

Earliest garden harvest of spring comes from long-standing onions

This weekend, I shall enjoy my first fresh garden harvest of the new gardening season, and I can hardly wait. It's a garden crop that presents itself very early each spring, and one that I planted almost 50 years ago. In just a few days I will harvest a few fresh green onions.

You can call them winter onions, or tree onions, or Egyptian onions, or even Egyptian walking onions. Whatever name you prefer to use to describe them, they offer one of the first fresh garden flavors of the new season. But their fresh taste is only one of the reasons why they are so gratifying in the garden. Their growing habit and seeding method is difficult to describe. But I'll try.

Egyptian onions are the absolute first sign of edible green of spring. Their green shoots begin to appear in late February, and are nearly always harvestable by late March or early April. They grow



Kay Melia

• **The Gardener**

in clumps of four or five and are pulled from the ground just like any green onion. Their taste is very mild and highly agreeable to those who love fresh onion flavor.

The plant itself is seeded from the preceding year, when the groupings of onions that you don't harvest, grow to a foot or two tall. During the summer, they form clusters of very small bulbs, called bulbils, at the top of each stalk. When winter arrives, the stalks fall over, the little bulbils take root and grow into next spring's crop of green onions. Of course, the stalk always falls a foot or two from where it had been growing; hence the name of Egyptian walking onions.

Wayne Winterrowd, the late garden designer and author who wrote for *Horticulture Magazine*, described the tiny, perfectly formed onions sprouting on top of the tall stalks as "something like a fanciful tree that Dr. Seuss would grow." He preferred to call them Egyptian onions because of the exotic sound of the name, although their origins seem to be nowhere near Egypt. I've always called them just plain winter onions, a name my parents applied to them when I was very young. I got my clusters of bulbils from my Mother's garden nearly 50 years ago, and I have given many of them to friends and neighbors who wanted a "start" in their own gardens. They are also readily available in most garden catalogs.

Even if you grew these things only because of their unique growing habit, they would make a nice addition to your garden. But the taste of a freshly harvested green

onion in late March only makes this remarkable plant worthwhile. They grow quickly, and are generally too large to eat when they begin to form their bulbils in five or six weeks. By then, the green onions you have planted when you planted the radishes and peas are about ready for the dinner table.

Egyptian onions should probably be started in a bed of their own because of their "walking" habit. To plant, just force the entire cluster into damp soil and watch them take off. Let them grow the first year and they should be ready to harvest next year. And one other note. Always be sure to leave a few stalks unharvested each spring, and they will be the ones that will furnish the seed for the future. Otherwise, you'll have to beg a pocketful of bulbils from from somebody else to restart the process.



Richard Lee and Elsie Mae Cox

Reception to honor 60 years of marriage

The children of Richard Lee and Elsie Mae Cox of Colby invite friends to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 7, 2012, at the City Limits Convention Center, 2227 S. Range in Colby.

They were married on April 10, 1952, in Raton, N.M., with Richard's brother Bob and sister-in-law Betty Cox as witnesses.

They have eight children, Eddie Lee Cox and Connie Jean (Cox) Lewsader of Texas; Bobbie Joe Cox, Karen Sue (Cox) Matzen and Richard Wayne Cox of Kansas; Don Dwayne Cox and Kenneth Eugene Cox of Missouri; and Jacqueline Kay (Cox) Hovda of Colorado. They have 21 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

The couple met at the Thomas County Hospital where Elsie worked after graduating from Oakley High School. She moved to Colby in September 1950. She

worked for the hospital for a number of years before working in various positions for the city for 24 years. She retired in 1988.

Richard was raised in Texas and moved to Colby in February 1946 after serving in the Navy. He owned Cox Produce until 1971 and then worked for Ace Services until his retirement, also in 1988.

He keeps busy with his vegetable garden, taking fishing trips to Texas, playing golf and playing cards.

Elsie enjoys donating her time to help deliver meals to shut-ins and needle stitching.

After 60 years of marriage to the same person, Richard jokingly says he is still trying to see if it will work out while Elsie says she is very pleased with the way things have gone, according to their daughter Connie.

Those unable to attend may send cards to 955 Mentlick Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met March 13 at Colby Community College with 34 members and guests David Ketchum, John and Becky Schiferl, Paul Schiferl and Sharon Steele attending.

President Connie Renner announced the annual Rotary-Chamber Golf Tournament will be Friday, June 8. Kris Cameron, Pat Sloan and Joyce Washburn will serve on the committee.

Paul Schiferl was recognized as the club's March Student of the Month. He was presented with a certificate, Rotary four-way test card and theme pin. Shiferl shared his school and community service experiences and his plans to further his education upon graduating from Colby High School.

Tom Peyton had the program. His guest was David Ketchum who grew up in Rexford and recently returned to his hometown from Austin, Texas, after his re-

tirement.

Ketchum showed eight paintings he has completed of landmark buildings in Colby: the Thomas County Courthouse, Colby Community Building, the Evangelical Church on Third Street, St. Thomas Hospital, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Colby City Hall, Pioneer Memorial Library and the new Colby High School.

He said he has plans to paint a series of 25 to 30 landmark buildings; members provided additional suggestions. There will be two portraits in the series, he said, one of J.R. Colby and the other of Major General George H. Thomas, who the City of Colby and Thomas County are named after.

Brian Staats won Roto-Lotto. Colby Rotary meets on Tuesdays at the college student union, in room 106.

— Relda Galli

Grant helps classrooms at Golden Plains school

Second and fourth grades at Golden Plains Elementary School are enjoying new Promethean Interactive white boards they received earlier this year, thanks in part to a technology grant from the Foundation for Rural Education and Development offered through Nex-Tech Communications.

The nationwide grant program focuses on getting new and innovative technology to rural schools. The grant to Golden Plains was one of six in the nation and the only one in Kansas. The electronic boards replace the older white boards and black boards.

Teacher Julie Ziegelmeier wrote the application for this money.

"We would like to thank Nex-Tech and (the foundation) for the opportunity they've given us," she said. "Without their help, we would still be waiting for funding."

Fourth-grade students expressed their enthusiasm about interactive learning with their new board. "My favorite thing about the white board is that we get to write on it," said Malilah G. "I hope we get to write more on it, because it really helps with math, reading and science. The white board is really fun!"

Jaden S. added, "I think that the white board will help me with math the most because it shows us what we have to do and I learn with it better and I get done with assignments a lot faster."

"I like it because you can write on it," said Taryn F. I hope we can use it for every subject. I think it might improve my math skills because it gives me more of an idea of what we are talking about. Overall, I like it."

Austin P. agreed with his classmates: "I like to write on it. I think it is awesome, and I want to do math and science on it because it will be cool. It helps me with my math. It's the greatest thing that happened to us!"

Second-grade students like Kassie M. are also enjoying the new classroom technology.

"It will make learning a lot easier and more fun!" she said. Teacher Lori Miller said she couldn't agree more.

"Being able to have an interactive white board in my classroom is so exciting," she said. "This new technology will definitely spark the students' attention. The possibilities of use are limitless."

Golden Plains Elementary has several new technology items over the past few years. The school's goal is to have every classroom equipped with an interactive board, and with the grant, it has been able to fulfill part of that. Each elementary classroom, first through fifth grades, now has interactive boards and document cameras to provide students with a more interactive learning experience.

Solomon Valley 4-H Club

The Solomon Valley 4-H Club meeting March 12 at the 4-H building was called to order by acting president Cole Ziegelmeier.

Eighteen members answered roll call by Caitlyn Comfort, junior secretary, with their favorite NCAA team.

Reporter Chandler Comfort gave an officer report.

Club leader Danita Comfort talked about the judges' comments on the model meeting during county club days on March 9. She also presented Trey Stramel with his comments paper for his project talk and reminded members that the club has voted to pay \$25 towards camp fees for anyone attending a summer camp.

Council representative Cole Ziegelmeier gave a report on the

Feb. 27 meeting. During new business the club voted to give \$400 to a fund for improvements at the fairgrounds.

Junior vice-president Maggie Neiman conducted the program. Julie Schroeder, Taylor Thummel and Christian Calliham gave project talks about their horse projects. Cassidy West gave a talk about her sheep project and a disease to watch for.

Recreation was conducted by Chelsie Calliham. The meeting reconvened and Nieman announced the agenda for the next meeting a 7 p.m. Monday, April 9.

Trey Stramel moved and Caitlyn Comforted seconded the motion to adjourn.

— Chandler Comfort, reporter

Fraudulent fax warning issued

U.S. Department of Agriculture says that fraudulent letters are being sent by fax to individuals and businesses in a number of states, along with at least one phone call received by someone in Indiana.

The letters purportedly come from a Department of Agriculture procurement officer and seek personal information. These letters are false and in no case should a recipient respond with personal

and financial information.

The fraudulent letters bear the department's logo and seal and are signed by an individual identified as "Frank Rutenberg" using a title of "Senior Procurement Officer." Recipients should not respond and should not supply the requested information.

An investigation is underway through the Office of the Inspector General.

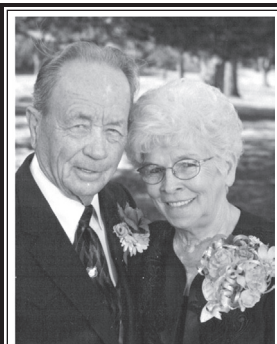
If you suspect you have received such a letter or have questions please contact the department at procurement.policy@dm.usda.gov or call (202) 720-9448.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.45
Corn (bushel)	\$6.21
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.61
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.26

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



You are invited to Richard and Elsie Cox's 60th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday, April 7th • 2 - 4 p.m.
City Limits • Colby, KS

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Thursday

2:40 a.m. — Caller reported a barking dog. No barking dog at that address.

4:01 a.m. — Two calves out in the 1400 block of S. Country Club. Calves put back in.

11:20 a.m. — Provided directions for motorist at Oasis Travel Plaza.

12:41 p.m. — Vehicle in the turning lane of the 1200 block of S. Range; owner contacted to move.

12:41 p.m. — Accident in Walmart parking lot.

12:52 p.m. — Subject came to station to advise he was overcharged on his motel room. Report filed.

2:40 p.m. — Vehicle parked with subjects inside drinking. Subjects checked OK.

3:22 p.m. — Report filed on complaint at 12:52 p.m.

6:46 p.m. — Helped ambulance crew.

7:42 p.m. — Caller reported subject treating dog abusively.

9:10 p.m. — Caller reported possible driving under the influence. Suspected vehicle investigated, everything OK.

9:37 p.m. — Suspicious incident: caller reported unwanted guest. Spoke with individuals.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Thursday

8:33 a.m. — Served arrest warrants on Christina Emsely and Patrick Joyce.

12:53 p.m. — Booked Shirley Lynn Haffner.

1:08 p.m. — Released Haffner.

Come and join us for Business After 5 at



1290 W. 4th • Colby, KS 67701

March 28, 2012

Come enjoy great food, drinks and conversation
Stop by and see our private collection of Indian Artifacts

DO YOU OWN A fuel tank?

The EPA now requires America's farms & ranches to prepare oil-spill (SPCC) plans on their fuel storage tanks.

Keep your farm-business free from fines and attend this regulation meeting.

Goodland	Oakley	Quinter
March 26th, 2012 Elks Lodge 1523 Arcade St. Goodland, KS 12:00 p.m.	March 27th, 2012 NKESC 703 W. 2nd Oakley, KS 12:00 p.m.	March 28th, 2012 Church of the Brethren 700 Grant St. Quinter, KS 12:00 p.m.
Colby	FREE MEAL	Hoxie
March 29th, 2012 City Limits Convention Center 2227 S. Range Ave. Colby, KS 12:00 p.m.		March 30th, 2012 4H Building 1308 Main Hoxie, KS 12:00 p.m.

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