Dear Gardener,

If you've read my latest column in the newspaper, you know that I feel like this has been a long winter! I'm sure like many of you, I can remember several years that February brought us some nice weather. Unfortunately, not this year! And in looking at the data from the Climate Prediction Center, March isn't looking much better as far as temperatures go. This might be another year where spring arrives a bit late and we dive straight into summer!

I hope March brings this opportunity to get out in the garden and get the potatoes, lettuce, spinach and radish planted. I have several up-coming horticulture programs that I hope you will attend.

As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Krista Harding
District Extension Agent

Landscaping for Hummingbirds

Don't miss your opportunity to hear Chuck Otte give tips for attracting hummingbirds to your landscape! Registration for this program is required so we can ensure adequate seating. Click here to register: http://bit.ly/HummingbirdsLandscaping
March 30 - Protecting the Pollinators, Fort Scott

April 15, 16 & 22 - Herb Programs, Various Locations

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**Grow Large Onions**

If you wish to grow large onions, choose an intermediate day type. What does "intermediate day type" mean? Well, onions bulb in response to day length and are classified as short-day, intermediate-day and long-day plants. Short-day bulb the earliest and and long-day bulb the latest. The ones best adapted to be grown in Kansas, if you want large onions, are the intermediate-day. The recommended varieties are Candy, Red Candy Apple or Super Star. For large onions, buy plants instead of onion sets.

Onions have shallow root systems and need good, even moisture and adequate fertilizer. Work the fertilizer into the soil before planting. A balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 at the rate of 1 pound per 100 square feet should be used.

Onion respond well to sidedressing of fertilizer. Make the first application about 3 weeks after the plants have started to grow. Use a fertilizer composed primarily of nitrogen such as nitrate of soda 16-0-0. Apply at the rate of 2 pounds (or about 4 cups) per 100 feet of row.
Protecting the Pollinators

March 30, 6:30 pm
The Round Room at Fort Scott Community College 2108 S. Horton St.

Monarchs, Painted Ladies, Swallowtails and other beautiful butterflies call southeast Kansas home. Would you like to see more of them in your yard by making it more inviting? Would you like to learn how to help protect our pollinators?

Take the Naturalistic Approach to attracting pollinators.

Please RSVP to Southwind Extension District Fort Scott office: 620-223-3720

Sponsored by the Bourbon County Garden Club and Southwind Extension District.

Join June Stipp, Extension Master Gardener, and Krista Harding, Horticulture Extension agent, for an informative evening that's all about butterflies. You'll learn about:
- Planting nectar plants
- Host plants
- Water Sources
- Shelter
- Warming areas
- Proper use of pesticides

Herbs - From Seed to Seasoning

I know when thumbing through the seed catalogs, it's easy to want one of everything! And although a certain vegetable might look "cool," it might not be so cool when it fizzes out in our Kansas climate. Check the listing of recommended vegetables for Kansas before you make your purchases! To see the complete listing, click here: Recommended Vegetable Varieties

Pick your location and join us!
When early spring arrives, we need to start preparing to make fruit tree spray applications. Thankfully, K-State Research & Extension recently updated all of the fruit tree spray information. It is divided into three parts - Apples, Stone Fruits, and the recommended pesticides. Here is the link for all three publications:

- **Apple Schedule**
- **Stone Fruit Schedule**
- **Pesticides**
If you've been wanting to become a Master Gardener, you will have your chance in 2020! A training class will be offered this fall in Iola. Exact dates have not been finalized, but classes will be held one day a week for about seven weeks. If you are interested in the class, please contact me and I will put your name on the list.