

Big Band sounds go with planting potatoes

By Kay Melia
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I'm not sure why I'm sitting here writing about potatoes (while listening to some fine old Big Band music that I grew up with in the 40s...Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, Bennie Goodman, etc.) when 95 percent of those who plant potatoes in their gardens have their own precise ideas about how to plant, nurture, harvest and store, and whatever I say about growing spuds will result in extreme boredom.

Maybe it's the music. Those wonderful old big bands were dominant in the pop-music world when I was a kid down in Ford County 70 to 75



kay melia

• the gardener

years ago when almost every family planted at least a half acre of spuds each spring, and stored them in the root cellar for the winter.

About the 1st of March each year, my Dad would hitch up the 2 row lister (with power lift) to the old 10-20 International tractor and list about 15 rows, 50 yards long.

Then we would go to J.M. Maricle's Grocery and pick up a 100

pound sack of white Irish Cobbler seed potatoes, and another 100 pound gunny sack full of Red Warbas.

We saved the gunny sacks (and many others) for fall storage.

It would take almost a week to cut the potatoes into seed pieces, let them cure for a few days, and then plant them about St. Patrick's Day in those previously prepared lister rows.

After the spuds emerged, the work began. My parents appointed me to walk up and down the potato rows with a coffee can half full of

kerosene (we called it coal oil) flicking the hoards of Colorado Potato Beetles into the can, one at a time. Failure to do so would of course result in crop failure.

Today, a light sprinkling of 5 percent Sevin dust does the job. At harvest time, out would come the lister and the 10-20 and the spuds would be dug, cleaned and stored in the gunny sacks in the root cellar.

The next year, the process would be repeated. Everybody ate lots of potatoes in those days!

That was in Ford County, many miles south of Goodland, Colby and Norton, where it made good sense to plant potatoes on St. Patrick's

Day because their season is about two weeks ahead of us and the soil temperature is always close to 50 degrees while ours is close to 40.

Other garden crops such as peas, onions radishes and spinach enjoy cool soils, but potatoes, which are slow to emerge anyway, will kinda just lie there.

I'll plant my potatoes about the 15th of April, maybe even the 10th if the soil has warmed a bit. Just as soon as the plants emerge, I'll be on red alert for the beetles, which are almost sure to raise their ugly heads.

When the plants are six to eight inches tall, I will mulch heavily,

almost to the point of covering up the plants, with many bags of leaves that I saved from last fall. A deep mulch in the potato patch is the most important step to a bumper crop!

Today's best seed potato varieties are Kennebec (white), Yukon Gold (yellow), Red Pontiac, Norland (red), Dakota Crisp (white) and Norkotah Russet. Always buy Certified Seed at your favorite garden center. And if the proprietor can provide you with an album of Harry James or Tommy Dorsey music, I guarantee you that your potato crop will thrive, beetles and gunny sacks notwithstanding.

Vital for bare-root fruit trees for roots not to dry out

Fruit trees and many small fruit plants are usually sold bare root, and it is vital that roots never dry out before planting. When plants arrive from the nursery, open the bundles immediately and check for moisture. If the roots are not moist, they should be soaked in water for six to 12 hours before planting. Packages with moist roots can be repacked and placed in a cool, sheltered area if the trees will be planted in a day or two. If wet soils will prevent planting for several days, plants should be heeled in. To do this, dig a trench in a sheltered, well-drained area out of the sun.

The north side of a building often works well. Lay the plants so the roots are in the trench, and then place soil over the roots. Firm the soil and add water if the soil isn't



dana belshe

• ag notebook

already quite moist. You should not leave plants heeled in for more than two to three weeks.

Plants can be placed in a bucket of water as planting holes are prepared. Make the planting hole wide enough to accommodate all the roots without twirling them inside the hole. If there is an especially long root, cut it to fit.

Twirling long roots inside the hole may eventually girdle the tree. Do not add organic matter to the backfill soil. Amended backfill soil allows water to pass through quick-

ly, and the planting hole may fill with water and suffocate the roots. Planting depth is important.

For apples, make

sure the graft union is between three and four inches above the soil surface after the tree is fully in place. If the graft union is below the surface, the tree will develop scion roots.

The graft union for peaches

should be buried below the soil surface. Other fruit plants should be planted at the same depth they were in the nursery. Bark color normally allows you to identify the original planting depth.

Water the plants in immediately after planting to eliminate air pockets and ensure there is plenty of water for root uptake.

Do not fertilize.

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MISTAKES...

We Know We Make Mistakes!

Please remember that we attempt to include something for everyone within the pages of our newspaper. We realize that some folks enjoy finding fault and for those readers we thoughtfully include a socially acceptable number of errors within our publication.

UNRESERVED AUCTION

162 +/- Acres Cheyenne County, KS
CRP & Dryland

Tuesday, April 12th, 2011 - 10:30 AM
St. Francis Equity Meeting Room
123 N. River St. Francis, KS

Legal: NW 1/4 of Section 6-1-41 Cheyenne County, KS containing 162 +/- Acres.

Location: Just Southwest of Haigler, NE immediately South of the Kansas Nebraska state line on the East side of Road 5.

FSA Information:

- Farmland Acres - 162 Acres
- CRP Acres - 157.9 Acres

CRP Information:

- 66.3 Acres contracted at \$32.05/acre with a total annual payment of \$2,125. Contract expires 9/30/2016
- 16.2 Acres contracted at \$30.00/acre with a total annual payment of \$486. Contract expires 9/30/2012
- 75.4 Acres contracted at \$34.10/acre with a total annual payment of \$2,563.60 Contract expires 9/30/2020

Mineral Rights: There is a 1/2 interest mineral reservation through May 7, 2017. The reservation will continue past May 7, 2017 for any production development during the reservation period. The other 1/2 will pass with the land at closing.

2010 Taxes: \$197.56

Max Fisher Trust, Owners
For more information, contact listing agent:
Molly Oliver 785-462-5203
"Seller is a licensed agent"

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ALL PROSPECTIVE BUYERS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK WITH THE CHEYENNE COUNTY FSA OFFICE (785 332-2183) IN REGARDS TO THE THREE CRP CONTRACTS AND PRACTICE PLANS PRIOR TO AUCTION, AND/OR CLOSING. CRP ANNUAL CONTRACT PAYMENTS TO BE PRO-RATED BY CHEYENNE COUNTY FSA TO DATE OF CLOSING, AND BUYER NEEDS TO BRING TO CHEYENNE COUNTY FSA OFFICE A COPY OF THEIR DEED AND PURCHASE CONTRACT.

Worship warms the heart

<p>Calvary Gospel Church Pastor: Randy Payne Fourth & College • 890-3605 Sunday: Kid's Church: 10 am Morning Service: 10 am Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m. Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m. Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m. Youth @ the Rock House: 6:30 p.m. Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m. www.calvarygospel.net</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Pastor: Father Norbert Diabal 307 W. 13th • 890-7205 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment Mass Schedule: Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am Spanish Mass: Sunday: 12:30 pm</p>	
<p>Goodland United Methodist Church 1116 Sherman 899-3631 Pastors: Dustin and Shelly Petz Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages</p>	<p>Pleasant Home Church Serving the rural community for over 120 years Rt. 1, Box 180 • 3190 Road 70 (785) 694-2807 Pastor: Perry Baird Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Promiseland Baptist Church Pastor: Rick Holmes • 890-7082 225 W. 16th (785) 890-7944 Sunday: Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Morning Service: 11:30 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study Service 6:30 p.m. Thursdays: Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.</p>
<p>Bible Baptist Church Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks Fifth & Broadway 890-7368 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Morning Service: 10 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984 Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.</p>	<p>Iglesia Del Dios Vivo La Luz Del Mundo Spanish Speaking Church Minister: Esteban Ortiz B. 1601 Texas • 899-5275 Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m. Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>
<p>United Methodist Church Brewster: Pastor: Dorine Chambers Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST Minister: Sheryl Johnson Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pastor: Rev. Carol Edling Jolly Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233 Sunday: Church School - All ages 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays 5-7 p.m. Wednesday: Prayer Class - Noon Pastor Carol's Class 5:45 p.m. www.goodlandfccdoc.org</p>	<p>Kanorado United Methodist Church Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.</p>
<p>Church of the Nazarene Pastor: Bob Willis Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797 Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:50 a.m. Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Word of Life 10th & Clark 1-888-781-3450 Pastor: (to be announced) Services: (to be announced) A Foursquare Gospel Church</p>	<p>Goodland Bible Church 109 Willow Road • 899-6400 Pastor: Chad DeJong Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.</p>
<p>First Baptist Church Pastor: Travis Blake 1121 Main 890-3450 Sunday: Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m. Wheatridge Center</p>	<p>St. Paul's Episcopal Church 13th & Center Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969 Priest: Father Hal Lycett Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday Thursday morning Daily Morning Prayer For emergencies 890-6969</p>	<p>Harvest Evangelical Free Church 521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423 Pastor: Brian Fugleberg Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday: Senior High 6:30 p.m. at church Junior High 6:30 p.m. at 708 Washington www.goodlandefree.com</p>
<p>Seventh Day Adventist Church 1160 Cattletrail Pastor: Jerry Nowack Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Emmanuel Lutheran Church 13th & Sherman • 890-6161 Pastor: Darian Hybl Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Church of Christ 401 Caldwell 890-6185 Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>

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