

# It's time to talk about mulch in garden

By Kay Melia  
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Alright, fellow gardeners; today, let's talk about mulch. Yeah, mulch! Does that send a shiver of excitement down your back?

Probably not. But if you were a row of potatoes, a grouping of tomatoes, or a patch of peppers, you would have a visible smile of satisfaction on your face or however potatoes, tomatoes, or peppers react when they are very happy.

First, let's define the terms. There may be a few youngsters out there



**kay melia**

• the gardener

who have not experienced the joys of mulching the backyard garden. Mulch is defined in the "big book" as "any material, such as straw, spread on the ground to protect the roots of plants from heat, cold, or drought or to keep the fruit clean."

For a few of us fanatics who religiously mulch our garden crops each year, the preceding definition by Mr. Webster certainly wasn't wrong, it just didn't go far enough. Please allow this old duffer to give you MY definition of mulch. Mulch can be defined as "any material, such as straw, dry grass clippings, leaves, pine straw, shredded newspaper or compost that can be spread around vegetable, flower or

tree plants to protect the roots from heat, cold or drought, as well as to smother sprouting weeds and other unwanted plant life, and then, in the fall of the year when plowed into the soil, adds untold nutrients that will aid next year's garden crops and provide food for earthworms embedded in the decomposing material which will aerate the soil and give it a wonderful consistency for the future."

Did you get that? You may want to read it again. Mulch is a gardening gift, and anyone who plants a garden

should use it. Do not apply it until soil temperatures reach at least 60 degrees, making application right now a must. When you do it, you'll see remarkable improvement in any crop that has been protected within a week or 10 days.

I use leaves as my mulch of choice. I have a friend who provides me with a huge pile of shredded leaves, also containing small amounts of grass clippings, in late October or early November. I simply stuff the material into dozens of those big plastic trash bags and happily store

them until mulching time the following year. I honestly don't believe I would plant potatoes if I couldn't provide them with 5 or 6 inches of mulch between the rows.

Mulch does many nice things for my garden every summer. Surely, all gardeners have access to some kind of mulching material. Find yourself a bale of straw...call a farmer friend to see if he might happen to have some old rotting hay available, or, as soon as you finish reading this paper, shred it and put a handful of mulch around your tomato plant.

# Several landscapes have had scale infestations

I have ran into several landscapes this spring with scale infestations. There are three types of scale; armored scales, soft scales and mealybugs. The armored scale secretes a waxy outer coating that covers their bodies. The soft scales also form a waxy outer cover but it is on integral parts of their body where the ar-



**dana belshe**

• ag notebook

mored covering is more like a shield. When scale becomes a problem on

woody ornamentals and pesticides are called for, treatment timing is critical.

Lecanium scale is a group of about a dozen species of soft body scales. Damage from these scales is usually

slight but you see it in the form of "honeydew" raining down on anything under affected trees. Sooty mold, a fungus that feeds on the honeydew, can turn branches and leaves black. Branch die back is possible with large populations. Predators and parasites normally keep lecanium scale under con-

trol, but there are times when the population of beneficials is too low to provide immediate control. In such cases, the natural inclination is to use pesticides. Unfortunately, later instars and adults are virtually impossible to control with insecticides. Only the crawler stage is susceptible, and the time of crawler

emergence varies from year to year. Conventional wisdom is that it is best to allow beneficial populations to rebuild and provide control. As a matter of fact, many times insecticides have been part of the problem because sprays have killed beneficials and allowed lecanium populations to grow unchecked.

## country clovers 4-h

The regular monthly meeting of the Country Clover's 4-H Club was held on Monday, My 23, at the Sherman County 4-H Building. President Parker Sieck called the meeting to order. Kate Zelfer led the club in the "ABC Song." Kate Zelfer also led the club in the flag salute and club pledge. Roll call was answered by the members' summer plans. There were 15 members, one leader and eight parents present.

Acting Secretary Kate Zelfer read the minutes and they were approved as read. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Treasurer Jamie Nemechek gave the treasurer's report and it was received as read. Jamie Nemechek stated there was a bill for postage that needed to be paid the amount is \$63.93. Trevor Daise, reporter, stated that an article was submitted to the newspaper.

Mikail Freeman, council member, gave the council report. Freeman stated that small weight in and the Spring Show went well. He went over upcoming events.

Leader, Diane Zelfer, gave the leaders report. Diane Zelfer said thanks for all the hard work at the concession stands at the Spring Show. Our club radio talks are for the month of May, is interested please contact the extension office.

There was no old business.

For new business, Jason Cowan made a motion to pay the postage bill of \$63.93. Evan Bergquist seconded the motion. The motion was approved. In other new business it was discussed to make a donation to the Spring Horse Show. Kate Zelfer made a motion to make a donation. Evan Bergquist seconded it. Cowan was wondering how much our club should donate. Cowan made a motion to table this till the club has more information. Evan Bergquist seconded it. Kate Zelfer will get more information and submit at the next meeting. The motion was carried to table the donation till we have more information.

For the program, Alexis Bergquist gave a project talk on her cat project on "How to Show a Cat." Kaitlyn Daise gave a project talk on photography on "The Perfect Picture." Peyton Sieck played a song on the piano.

Parker Nemechek led the club in a fun game of "Freeze Tag."

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting by saying the club motto.

The Daise family brought delicious refreshments that were enjoyed by all. The next meeting is at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 27.

By Trevor Daise, Reporter

## Worship warms the heart

<p><b>Calvary Gospel Church</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Randy Payne                  Fourth &amp; College • 890-3605  <b>Sunday:</b> Kid's Church: 10 am                  Morning Service: 10 am                  Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m.  <b>Wednesday:</b> 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.  <a href="http://www.calvarygospel.net">www.calvarygospel.net</a></p>	<p><b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Father Norbert Diabal                  307 W. 13th • 890-7205  <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</b>                  5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment  <b>Mass Schedule:</b>                  Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am  <b>Spanish Mass:</b>                  Sunday: 12:30 pm</p>
<p><b>Goodland United Methodist Church</b>                  1116 Sherman 899-3631  <b>Pastors:</b> Dustin and Shelly Petz  <b>Saturday:</b> Worship: 5:30 p.m.  <b>Sunday:</b> Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.                  Worship: 10:30 a.m.  <b>Wednesday:</b> 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><b>Pleasant Home Church</b>                  Serving the rural community                  for over 120 years                  Rt. 1, Box 180 • 3190 Road 70                  (785) 694-2807  <b>Pastor:</b> Perry Baird  <b>Sunday:</b> Worship Service: 9 a.m.                  Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Bible Baptist Church</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Clifford Middlebrooks                  Fifth &amp; Broadway                  890-7368  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9 a.m.                  Morning Service: 10 a.m.                  Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.  <b>Wednesday:</b> Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints</b>                  1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO                  (719) 346-7984  <b>Sacrament Meeting:</b> 10 a.m.  <b>Sunday School:</b> 11:15 a.m.  <b>Priesthood/Relief Society:</b> 12 a.m.</p>
<p><b>United Methodist Church Brewster:</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Dorine Chambers                  Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST                  Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST  <b>Minister:</b> Sheryl Johnson                  Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST                  Sunday School: 10:15 am CST</p>	<p><b>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Rev. Carol Edling Jolly                  Eighth &amp; Arcade • 890-5233  <b>Sunday:</b> Church School - All ages 9:15 a.m.                  Worship 10:30 a.m.                  Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays 5-7 p.m.  <b>Wednesday:</b> Prayer Class - Noon                  Pastor Carol's Class 5:45 p.m.  <a href="http://www.goodlandfccdoc.org">www.goodlandfccdoc.org</a></p>
<p><b>Church of the Nazarene</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Bob Willis                  Third &amp; Caldwell                  899-2080 or 899-3797  <b>Sunday:</b> Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.                  Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.                  Evening Service: 6 p.m.  <b>Wednesday:</b> Evening Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Word of Life</b>                  10th &amp; Clark                  1-888-781-3450  <b>Pastor:</b> (to be announced)  <b>Services:</b> (to be announced)                  A Foursquare Gospel Church</p>
<p><b>First Baptist Church</b>  <b>Pastor:</b> Travis Blake                  1121 Main                  890-3450  <b>Sunday:</b>                  Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m.                  Morning Worship: 10 a.m.                  Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.  <b>Thursday:</b> Bible study 9:30 a.m.                  Wheatridge Center</p>	<p><b>St. Paul's Episcopal Church</b>                  13th &amp; Center                  Church 890-2115 or 890-7245  <b>Services: 5 p.m. Saturday evening</b></p>
<p><b>Seventh Day Adventist Church</b>                  1160 Cattletrail  <b>Pastor:</b> Jerry Nowack  <b>Saturday:</b> Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.                  Worship Service: 11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Emmanuel Lutheran Church</b>                  13th &amp; Sherman • 890-6161  <b>Pastor:</b> Darian Hybl  <b>Sunday:</b> Christian education/fellowship:                  10:15 a.m.                  Worship Service: 9 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Harvest Evangelical Free Church</b>                  521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423  <b>Pastor:</b> Brian Fugleberg  <b>Sunday:</b> Worship: 9:30 a.m.                  Sunday school: none in summer  <b>Wednesday:</b>                  Senior High 6:30 p.m. at church                  Junior High none in the summer  <a href="http://www.goodlandefree.com">www.goodlandefree.com</a></p>	<p><b>Church of Christ</b>                  401 Caldwell                  890-6185  <b>Sunday:</b> Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.                  Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.  <b>Wednesday:</b> Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>

**Classifieds work!**  
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## Sunflower Contest

### RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Asteraceae"
- Do not use proper names

**BRING TO OFFICE BY AUGUST 15!!**

Winners will be announced September 9!

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

(If you have more than 20, please attach an additional sheet)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Winner of the Sunflower Contest will receive a FREE 1 year subscription to:

The Goodland Star-News

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