

PLANTS & PESTS

with Nicole



April

**NEBRASKA EXTENSION
IN GAGE COUNTY**
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EXTENSION



Asparagus is a great plant for a home garden. Many people want to get plant starts from a neighbor to start their patch, but it is best to just purchase a new set of crowns. When planting asparagus crowns, dig a trench 8-10 inches deep and bury the crowns only under 2 inches of soil. As the plants poke up through the soil, add more soil until the soil is level. Avoid harvesting asparagus until the third season of growth to allow the crowns enough time for root production. Now is a good time to clean up your existing Asparagus if you haven't yet this spring. For weed control, mulch is best, such as wood chips or grass clippings. Preen that is labeled for use around asparagus can be used in the spring to prevent annual weeds from germinating. In late May to early June, when finished harvesting asparagus for the year, you can break all the spears off below ground, leaving no green growth above ground, and spray glyphosate or Roundup over the bed to reduce weeds. After this, allow the plants to grow back up and produce ferns which will produce seed and help your patch grow. You can cut it back in the fall or in the spring before new growth begins.

Henbit will soon be showing up in our lawns. Henbit is a winter annual weed that has a small purple flower. Henbit grows in areas that are bare and there is no competition from grass or other plants growing in the area. Because henbit is a winter annual, there is no need for chemical control once it begins to bloom, because the seeds for next year are already present. If you can find it soon before the flowers begin, you can spray it with a 2,4-D chemical. If it has already begun to bloom, just mow it off because it will die by the end of May. If you do not want to see henbit again next year, be sure to overseed that area with grass to remove the bare spot, or fill it in with some other type of plant if it is not found in the yard. You can also treat with 2,4-D in the fall to kill any henbit that germinates late this fall to stop it from being a problem in your yard next spring.



GARDENING CALENDAR

- April 1-30: Overseed or Reseed lawn
- April 15-May 15: Clean up perennial flowers
- April 27: Fertilize lawn
- April 27: Plant a Tree for Arbor Day
- Late April-early May: Apply Crabgrass Control
- May 12: Plant summer crops