

Tomatoes are king, but my favorite is onions

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Ask just about anyone what their favorite garden vegetable is, and their resounding reply will probably be tomatoes.

Ask just about any gardener to name the vegetable they most enjoy growing and you might receive a dozen different answers. Simply put, the practice of actually GROWING a garden crop is a bit different than eating it, and while tomatoes are the most widely grown garden vegetable in the backyard garden, it doesn't necessarily follow that all gardeners actually enjoy grow-

ing tomatoes as much as say green beans or cucumbers or maybe peppers.

Does that make any sense at all? Here's the thing. The actual enjoyment or challenge of tending a garden crop can vary from one gardener to another. Gardeners may enjoy the challenge of growing something other than tomatoes, but still enjoy eating them.

I use myself as an example. I love tomatoes and I enjoy growing my own seedlings, building my own cages, and comparing varieties. But honestly, I enjoy growing and caring for onions more than I do tomatoes. I am convinced that the challenge of growing a good, mature crop of onions is greater than the challenge presented by tomatoes. Indeed, it is the challenge. I visit with a lot of backyard dirt diggers, and seldom do I find one that relishes the task of growing onions, and I think I know why.

Many gardeners just don't bother to study the unique requirements to finish the season with a big crop of those wonderful sweet slicing onions. And let's face it, a gardener faces a long list of demands that onions present. For example, you must plant the onion PLANTS, not the little sets or bulbs. And onions demand to be planted early, like the last week of March, or the first week of April. The quality and size of the onion shrinks if planted as late as the last two weeks of May. The onion demands water, lots of it, from the day you plant them until about a week before you harvest them. Never allow the soil to dry

out, and always water them with a soaker hose, a drip system, or as I do, utilizing ditch irrigation. The onion demands a bit of fertilizer, like a side dressing of 10-10-10 granular, applied about 3 weeks after planting. An onion patch demands a weedless environment. Weeds are probably the most serious deterrent to growing a successful crop of onions.

Finally onions demand a timely harvest. When they are through growing, they flop over, without help from you. Continue watering them for another week or so, until the ends of the leaves begin to brown. Onions demand to be

properly stored, and do not cut off the tops until you are ready to use them.

Enjoy the challenges that onions demand.

My earliest ones the Texas Super-sweets, are already in storage. The Red Candy Apple will be harvested tomorrow.

The big white Sierra Blanca, and the amazing Candy onions are still growing.

A successful onion crop is extremely satisfying.

Accept the challenge next spring!

Weather making trees more vulnerable to borers

Numerous reports of borer holes in trees have been coming to Kansas State University experts and diagnostic labs since May.

"It's no real surprise," said Ward Upham, Kansas State Research and Extension horticulturist. "Unless the weather improves, next year's borer problems could be even worse."

He explained with three factors:

- Borers are larvae that feed on and live in wood that is well protected. The insect they become typically

emerges from May to August of the following year, ready to lay eggs. What tree owners see after that are all exit holes, not entrances.

- Healthy, vigorous sap flow can drown new-hatched larvae when they try to enter a woody plant, so borers prefer stressed trees. Unfortunately, central U.S. plants have been on the defensive for the past two years or more, depending on location, due to both drought and heat stress, if not other insect attacks.
- That brief time when the adults

emerge and lay eggs is the only time when insecticides can work.

"Added to that," Upham said, "only a few active ingredients are still labeled for homeowner use. The results can be rather iffy. And, the applications can be time-consuming.

"Besides, if an infestation is bad enough, hiring a certified professional might not keep your tree alive. It will be a source of infestation for other plants until it's chopped and then chipped, burned or hauled away."

That's why prevention is the all-

round best way to deal with borers, he said. Supplying water through dry periods is vital. Mulching can preserve moisture, keep soil cooler and reduce competition from other plants.

For those who've found holes and want to know more, Upham

recommends the websites "Shade Tree Borers" at www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05530.html/ and "Insect Borers of Fruit Trees" at extension.missouri.edu/p/g7190.

Greenhouse built for injured soldiers

More than 30 people from Fort Riley, Kansas State University and the area community have teamed up to build a greenhouse that will serve as important therapy for soldiers hurt in the line of duty.

Officials from the post and university cut the ribbon Monday, July 2, to officially open the post's indoor garden, which one army officer says will be an ally for soldiers who have suffered concussions or other traumatic brain injury in battle.

Col. Craig Webb, the deputy commander for clinical services at Fort Riley, said that since 2000, 125,000 U.S. soldiers have suffered a traumatic brain injury, which essentially damages the frontal lobe of the brain and affects their memory and ability to sequence events.

"For the soldiers, it's an excellent opportunity to train and learn new skills while they're recovering from their traumatic brain injury," Webb said. "They can learn to take care of plants, they can learn sequential events, they can learn to hone their memory."

The project is the result of a grant from the Parsons-based Assistive Technology for Kansans, and Kansas State Research and Extension's Kansas AgrAbility project, which focuses on helping people with disability project, which focuses on helping people with disabilities working in agriculture-related occupations.

Kerri Ebert, who coordinates the state's AgriAbility program, said her group was able to buy the green-

house (called a high tunnel) as well as tools and equipment that soldiers will need to grow crops.

Elain Connoe, a Fort Riley, occupational therapist working with the Warrior Transition Unit at the post, noted that many soldiers receive multiple concussions while on active duty. "So their ability to stabilize emotions is really an issue; working on stress relief is really important."

Ebert calls the high tunnel "a giant erector set," standing eight feet tall on the sides with an approximately 16-foot-ceiling. The floor space is 42 feet by 30 feet. "They could grow a tree in there, if they wanted to," she said.

It took volunteers several weeks to build the high tunnel, including Kansas State faculty, citizens from the Manhattan area; and Fort Riley soldiers.

In addition to aiding in physical therapy, officials said the high tunnel may also provide soldiers with a job option after their military career.

"For young men and women (this high tunnel will provide) exposure to vocational options that will be available to them when they're discharged," Ebert said. "It's a natural part of what AgrAbility does; we work with farmers ... and people who want to be farmers."

Soldiers will begin working in the high tunnel soon, officials said. Ebert noted that additional equipment will be provided to accommodate soldier's specific needs.

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.
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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



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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Celebrating 125 years of God's gracious blessings!
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 3190 Road 70 (785) 694-2807
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.

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 - translation available
Minister: Jose S. Lopez
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church Brewster:
Pastor: Mike Baughn
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
Bible Study: 4 p.m. the first and third Saturday of the month

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

H2O Church.TV
Pastor: Craig Groeschel
1022 Main (785) 728-0123
Experience Time
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

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: Jim McCurdy
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.

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North Main

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208 W. 2nd

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