

NEWS RELEASE

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Climate Resilient Gardens

Gardening in a changing climate can be a challenge. Join Pam Paulsen, Reno County Horticulture Agent, to explore practical methods to grow gardens that are resilient to tough growing conditions. Some of these methods include native and adapted plants, soil improvement, efficient use of water and nutrients, and attracting beneficial insects.

This online program is on Wednesday, November 5, beginning at noon. Register on-line at the K-State Garden Hour website. The program is recorded for viewing usually by the next day.

Plant genetics is a huge factor in growing here in Riley County. The use of plants that have been growing in this region for a long time indicate suitability for continued use. I think of the trees on campus, city park and other plantings that have stood the test of time.

Buffalograss is the only North American specie that is used for a lawn. Rightfully, it is not used extensively in Riley County. It needs full sun, less rainfall than we normally get and is susceptible to weeds. Most property owners select tall fescue to use as a lawn.

There really is not a native vegetable found here. Winter squash is from North American but not necessarily from Kansas. A wide variety of vegetables can still be cultivated here with best management practices.

Fall is the time of year when our soil can be enriched with organic matter that naturally occurs but can be enhanced. Our soils are rich with nutrients for growth for many plants. The limiting element is pore space for oxygen. Using coarse organic matter worked into the soil will create pockets for air. If those spaces are not filled with continuous water, they will allow for good root activity.

Working with our given environment is an ongoing process. Unless you move to another state, we must adapt to Kansas.

You can find out more information on gardening by going to Riley County's K-State Research and Extension website at www.riley.ksu.edu And you may contact Gregg Eyestone at the Riley County office of K-State Research and Extension by calling 537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: geyeston@ksu.edu

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All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.