

Time is right to talk about planting onions

By Kay Melia
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 Today, I want to talk to you about onions. (You can tell right away that I'm an old retired broadcaster, because while I'm actually writing, I tell you I'm talking.) But before I get too far into this onion discussion, I want to make a point I've been trying to make for more than 30 years.



kay melia

• the gardener

you want to harvest the big sweet storable slicing onion, you must plant the onion plants, the ones that have green tops and come in bundles of 60 to 75 plants per bunch. They are secured in bundles with twine or rubber bands. That's the long and short of it. The onion sets are grown

for the long slender green onion, and the onion plants are grown in order to produce the big round slicing onion. Failure to expect anything different than that will result in disappointment almost every time.

Right now, this morning or this afternoon is the time to plant onions. Either kind. Get you a pound or so of onion sets at the garden center, nearly always available in white, yellow, or red colors. Work the garden soil deeply and press the little sets deep

down in the cool earth, which will help them produce a longer "white" part of the onion when harvested. After all, that's what you planted them for in the first place.

When you plant the plants, just stuff them into the soil only about an inch deep, just deep enough that the bulb end is covered. Be sure to plant them at least 4 inches apart so there will be plenty of space between them when they get their full growth. And here's the second most important aspect about growing any kind of onion. Never let them get dry. The day after you

plant them, water them thoroughly so the dormant roots will properly seat themselves in their new home. Again, never allow the soil around them to dry out. Onions detest competition, so do every thing you can to keep them weed-free throughout the season.

There a number of varieties of onion plants that perform very well in Northwest Kansas, the most popular of which is one called Candy, the most planted variety in the nation. Candy produces large yellow sweet onions that store well for only 2 or 3 months after harvest. Walla Walla is

another large sweet yellow variety that does exceptionally well in this area, but will keep only a month or two. A long-storing yellow onion adapted for this area is the Big Daddy, but one that is known to be relatively pungent. Pungent onions just naturally store longer than the sweet ones.

Alright, lets all go out and plant some onions. Keep 'em wet, keep the weeds out of 'em and talk to 'em once in awhile. Just don't try to write to 'em.

Henbit flowering now but comes up in the fall

The plants with the little purple flowers that are starting to make themselves known in home lawns are called henbit. If you are not sure this is what you have, check the stems. If the stems are square rather than round, you have henbit.

Though it actually comes up in the fall, most people do not pay



dana belshe

• ag notebook

much attention to this weed until it starts to flower. Trying to kill it

with an herbicide at this late stage at this late stage usually is a waste of time and money. Though the plant may be burned back, it will rarely be killed.

So what do we do? Remember,

this is a winter annual; it comes up in the fall, matures in the spring and dies as soon as it starts to get hot. All we can do now is keep it mowed until nature takes its course.

We can do something next fall that will help next spring. Henbit usually germinates about mid-October. Spraying with 2,4-D, Weed-

B-Gon, Weed Free Zone, Weed Out, or Trimec in early November can go a long way toward eliminating henbit next spring.

Plants are small during the fall and relatively easy to control. Choose a day that is at least 50 degrees so the henbit is actively growing and will take up the chemical.

Spot treating will probably be needed in the spring to catch the few plants that germinate late. Use Weed Free Zone, Speed Zone, Weed Out, Weed-B-Gon, Trimec, or one of the special henbit herbicides early before the henbit has put on much growth.

Dead pines need to be destroyed

The only sure way to halt the spread of always-fatal pine wilt disease is to destroy dead pine trees by April - preferably by the first week - a Kansas State University expert says.

That means removing the trees and immediately chipping or burning the wood. Firewood cut from a wilt victim can still serve as a reservoir for the disease's spread, said Megan Kennelly, plant pathologist with Kansas State Research and Extension.

Central U.S. pines commonly infected are the Scots and Austrian, although mugo pines occasionally fall victim, Kennelly said. The disease has been in the eastern half of Kansas for decades. Last year, however, confirmed cases extended the state's "front line" communities to include Beloit, Great Bend, Hays, Medicine Lodge and Pratt.

"This winter, K-State's diagnostic lab detected cases from even further west," she added. "We're really hoping they're isolated - that appropriate sanitation will prevent further spread."

The disease travels by way of pine sawyers - a type of flying longhorn

beetle. The actual tree killers, however, are microscopic worms known as pinewood nematodes. The beetles and nematodes both overwinter in dead pine wood. They get together when the new beetles emerge from their pupal case and pause to harden. That's when nematodes can enter the beetles' breathing chambers in great numbers.

The adult beetles leave their winter home (around May 1 in Kansas) to find a healthy pine host. There, they bore a feeding hole - which also serves as the entry for their wormy passengers. Once inside, pinewood nematodes are so prolific they often can clog a tree's water and nutrient flow in a matter of months.

"Usually, the first symptom is off-color, gray-green needles that turn brown, but don't fall off. Typically, that happens in late summer or early fall and the tree is dead within a few weeks or months."

More about pine wilt and about diseases that affect pine tree that "look bad, but aren't dead," she said, may be found at www.plantpath.k-state.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=943.

Kansas Cosmosphere offering new camp

The Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson is offering a new camp this year that's open to adults as well as youth who have completed earlier levels of camp.

"Space 50" is scheduled for Sunday through Saturday, June 26 to July 2, for a tour of multiple space facilities in California.

The camp will take participants to see the cutting edge of space exploration technology for the future while soaking up space history.

Campers will tour Space X, the Jet Propulsion Laboratories, Edwards Air Force Base, Dryden Spaceflight Center, the Columbia Memorial Space Center and the aircraft carrier USS Midway.

Special arrangements are being

made for the group, including a behind-the-scenes tour at the Jet Propulsion Labs. Interplanetary engineers at Dryden will take time for special activities with our group, and at Columbia, campers will lunch with retired engineers who helped create technology still used today.

The tour is designed to give a taste of the history of the space program, the technology putting us into orbit today and the possibilities for tomorrow.

Cost is \$1,950 per person, based on double occupancy, including travel and food. Information is available at cosmo.org or by calling Laurie Givan at (620) 662-2305, ext. 323.

sunflower 4-h

The Sunflower 4-H Club met on Monday, March 14, at the 4-H Building for Model Meeting. President Kendra Promise called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Following the flag salute and 4-H Pledge, Ryan Berls led the club in singing "If Your Happy and You Know It Clap Your Hands." Roll call of "What is your Favorite Color" was answered by 16 members, one leader and 10 parents.

Council Representatives Jake and Ashley Anderson met on Monday, March 4, and reported the Take Charge Challenge for the City of Goodland is asking for pledges to change out light bulbs. Leader Cris Wilson said the 4-H club with the highest number of forms returned, gets a pizza party. If you got a Regional blue on Talent night you need to contact the 4-H office if

you are going or not to Regionals. Our club's Talent night skit got a Regional Blue. Our club is helping the Country Clovers with Spring Livestock Show. A ceremony of "What do 4-H Ribbons Mean" was performed by the officers.

Following the business meeting, Kendra Promise had a demonstration on Summer Time Treats, Kinsey Volk gave a current event on the earthquake in Japan and Ashley Anderson had a project talk on the Missouri Fox Trotter. Ryan Volk played "When the Saints Go Marching In" for music appreciation. Ryan Volk led the club in playing telephone.

Refreshments were served by Dalton Armt. The next club meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 18, at the Edwards Hall.

Ryan Volk, Reporter

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>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>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>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>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>Kanorado United Methodist Church Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 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>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>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>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>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>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>
<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>The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:</p>
<p>Short & Son Trucking Hwy. 24</p>	<p>Koons Funeral Chapel North Main</p>	<p>Good Samaritan Center 208 W. 2nd</p>
<p>Kansasland Tire 1402 Main St.</p>	<p>KLOEIKKQJIKWGB 3023 W. 31</p>	<p>AFLAC Insurance 111 W. 12th</p>

Classifieds work! 899-2338