

K-STATE

Research and Extension

Sedgwick County

June 2025 *eNews*

"Knowledge for Life"

[Click here for all of our Summer 2025 events!](#)

Horticulture

2025 GARDEN TOUR

Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardeners
Visit 6 private gardens

Friday May 30, 9-5

Tickets \$10

Saturday May 31, 9-5

Available online at
sedgwick.ksu.edu/gardentour
or the Sedgwick County
Extension Office
or at the gardens during the tour

Sunday June 1, 12-4



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Sedgwick County

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Kansas State University, Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

2025 Garden Tour Kicks Off Today

The annual Garden Tour is back for 2025, and happening today, tomorrow and Sunday. Join us for a tour of 6 uniquely designed landscapes, all sure to provide inspiration for your own garden. This year's beautiful gardens emphasize water conservation, sustainability,

innovation, and support for pollinators and wildlife. Take your tour from Friday, May 30th through Sunday, June 1st. Tickets are \$10 per person, and children 12 and under are welcomed free with adult. For more information about 2025 Garden Tour hours, to see sneak peek photos of each garden, or to purchase your tickets, visit our website:

<https://sedgwick.ksu.edu/gardentour>

Tips for a Drought Tolerant Summer Lawn



Many of our lawn care practices can increase or decrease the drought tolerance of our lawns. Follow these 5 tips this summer to improve the drought tolerance of your lawn:

1) **Raise The Mowing Height:** Increasing the mowing height increases the drought tolerance of all lawns. It encourages

deeper root growth, cools the soil temperature, and decreases evaporation of soil moisture. Tall Fescue should be mowed up to 3.5" tall, Buffalograss up to 4" tall, and Bermuda & Zoysia up to 2" tall.

2) **Reduce Fertilizer Use:** The more fertilizer that is applied to the lawn, the more water is required to sustain the excess growth caused by fertilization. Consider reducing the amount of fertilizer you apply this summer, and be sure to fertilize only at the appropriate times.

3) **Convert To Warm Season Turfgrass:** Buffalograss, Bermuda, & Zoysia are all warm season turfgrasses, which means they naturally have more heat and drought tolerance than Tall Fescue. June is the ideal time to establish a new warm season lawn.

4) **Core Aerate Warm Season Turfgrass:** Core aerate the soil of your warm season lawns in June. A healthy soil more easily grows a healthy plant, and core aeration is important way to help improve water infiltration into the soil. Core aerate the lawn with 3 inch deep cores, spaced 3 inches apart.

5) **Allow Tall Fescue Lawns To Go Into Summer Dormancy:**

Dormancy is the natural survival strategy for many plants during periods of drought, and the goal is to keep the lawn alive, not green. Dormant lawns can go 2-3 weeks or more without water. After 2-3 weeks, apply ~ ¼ inch of water every couple of weeks (by irrigation or rainfall) to keep the turfgrass crown alive for up to 8 weeks. For more information on ways to increase the drought tolerance of your lawn and conserve water in the landscape, visit:

<https://sedgwick.ksu.edu/drought>



Native & Ornamental Grasses of Kansas

Wednesday, June 4th 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Join Markis Hill, Johnson County Horticulture Extension Agent, as he explores Kansas's native and ornamental grasses. Learn about grasses that thrive in the state's climate, including drought-tolerant, low-maintenance species. Gain tips on selecting, planting, and caring for these grasses, highlighting their aesthetic, environmental, and wildlife benefits.

Gain valuable knowledge for creating sustainable, beautiful landscapes with grasses suited to Kansas's conditions.



Register Here!



Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



Ornamental grasses are one of the lowest maintenance landscape plants in Kansas, and can be used in a large variety of ways. Whether you choose to incorporate native grasses, or more ornamental varieties, there are many drought-tolerant grasses that can thrive in the Kansas landscape. Join the next K-State Garden Hour webinar on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 to learn more about "Native & Ornamental Grasses of Kansas". Markis Hill, Johnson County Horticulture Extension Agent, as

he shares tips on selecting, planting, and caring for these grasses and the benefits they can bring to your garden. This free webinar will be presented live from Noon to 1pm, and recorded and available online. Register for upcoming webinars or find past recordings online at: www.ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour

Aging and Medicare

Getting Settled In



As a new agent with Extension, it's hard to believe I've already been here a few weeks. I'm continuing to get oriented in the world of Medicare and aging-related resources, and I'm so grateful for the warm welcome from both the team and our volunteers. Right now, I'm up to my eyeballs in the SHICK pre-training as I prepare for the initial in-person training this summer. There's a lot to absorb, but it's exciting

to dig in and get ready for my first Open Enrollment season. One of the highlights so far has been getting to meet and know our amazing SHICK volunteers — one by one, each day in the office. Their knowledge, dedication, and warmth are already making a big impact. Thanks again to all of you who've helped make this start such a positive experience. -
--Tat Hidano, Adult Development & Aging Agent

Local Food

JUST ONE ROW CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY



PLANT A ROW

Is a local partnership between Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardeners and ICT Food Rescue to encourage, collect and deliver donations of fresh, healthy produce from home and community gardens to food insecure neighbors in need at no cost.

**Begin Donating
June 1, 2025**



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DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Brady Nursery 11200 W. Kellogg	Botanica 701 Amidon St.
Hillside Feed & Seed 1805 S. Hillside	Hillside Nursery 2200 S. Hillside
Johnson's Garden Center - East 6225 E. Shadybrook	Johnson's Garden Center - West 2707 W. 13th St.
Woodard Mercantile 4160 N. Maize Rd Maize	Mr. Mc's Market 1901 E 21st St. N
Woodard Mercantile 1313 E. Hwy 54 Andover	Valley Feed & Seed 1903 S. Meridian

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Celebrating 25 Years of Plant A Row: Start Donating June 1!

The Plant A Row program is proudly celebrating its 25th anniversary in Sedgwick County, with donations officially opening on June 1st at ten

convenient locations throughout the area. For a list of these locations, please visit: <https://www.sedgwick.k-state.edu/local-food/plantarow.html>.

We invite you to consider donating any excess fruits, vegetables, and herbs from your garden. Not only does this initiative help reduce food waste in our landfills, but it also supports Sedgwick County residents who are facing food insecurity. When contributing produce, please ensure it's something you would be comfortable serving at your own table—fresh and free from rot. We kindly request that leafy greens not be included, as they have a shorter shelf life after harvest. Thank you for your support!

Health and Nutrition

Ready to Start Canning?

As your garden starts producing, now's the time to prep for canning season. To ensure the best quality, flavor, and safety, keep these tips in mind:

- **Pick produce at its peak for the best flavor and nutrition.**
- **Test your dial pressure gauge. If you use a Presto brand (including National, Presto®, Magic Seal, or Maid of Honor), bring it to us!**
- **Inspect jars and lids—replace any that are cracked, chipped, or worn.**
- **Check the rubber gasket on your canner. If it's cracked or stiff, it's time for a new one.**
- **Use tested recipes from [reliable sources](#), which include [elevation adjustments](#) to ensure safety.**
- **Choose the correct canning method:**
 - [Water bath canning](#) for high-acid foods.
 - [Pressure canning](#) for low-acid foods.



Have questions or need your gauge tested? Contact Sara Sawyer, Nutrition, Health & Wellness Agent, at 316-660-0118 or

sarasawer@ksu.edu.

Adapted from the March 2025 "You Asked It!" K-State Research and Extension E-Newsletter by Karen Blakeslee.

Family Life

Planting Seeds in Soil and Soul



As the saying goes, more than one seed is planted in a garden. Planting is a way to teach our children not only about the natural world but also about themselves. Through the process of planning, planting, and caring for a garden, our children develop essential life values and skills

such as responsibility, independence, teamwork, empathy, leadership, and problem-solving.

[Read More English](#)

[Read More Spanish](#)

Community Vitality



Grant Writing Basics

Online Workshop

Join Us June 10 and 12, 2025

1:30-4:30 pm CT

Cost: \$60

Register Today

<https://ksre-learn.com/grant-writing-basics>

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Grant Writing Basics Online Workshop

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1:30-4:30 pm CT

[Register Here](#)

4-H and Youth Development

4-H: Growing Minds and Building Resilience



In today's fast-paced world, youth face growing pressures that can impact on their mental health—from academic stress to social challenges and everything in between. That's why programs like 4-H are more important than ever. Beyond

teaching valuable life skills, 4-H offers meaningful mental health benefits that help young people thrive emotionally and socially.

[Read More](#)

Get Involved!



K-State Research and Extension — Sedgwick County exists to serve the people of south central Kansas. Our mission thrives because of community support. We offer many opportunities for volunteers to offer their time and skills, from gardening to youth development to programming support.

[Learn more about ways to support our programming and the needs of the community.](#)

Looking for an event space?



Consider having your next event at the Extension Education Center!

[Read more](#)



Please help support Extension community services in Sedgwick County through the Extension Education Foundation, Inc.

When you shop Dillons Food Stores, Dillons will make a donation to the Extension Education Foundation, Inc.

1. Go to Dillons.com/communityrewards
2. Log into your Dillons account
3. Search for NPO number **CY612**
4. Click enroll



[Mail-in donation form](#)

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K-State Research and Extension - Sedgwick County

This monthly e-newsletter is intended to inform citizens of events, activities and research-based information from K-State Research and Extension Center - Sedgwick County
7001 W. 21st St. N., Wichita, Kansas 67205

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Dr. Brantley, PhD, Extension Director, Sedgwick County 316-660-0105

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. For more information, visit www.ksre.ksu.edu



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