

Read top 10 ‘don’ts’ for garden planting

This weekend could be extremely busy one for those of us who call ourselves gardeners. I know that I, for one, will be dropping a few seeds in the ground over the weekend and through most of the rest of the next week, as a new gardening season gets underway. I’m pretty excited.

Sure, some of you already have started the process, and a lot more of you aren’t going to begin digging furrows and ripping open seed packets for another week or so. There isn’t just a single date on the calendar to plant vegetable seeds, thank goodness, or most of us would be failures. On the other hand, many garden crops give us much better production if planted in a timely manner.

Take peas for instance. Peas are very demanding. Maybe that’s why a lot of gardeners don’t get involved with peas. Peas must be planted very early in the season



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

so that they can grow and mature before the hot weather takes over. Most varieties of peas require and average of 60 days from the day of planting until the first picking; maybe a bit longer here in North-west Kansas. Considering the fact that 90 degree temperatures will probably hit this area by June 10th or before, I want my peas planted no later than April 10th. Peas can’t stand the heat, plain and simple.

Spinach is another example of a crop that must have cool weather if the crop is to mature properly. Otherwise, it will bolt into a seed head when the middle of June rolls around. Spinach must have 45 to 50 days from seeding until

harvesting. Leaf lettuce enjoys the same time frame. Radishes and green onions feel the same way about the heat and just won’t put up with it. All these cool season crops can take a heavy frost or a light freeze, so they’re reasonably safe from the cold. But not the heat!

On the other hand, we must wait until after the 1st of May to plant a lot of the so-called warm season crops, just to be on the safe side. Like green beans, cucumbers, sweet corn, okra, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupes and those poor old zucchini.

In my book, “The Gardener’s Common Sense Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Midwest,” the final chapter list my 10 “Don’t Do Thats” that offer some important tips for this time of year. Here they are:

- 1. Don’t choose a low-lying area for your garden plot.
- 2. Don’t plow your garden plot

- when the soil is too wet.
- 3. Don’t plant a garden that is larger than you can take care of.
- 4. Don’t plant most of your garden too early.
- 5. Don’t plant the seed too thickly.
- 6. Don’t plant your seeds too deeply.
- 7. Don’t move your homegrown transplants to the garden without a proper hardening off.
- 8. Don’t mulch your growing plants too early.
- 9. Don’t water your plants too much or too often.
- 10. Don’t plant the same varieties of vegetables every year.

Birthday open house to celebrate 80 years

Florene Messamore will celebrate her 80th birthday with an open house on Sunday, April 26, at the City Limits Convention Center. Her children would like to invite all of her friends and relatives from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Florene has spent most of her life in Colby, but attended school in Menlo and Levant. She is looking forward to everyone helping her and her husband Jerry reminisce about their years in northwest Kansas.



F. Messamore

The Messamores ask that people bring no gifts. “The love and friendship of friends are cherished gifts,” the family said.

Cards honor former pastor

Emerson “Ike” Gillett, minister of the Colby Christian Church from 1972-1986, was honored on his 80th birthday Sunday at the First Christian Church in Newton. Mr. Gillett, his wife Christina, daughter Emily, and son Mark, began their Colby ministry on Sept. 1, 1972. Both Gillett children graduated from Colby High School.

One of the highlights of his Colby ministry was to hold the 1980 Kansas Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) regional assembly here.

After he retired from the ministry, the couple lived on the Kansas Christian Home campus in Newton. Chris passed away in 2001.

Cards will reach him at 310 Duncan Terrace, Newton, Kan., 67114.

Join City Limits for our one of a kind
Saturday Night Family Style Buffet on
April 11, 2009
6 pm - 9 pm

We hope everyone enjoys their Easter Sunday!
We will be closed April 12, 2009 to spend the Easter holiday with our families.
We are sorry for any inconvenience.

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Quilts sought for June show

The Needles and Friends Quilt Guild will hold a quilt show, “Affair of the Heart,” Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, at the Seward County Activity Center in Liberal.

The show is open to anyone who would like to enter and display their quilts. Entry forms accompanied by a photo of the quilt must be received by Tuesday, May 5. The quilts don’t need to be turned in until Wednesday, June 3, from 8 a.m. to noon. For information or an entry form, call Sydney Bond at (620) 563-7061 or e-mail nfqgquiltshow@gmail.com.

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor @ nwkansas.

Thank You!

A belated thank you from the Ed Hutton family for the prayers and support our family has received since Ed was diagnosed with cancer.

A special thanks to the Pizza Huts of Colby, Goodland, and Oakley and Michelle Hillary, Shana Carman, and Lindsay Garrett for participating in and organizing the fundraiser for our family in December. To the school communities of Brewster, Colby, Golden Plains, Goodland, Logan County Head Start, Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, Sherman County Head Start, and Tri-Plains who participated by ordering and delivering pizzas, handing out coupons, arranging the pick up and deliveries of orders; we’d like to send a big thank you.

We’d like to thank our church families: Bethesda Lutheran in Page City, Emmanuel Lutheran in Goodland, Our Savior’s Lutheran in Brewster, and in addition Brewster community churches for prayers, monetary gifts, and the prayer shawl.

Emeline would like to thank her teachers and friends at Colby Grade School for the letters and homework that was sent with her to Denver. Colby Swim Club, Tumbleweed Tumblers, The Dance Center, Girl Scouts, and Brewster Prairie-Gem 4-H have also given us great support while our family has missed activities. To our family who helped us move out to Denver and back, drove the kids in to school and daycare, fed the kids many meals (including hosting) a birthday party -thanks!

NKESC staff have been very supportive and generous with their time to cover Jana’s workload while our family was in Denver. The support and kindnesses show by everyone means so much to us.

Ed, Jana, Emeline, and Eli Hutton

THANKS FOR CHOOSING US!

The Colby FFA would like to thank the following 2008-09 businesses who donated and sponsored our program. FFA positively influences the young people of our community by developing character, responsibility, leadership skills, agricultural education, and hands on learning. FFA members are the agriculture innovators and leaders of tomorrow. We have had great success due to your contributions. We thank you for all your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Howell-Hoffman

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Want to be In the know?

Part-time society editor

The Colby Free Press is looking for a part-time society editor to do social notes, weddings, engagements, obituaries, church and club items, features and other news of interest to the community. This is a great way to be in touch with the pulse of your town and get to know a lot of people. It requires accuracy, speed and attention to detail. Work week would be 20-30 hours. Pay commensurate with experience and ability. Send a letter or e-mail to Steve Haynes, publisher, at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas., 67701, s.haynes@nwkansas.com. This could be the job you’ve been looking for. eoe m/f/h

POST CARD
Daily Book Reviews!
Lunch served @ Noon
Book Reviews begin @ 12:15
Everyone is Welcome!

Monday—April 13
Ronald D. Smith
reviewing his book
Thomas Ewing Jr.: Frontier Lawyer & Civil War General

Tuesday—April 14
Janice Haney
reviewing her book
Greensburg: the Twisted Tales

Wednesday—April 15
JoAnne Sunderman
reviewing
The Shack
by William P. Young

Thursday—April 16
Jim Gray
reviewing his book
Desperate Seed: Ellsworth, Kansas On the Violent Frontier

Friday—April 17
Ann Miner
Sharing insights & quotes from a selection of books.

Celebrate National Library Week
April 13-17, 2009
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