

Home-grown potatoes are a comfort food

By Kay Melia
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No other food is so simply comforting as a potato. Boiled, baked, with a pat of butter, a grind of pepper and a shake of salt, the only thing better than a freshly dug potato is another one! What's more, a home-grown potato doesn't just come in a plain brown wrapper, or even a red one anymore. Most of us have sampled the buttery yellows, and maybe even blushing shades of pink, unabashed blues, or unshrinking violets. They all have great potato flavor. Like the common



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burlap-skinned standbys, colorful homegrown potatoes are an ideal food, standing alone, or as a starchy flavor companion to onion, garlic, chilies, herbs, spices, or different kinds of cheeses.

So, you might ask, why is the old guy discussing potatoes when he's usually sitting around criticizing fill-in NFL referees, like

everybody else? Of course, he doesn't have to do that anymore. There are several reasons for talking about homegrown potatoes this fall, and most of those reasons serve as reminders for planting time next spring.

Reason No. 1...This reminder for right now...get out there and dig this year's crop so that they won't have to lie around in that dry soil any longer. If not dug now, they will soon be showing serious signs of shrink and other bad things. Dig 'em now,

unless you are having some kind of misgiving about the over-paid regular referees. In that case, wait until tomorrow. As soon as they are safely stored in a cool, dark place, preferably where temperatures are between 50 and 65 degrees, you can expect delightful eating all winter.

Reason No. 2...More gardeners need to seriously consider a few of their own potatoes. And please don't give me the excuse that you don't have enough room in your small garden for potatoes. I'm just asking you to plant one row...maybe a double row, next spring. While you won't feed the family very long

with just a row or two, you are sure to experience a taste sensation that you really never expected from a common everyday potato.

Reason No. 3...I am fearful there are actually people out there who have never tasted a new potato. For the uninitiated, new potatoes are immature specimens of the tuber that begin to form in the plant's root system about the time the plant is blooming. At that time, you dig in under the vine with your hand and steal 2 or 3 walnut size potatoes. Take them to the kitchen, boil them in their thin skins until just barely tender, perhaps make a tasty white

sauce for them, or just add butter, salt and pepper, and you have one of your garden's ultimate treats!

Reason No. 4...Now is the time to think about which potato variety you might choose for next spring. Kennebec, Red Pontiac, Yukon Gold, Norcotah Russet, Swedish Fingerling, Purple Majesty, Dakota Crisp...doesn't matter much. Potatoes of any variety grow exceptionally well in the High Plains area, and will provide you with an exceptional garden treat next spring. By then, you can begin to worry about the possibility that Major League Baseball umpires might go on strike!

Heat and drought hurts fir trees

The heat and drought this year has been very tough on trees; especially some of the evergreens. Spruce, fir and pine are not well adapted to Kansas conditions, and high stress years like this one can lead to decline and death. However, there are natural conditions that can look like the tree is dying that actually are not harmful.

How can you tell, the difference?

If the needles are browning just on the inside of the tree, but the needles farthest out on the branches remain green, the tree is going through natural needle drop. Natural needle drop does not harm the health of the tree and is a normal process as two- and three-year-old needles are shed. Drought may increase needle



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drop but this, in itself, does not harm the tree. However, the heat and drought of this summer may have stressed some trees to the point that they may lose branches or possibly die because of accumulated stress.

What can you do to reduce stress?

Concentrate on good watering. During dry weather (including winter), water the trees to a depth of at least 10 inches, with deeper watering preferred. You can check

the depth the water reaches by using or pushing something like a metal rod or wooden dowel into the soil. It will stop when it reaches dry soil.

During hot, dry weather, trees may need watered once a week.

If we have an open, dry winter, water the trees once per month when the temperature is above freezing.

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Worship warms the heart

<p>Calvary Gospel Church Lead Pastors: Randy and Mary Payne Assistant Pastors: Jacob and Ramie Soyez Fourth & College • 890-3605 Sunday: Kid's Church: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Morning Service: 8:30 and 10:30 am Youth @ the Rock House, Sixth & Caldwell: 6:30 p.m. Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m. except last Sunday of the month Wednesday: Kids 4 Christ 6:30 p.m. during school year Life Groups - See website website: www.calvarygospel.net email: info@calvarygospel.net or see us on Facebook</p>	<p>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</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.</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 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.</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>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>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pastor: Rev. Carol Edling Jolly Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233 Sunday: Church School - All ages 9 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</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>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>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</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. 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</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.</p>	<p>H2O Church.TV Pastor: Craig Groeschel 109 E. 17th (785) 728-0123 Experience Time Sunday: 10:30 a.m.</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 the church Junior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church www.goodlandefree.com</p>
<p>Seventh Day Adventist Church 1160 Cattletrail Pastor: Jim McCurdy 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>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>

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