyst tissue in Petri dishes to start new- new trees, or from- from cuttings off little sprouts that come up from- from the roots of- of mature trees. So they do the germplasm as well as, um, seed storage.

Okay. Interesting. Yeah I'll-

Yeah, so should find out more about it here in a couple of weeks.

The bananas- it's interesting you mentioned the banana thing because the bananas that we eat now weren't the bananas that our parents or grandparents ate and our grandchildren won't be eating the same, uh, bananas. And the re- reason for that is everybody grows the same variety. So pathogens come in and they don't ever have resistant type, uh, or- or they don't seem to have- be able to get resistance quickly into those bananas. So they're constantly looking for new varieties. Yeah. Okay.

One of the things that was mentioned to me when I was in Belize this spring is that

those little mini bananas that are only like 3, 4 inches long, they are quite a bit sweeter than the variety that most of us are used to consuming.

They are. So- so, uh, we started this and you mentioned that you had a- the two are coming up if people are interested, how would you like them to get in touch with you?

So if you call the extension office, Rose is my assistant and normally I would say call Rose, um, but leave a message for Rose because, um, we- we have hotel reservation for Friday night because the Junior League garden tour is on Saturday following. So, um, anyway, if you want to spend the night with us, we need to have room reservation, kinda thing. Um, Brad Paisley is doing a concert in Greeley that same night, and there's a baseball tournament in Fort Collins, so rooms are a little scarce.

Okay.

So we had to have that, but we need to have their address and their phone number because the USDA lab does some kind of background check.

Yeah.

I have to have that list of them two days before our tour. Um, but Rose is out because her mother's having a birthday this weekend and her family came to visit. So-

Good for her. So-.

Anyway, leave a message with Rose.

So Donna, can you give that phone number over there?

Yeah- yeah. 307-235-9400.

And that is the number to call and make a reservation if you want to participate in the tour in Fort Collins- the Germplasm Lab Tour in Fort Collins. Very good. Cool.

Yeah.

Okay. Uh-

Just a question, curiosity.

Go ahead.

Why the background check for folks attending that?

I think it's because it's a federal facility- a USDA federal facility.

Okay. And we don't want bio terrorists, so-

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah. So any type of activity that, uh, you're participating in with federal government, there'll be a background check probably. Yeah- yeah. Seems to be, uh, occurring. Um-

Yeah.

We don't- I was going to talk about the farmers market, but we don't actually know-

No. I think it serves these. I think it's at Jordan Park.

Okay.

Um, and I don't know when it's supposed to start.

Okay. Probably the middle of July. Maybe. That seems to be pretty typical, doesn't it?

Okay. Are your farmers markets going Donna?

No, we don't start- ours are August and September and we're starting this one the 30th of July.

Okay.

So sometimes we'll add that last weekend in July if it's the last day or two of July. But the letters have gone out to vendors and they just this week started early registration for vendors. And they're gonna continue that early registration until the 15th of July, the day before the- the garden gate.

Okay.

And, uh, and then other than that, then people can just show up at the farmers market in the, you know, to do a bit- a booth or to shop, um, at the markets-

Sure.

-once they start on the 30th.

Okay.

Yeah.

Jerry any other things going on in Goshen County that we need to let folks know about?

One of the most important things are going, well, not the most important things, but Father's Day.

Yes.

Most Father's Days, you know, most kids say, "Dad, what do you want for Father's Day?" You know, dads have enough stuff. They want time- they want time with their kids. Moe his lawn. [LAUGHTER].

Rototillers garden.

Rototillers garden. We need-

Go- go-.

Go- go wig his garden.

Go- go clean the grass out of his, uh, uh, glad-

Irises.

Irises, yeah.

Or- or plant a forsythia bush. [LAUGHTER]

Or plant one.

So for, uh, Jerry's family, we know what he- he would like, so-

I don't want stuff, I want some time.

I want people working in my yard. [LAUGHTER]

You know, what's the worst is when you're hoeing or you're doing something in the garden and one of your neighbors stops to visit and they're just standing there watching you. And I might go on, better keep moving or else I got a hole with your name on it.

I feel the exact same way.

Jerry?

Yeah.

You know what I call that?

No.

You have just become performance art. [LAUGHTER]

You know, I was- I was in that performance art when I was painting as well. Yeah. You're doing a good job.

You missed a spot.

Here- here's the spot. [LAUGHTER] You get that spot. Shut up.

Nice.

The door is right over there.

Okay. I think we have, uh, come to the end of our time here, if not very close, and, uh, John could probably get us back on schedule or get them back on schedule. But Donna, I want to thank you for being here with us. Uh, we appreciate your time and, uh, I think we've got you on the schedule later on in the summer again. Um, Jerry, do you know who our guests will be next week?

I do. His name is Gary Stone and he's going to introduce Dr. Emily Stein, who has joined the Nebraska team of horticulture-

Extension.

-extension people's?

Yes- yes. Very good. So, uh, again, thank you, Donna for being here. Jerry, good to see you.

Thank you so much.

Hope I didn't harass you too much with Star Wars stuff. Well, it'll all be okay. Uh, thank you-all for being here and, uh, we'll see 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. 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.