Dear Gardener,

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway into August. Some parts of our Extension District have received timely rainfall and other parts are considerably dry. I hope that your gardens have done well and are still producing.

If you are a resident of Bourbon county, I want to clarify that you can still visit our office, but you will need to call first in order to get into the courthouse. Please don't let that stop you from utilizing our services!

If I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to give me a call or send a message. I continue to make house calls and am happy to do so!

Sincerely,

Krista Harding
District Extension Agent

On-line Master Gardener Training

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kansas State University's Extension Master Gardener program will be offered online this fall. Applications are being accepted until August 27th. The training class will begin September 3rd and run through December 17th.

The on-line sessions will be held on Thursday afternoon's from 1-4 pm. The Master Gardener training consists of 50 hours of instruction in all aspects of horticulture. Instructors include state specialists from Kansas State University. Once certified as an Extension Master Gardener, participants are asked to donate time in their community to help others learn more about gardening and horticulture. The fee for the course is $60. Applications can be found here: Master Gardener Application
When you think about it, fall weather is much like spring - warm daytime temperatures and cool nights. Rainfall is typically more abundant in the fall than summer so less irrigation is needed and fall gardens often have fewer insect pest and disease problems. Combine all of these and you have the ingredients for a great garden! And of most importance is the taste of the produce grown. Flavors of fall grown vegetables are often sweeter and milder in taste than those grown during hot summer weather.

Some of the best vegetables for a fall garden are lettuce, spinach, radishes, beets, cabbage, turnips and carrots because of their frost-tolerance. These vegetables can be
planted directly into your garden wherever space can be found - next to plants still growing in the garden like tomatoes, cucumbers and pumpkins. Plant mid-August until the first week of September.

Left over seed from spring planting can be used as long as it was stored in a cool, dry location. To speed up germination and seedling emergence, soak the seeds overnight before planting. If you are purchasing new seed, look for the shortest season cultivars that you can find to insure harvest before a killing frost. The average fall freeze date for our area is around October 24 according to the Weather Data Library on the K-State campus.

Everyone gets geared up to plant vegetables in the spring, but the fall season offers many benefits to gardening. Few take advantage of the season, but consider giving it a try this year.

**K-State Garden Hour**

Join K-State Research & Extension Agents and Specialist the next couple of Wednesday's for the "Garden Hour." All session are FREE! You can register by following this link: Garden Hour

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**K-STATE GARDEN HOUR**

**Topic:** Preserve it Fresh, Preserve it Safe  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 19th  
**Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CST

If your garden is overflowing with fresh produce, what will you do with it? Besides enjoying the fresh flavors or sharing with family and friends, preserving the produce for later use is a great way to enjoy that taste of summer later in the year. Karen Blakeslee, Extension Associate in Food Science and Rapid Response Center Coordinator, will highlight some easy ways to safely preserve your food.

There is no cost, but we do require registration: bit.ly/KStateGardenHour

[QR Code for registration]
Food Preservation

If you have been a successful gardener this year, then my guess is you may have more produce than you can immediately use. You might be thinking about trying your hand at food preservation. While this topic is not part of my programming area, I still wanted to share some great K-State resources with you.

K-State has an entire webpage devoted to food preservation and it has LOTS of information including canning, freezing, pickling, dehydrating, jams/jellies and more! Click on this link: Food Preservation

The Importance of High-Quality Grass Seed

K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Topic: Planting and Overseeding Your Tall Fescue Lawn
Date: Wednesday, August 26th
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CST

Fall is undoubtedly the most important time of year to care for your Tall Fescue lawns. Whether you are starting a new lawn, or thickening up an existing lawn, there are many planting tips & tricks that you need to know. Matthew McKernan, Sedgwick County Horticulture Extension Agent, will cover the best tips for soil preparation, seed selection, planting techniques, and planting time in order to help you have the best lawn on the block!

There is no cost, but we do require registration:
bit.ly/KStateGardenHour

REGISTER HERE:
High Quality Grass Seed: Worth the Extra Expense