Early planting season is getting started

Bv Kav Melia

vkmelia@yahoo.com This is sure to be a busy week and weekend for gardeners all around the area as we dive headlong into the early planting season. I would remind you that there is still lots of time to plant those early season, early maturing cool weather vegetables, such as spinach, peas, onions, radishes, lettuce, potatoes, broccoli and cabbage. However, I wouldn't wait much longer, because maturity dates will come when the weather turns hot in mid-June.

Don't even think about planting



tomatoes yet, or beans, cucumbers, sweet corn, squash, cantaloupe or watermelon. Wait until about the 1st of May to be reasonably assured that they will avoid the late frosts or freezes.

Cabbage family plants should be quite safe to set out into the garden now. I'm talking brocdo, the time for extreme vigilance begins. There is a bitter en-

emy of these types of plants lurking out there, and it generally strikes immediately. The day you plant your broccoli or cabbage, watch for those small white cute little butterflies with the black tipped wings. You'll likely see them flitting around your new plantings. Watch them closely. You'll likely The best way to control cabbage names of Dipel and Thuricide. Be

sels sprouts and kale, deposit several eggs there, usually among a short list of on the underside of the leaves, out others. And when you of your normal sight. When that happens, it's usually only a few day before those tiny green worms emerge and within a week mature into ravenously hungry inch long worms that will soon riddle the leaves and greatly stunt the growth of the plant.

If you have a small number of plants, you might try picking the worms off by hand, but that's a lot

can prevent the butterflies from laying eggs by covering the plants with nylon netting spread over a framework, commonly called a row cover, which are usually available at your garden center. But don't wait too long because these little green babies work quickly! You can spray the plants with a biological material called "bacillus thuringiensis," commonly known as "bt." There are different bts for different insects so read the label carefully. These matelike time consuming, all day work. rials are sold under the commercial

coli, cauliflower, Brus- see the butterfly land on a plant and worms is not to let them start. You sure to spray the underside of the leaves or your effort will be in vain. These materials are harmless to children, pets and beneficial insects. Spray regularly until you no longer see those darling little butterflies hanging around.

Cabbage worms are by far the worst bug in my garden, causing much more damage than flea beetles or Colorado potato beetles. If you see the white butterflies or the green worms, declare war on them or forget about any sauerkraut this year.

Application of crabgrass preventers is now

Crabgrass preventers are another name for pre-emergence herbicides that prevent crabgrass seeds from developing into mature plants. Many people have a somewhat foggy idea of how they work. They do not keep the seed from germinating but kill the young germinating plant. Crabgrass preventers are just that – preventers. With few exceptions they have no effect on existing crabgrass plants, so they must be applied before germination Additionally, preventers do not last forever once applied to the soil. Microorganisms and natural processes begin to gradually break them down soon after they are applied. If some products are applied too early, they may have lost much of their strength by the time they are needed. Most crabgrass preventers are fairly ineffective after about 60 days, but there is considerable variation among products (Dimension and Barricade last longer. See below.)

For most of Kansas, crabgrass typically begins to germinate around May 1, or a little later. April 15th is a good target date for applying preventer because it gives active ingredients time to evenly disperse in the soil before crabgrass germination starts. The April 15th target works well for most of the state, but for southeast Kansas, April 1st is more appropriate. For northwest Kansas, May 1st is best. Additionally, weather varies from one spring

matters of record

The following fines have been

February 18: Leslie D. Frodin,

February 20: Anthony L. Blan-

paid in the Sherman County District

Court.

speeding, \$403.00.

co, speeding, \$216.50.

dana belshe ag notebook

to the next, and with it, the timing of crabgrass germination. For this reason it is often better to base timing on the bloom of ornamental plants. The Eastern redbud tree is a good choice for this purpose. When the trees in your area approach full bloom, apply crabgrass preventer. A follow-up application will be needed about 8 weeks later unless you are using Dimension or Barricade.

Dimension and Barricade are the only two products that give seasonlong control of crabgrass from a single application. In fact, they can be applied much earlier than April 15 and still have sufficient residual strength to last the season. Barricade can even be applied in the fall for crabgrass control the next season. Dimension can be applied as early as March 1. Because of the added flexibility in timing, these products are favorites of lawn care companies who have many customers to service in the spring.

Though Dimension cannot be applied as early as Barricade, it is the herbicide of choice if it must be applied later than recommended. It gence herbicides do not kill existing weeds. Dimension can kill crabgrass as

pre-emergence herbicide is not recommended unless the lawn has been mowed two to four times. long as it is young Dimension is kind to young tall (two- to three-leaf fescue, perennial ryegrass, and

is the exception to the stage). Dimension is also the best Kentucky bluegrass seedlings mension and Barricade may use the rule that pre-emer- choice if treating a lawn that was and can be applied as early as two common name rather than the trade planted late last fall. Normally a weeks after the first sign of ger- name. The common chemical name mination. Lawns established in for Dimension is dithiopyr and for the fall can be safely treated with Barricade is prodiamine. Remem-Dimension the following spring ber, when using any pesticide, read even if they have not been mowed. the label and follow instructions Note that products containing Di- carefully.

Worship warms the heart

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

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

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks Fifth & Broadway 890-7368 *Sunday*: *Sunday School: 9 a.m.* Morning Service: 10 a.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal 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

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.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984 Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m.

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. **Chursdays:** Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.

Iglisia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo Spanish Speaking Church Minister: Esteban Ortiz B. 1601 Texas • 899-5275 **Daily Prayer**: Sunday thru

unlawful parking, \$162.50. February 22: Frederick Carmichael, JR, speeding, \$174.50.

February 21: Jason P. Callahan,

Joseph R. Clark, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, \$208.50.



For Sherman County Residents Only!

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