



Spring Home &

Horticulture news

By Dana Belshe
Agriculture agent

Some Fruit Trees Need Pollinators

Fruit and nut trees must be pollinated before fruit will develop. Nut trees are pollinated by the wind, but bees pollinate most fruit trees.

If you are planning a fruit planting, be sure to check to see if the cultivars (varieties) you are buying require a second cultivar as a source of pollen. It is important to understand that the different source of pollen is from a different cultivar, not a second plant or tree of the same cultivar. For example, a Jonathan apple cannot be pollinated by another Jonathan, but rather another cultivar such as Golden Delicious. Cultivars of apples, sweet cherries, pears, Japanese plums, blueberries, and elderberries generally need a second cultivar for a pollen source.

There are some exceptions such as Golden Delicious apple and Stella sweet cherry that are self-pollinating, and one tree is

sufficient. Apricots, tart or pie cherry, European plum, peach, nectarine, blackberry, raspberry, currant, gooseberry, grape, and strawberry plants are all self pollinating, and only one tree or plant is adequate for pollination and fruit development. Apricots would benefit from a pollinator.

If you have only one fruit tree that requires a pollinator, you can fool Mother Nature by using a bouquet of blossoms from another cultivar of the same species. Place the bouquet in a container of water, and hang it on the sunny side of the tree that needs to be pollinated. The bees will move from the flowers in the bouquet to the flowers in the tree and pollinate them. The trees must be blooming at the same time, and the bouquet should be replaced every two or three days to keep the flowers fresh and the pollen viable



A SEED SWAP was held Saturday at the Dairy King. Getting the seeds ready were Camille and Emmie Luncsford with help from their mother, Bernadette, along with Diane Padgett arranging the seeds.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Community gardeners ready for spring

Through the years, there have been gardeners with big gardens who, when they have an excess of vegetables have sold them at the Farmers' Market or given them to the nursing home or senior citizens kitchen or left them at the church.

The United States Department of Agriculture has classified Cheyenne County as a "Food Desert," said Bernadette Luncsford, district conservationist.

One of St. Francis' grocery stores has empty shelves as it struggles through a bankruptcy. In the meantime, residents, especially young families and seniors have few avenues to buy wholesome, healthy produce without leaving town.

Last year, an ambitious group of individuals saw the need of an organized effort for raising food for others. The Community Garden

was formed. Hal and Susan Griffin donated a lot to be used as a garden. Fruit trees were already established and the produce from these trees could also be used.

People came to the garden to till the soil, plant the vegetables, keep the weeds down and pick the harvest. Those helping were welcome to take food from the garden. Other food was given away.

The success of the Community Garden showed in not only producing members but 700 pounds of food was donated. This set members to begin thinking of expanding by building a hoop house and-or greenhouse. As of Monday, the members were waiting for the hoops to arrive so the work on the hoop house can begin. Onions plants were to be planted shortly. As the ground warms, there will be

more activity in the garden as rows are made, seeds are planted and plants are nestled in the ground.

However, this is just the beginning of the plans.

Recently, Mike and Shirley Marino, owners of Goodell Greenhouse, have offered to sell the greenhouse business to Community Garden members, however, money is needed to make the purchase.

Mrs. Luncsford said there are grants available and, today, there is a lot of support for community gardens and farmers' markets. It should be noted that, if they can purchase the business, two full-time employees will need to be hired. Not only will the greenhouse be supplying food but will also be an employer in the community.

Our vision, said Diana Padgett, one of the members, is to create a

self-sufficient, not-for-profit community based, four-season community garden and farmer's market to grow produce locally and organically.

People can help in this ambitious project by donating money or by giving of their time. All donations are tax-deductible through the Cheyenne County Development Corporation.

Checks can be made out to CCDC with "Community Garden" put in the memo area, and mailed to Diana Padgett at 314 S. River St., St. Francis, KS 67756.

For more information, go to www.stfranciscommunitygarden.org or email info@stfranciscommunitygarden.org

The Farmer's Market will soon be opening on the lot east of the Cheyenne Theater.

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