

# Gardener has not planted his potatoes yet

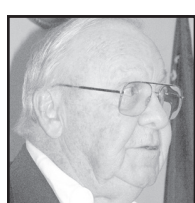
By Kay Melia  
vkmelia@yahoo.com

No, I have not yet planted my potatoes!

There, I have again answered what seems to be THE gardening question of the day at my house or as I am downtown shopping or as I am just walking down the street.

And when I inform people that I have not yet planted my potatoes, a rather quizzical look comes over their face, followed by a smile and occasionally an outright belly laugh as if I am being less than honest about my actual gardening activities.

I will plant my potatoes early next



**kay melia**

• the gardener

week, barring a snowstorm or some other freak of nature.

Seldom have I ever planted them before the April 15, and despite the fact that this has been one of the warmest early springs of all time, I have not been lulled into doing a lot of things differently in the garden than I normally would do.

Why? Why would I not take ad-

vantage of the warmest March on record, and quickly drop all kinds of seeds in the ground and get a good early start on harvesting fresh vegetables?

Because I am constantly aware that the last AVERAGE frost date in my backyard is May 6. And despite the magnificently warm temperatures, and the resulting warm soil temperatures, it is quite probable that my backyard will play witness to a frost or light freeze before the real growing season arrives.

I planted potatoes last year on

April 16th. After more than two weeks of lounging around underground, they began emerging on April 30, and after they were all above ground, there came an early morning 33 degree reading, and the plants turned black.

In another 10 days, they began growing again and proceeded to present me with a good crop in late summer.

But according to my records, if I had planted those spuds in mid-March, they would have suffered THREE frosts or freezes before the true growing season, and chances are, yield would have suffered accordingly.

That's just the way Mother Nature works. We plant too early and we pay the price. We begin to feel the warm breezes gently wafting across the neighborhood and we grab a packet of seeds and our rototiller and get to work. We get overly anxious. After all, we have an average of over 150 frost-free days around here, so we can be pretty sure the crop will mature before next fall's first frost, even if we wait until June to plant some of our seeds.

But yes, some vegetables must be planted early, else they will be harmed by the heat before maturity. My peas, spinach, lettuce and radishes were planted on Saturday,

March 24, and even with a frost after they emerge, they can withstand it and thrive and produce a crop before it gets hot. But potatoes? With too many "burn-backs" early in the season, production will likely be seriously reduced.

It will be after May 1 before I plant the warm season crops like cucumbers, beans, sweet corn, okra or squash, as well as tomato and pepper transplants.

Will there be a frost or freeze yet this spring? I don't know, but history tells us that it will probably happen. We'll see.

# Crabgrass can be controlled with herbicide

Crabgrass is an annual weed and must come back from seed each year. Because crabgrass must germinate from seed each year, crabgrass can be controlled by applying a preemergent herbicide to the soil to kill germinating crabgrass seedlings. This is step one of most four or five step lawn care programs.

For the preemergent herbicide to be effective, it must be applied before the crabgrass seed germi-



**dana belshe**

• ag notebook

nates.

(There is one exception. Dimension, dithiopyr, has a little post-emergent activity, so it can be put

down as the crabgrass is germinating and it will kill young, 1- to 2-leaf, crabgrass plants and prevent new ones from ger-

minating.) Environmental cues are another way to determine the best time to apply preemergent herbicide. Typically, the time to apply preemergent herbicides is when the forsythia

bush flowers or when the redbud tree blooms.

During most years, the forsythia bush blooms fairly early in the spring. I usually tell people when they see the forsythia blooming,

it is not too late, and crabgrass has not germinated yet. But it is time to get preventer and apply it soon. As with all pesticides read and follow all label instructions.

# Look at what others are doing and learn

An MMA show I was watching last night talked about how, after losing a fight, a fighter went and trained with the guy who beat him. That was a smart move for that fighter, and that's a smart move for you as well.

I'm not telling you to become a MMA fighter or go train with your competition, but I am telling you to look at what your competition is doing well and learn from it.

Why are customers choosing them over you? What are they doing to control costs? How do they effectively manage their employees? What marketing methods are working for them?



**jamie morphew**

• business tips

Sometimes the best learning opportunities are right down the road.

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting sponsored in part by Sherman County. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman and Wichita counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphey at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

# Worship warms the heart



## Calvary Gospel Church

**Pastor:** Randy and Mary Payne

Fourth & College • 890-3605

**Sunday:** Kid's Church: 10 am

Morning Service: 8:30 and 10:30 am

Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m. except last Sunday of the month

**Wednesday:** Royal Rangers, Missionettes 6:30 p.m.

during school year

Youth @ the Rock House, Sixth & Caldwell: 6:30 p.m.

Life Groups - Call for information

Join us on Facebook

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

## Pleasant Home Church

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**Pastor:** Perry Baird

**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 a.m.

Sunday School: 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.

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## United Methodist Church Brewster:

**Pastor:** Dorine Chambers

Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST

**Winona:**

**Minister:** Sheryl Johnson

Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

## 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.

**Thursday:** Prayer Class - Noon

Pastor Carol's Class 5:30 p.m.

www.goodlandfccdoc.org

## Kanorado United Methodist Church

**Pastor:** Leonard Cox

399-2468

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.

Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

## 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.

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**Celebrant:** Father Don Martin

13th & Center

Church 890-2115 or 890-7245

**Services: 5 p.m. Saturday evening**

## Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

**Pastor:** Chad DeJong

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.

6 p.m. AWANA during school

Evening Worship: 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday:** 6:30 youth group

Growth groups call for information

www.goodlandbible.org

## 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

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Celebrant:** 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

## 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 the church

Junior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church

www.goodlandefree.com

## Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

**Pastor:** Jerry Nowack

**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 11 a.m.

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161

**Pastor:** Darian Hybl

**Sunday:** Christian education/fellowship:

10:15 a.m.

Worship Service: 9 a.m.

## 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.

**The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:**

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