

Inspiration

Snow is on the ground and that means... you should start gardening! K-State Research and Extension has the resources to help you be successful at growing your own bedding plants indoors.

Cowley County does not have a horticulture extension agent, but we are connected with K-State Research and Extension staff across the state of Kansas who are happy to share resources. The K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series is held on the first Wednesday of each month. The 45 minute presentation is followed by 10-15 minutes of question and answers between participants and experts. February's topic: Indoor Seed Starting.

If you're reading this, you'll note that the first Wednesday has passed. No worries - all webinars are recorded! Search "K-State Garden hour" on the internet or visit cowley.k-state.edu and select the Lawn and Garden tab for the link to the webinar recordings.

There are other lawn and garden tasks that are great to accomplish in February:

Vegetables and Fruits

- Draw garden layouts to assist with the planning process.
- Review garden notes about successes and failure in the garden.
- Order seeds for spring planting.
- Select varieties and order new fruit trees.
- Take a soil test if one has not been done the last five years.
- Start broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage transplants.
- Prune:
 - o Fruit trees like apples, pears and cherries.
 - o Peach and nectarines just prior to bloom time.
 - o Grapes, raspberries, and blackberries.
- Incorporate manure or compost into garden areas for soil improvement.
- Avoid working the soil when it is wet.
- Check dates on stored seed packets. Sprout a few from each packet in a moist paper towel.
Discard packets with poor results.

Flowers

- Start seeds for transplanting in the spring.
- Check fall planted perennials and water if needed.
- Watch for frost heaving of tender perennials and cover if needed.
- Replenish winter mulch around roses and other plants.
- Check bulbs in storage and discard if rotted.
- Prepare catalog orders.

Lawns

- To prevent lawn suffocation, rake fallen leaves.
- Review lawn service contracts and make changes.
- Tune up and repair the mower to get a jump on the season.
- Avoid injury to the lawn when the soil is frozen by keeping foot traffic to a minimum.

Trees and Shrubs

- Check for rabbit damage on young trees and shrubs.
- Water fall-planted trees, shrubs, and evergreens if the soil is dry and not frozen.
- Apply dormant oil for control of scale and mites.
- Prune:
 - Begin spring pruning. However, do not prune spring flowering trees and shrubs until after bloom.
 - Cut twigs and branches of spring shrubs and bring them indoors to add a splash of spring color.
- Carefully remove snow from limbs with a broom.
- On warm days, prepare garden soil for early planting.

Houseplants

- Check plants for insects, mites or other problems and treat as needed.
- Withhold fertilization until spring arrives.
- Remove dust build up on plants by placing in the shower and washing off.
- Water as needed, avoid letting roots set in water.
- Keep plants out of hot or cold drafts.

If you have more questions, contact K-State Research and Extension Cowley County at 620-221-5450. We can assist with soil samples and information to help you with your lawn and garden inspiration.

Source: KansasHealthyYards.org

Upcoming K-State Research and Extension Events

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity employer and provider. Call 620-221-5450 for disability accommodations and scholarship requests.

Dining with Diabetes - Thursdays, February 10, 17 & 24 and March 3, Winfield Early Learning Center Cafeteria, 509 E Eighth Avenue, Winfield, 5:15-7:15 p.m., \$25 for 4 sessions, Call 620-221-5450 to register.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy - Arkansas City class with Golden Tigers \$20, Sixteen sessions, Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning February 7, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., 620-441-5225, pre-registration required.

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy - Winfield, Tisdale United Methodist Church gym, starts March 21 (Mondays and Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m. or 2:15-3:15 p.m.) call 620-221-5450, pre-registration required. \$20.

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K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county Extension offices, experiment fields, area Extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan.

Becky Reid

Extension Agent | Family and Consumer Sciences | Cowley County

bkreid@ksu.edu | 620.221.5450