

# PLANTS & PESTS

with Nicole



# Late May

## NEBRASKA EXTENSION IN GAGE COUNTY

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EXTENSION



## It's Memorial Day...Time to Fertilize the lawn

Now is the time to get a second application of fertilizer on your yard for the spring. Fertilizer is not necessary on lawns, but can help it grow greener and thicker. For a full fertilization schedule, you should fertilize by the holidays, Arbor Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Halloween. Avoid fertilizing the lawn during the summer months to avoid pushing the turf to grow more during periods of hot and dry weather that occurs during the summer. Also, fertilizing in the summer can lead to more leaf burn occurrence than what would happen in the spring and fall due to the hot conditions during application. Be sure to apply all fertilizers and pesticides according the label.

## Ticks

Ticks are commonly associated with outdoor activities. Be careful to avoid ticks attaching themselves to you over the Memorial Day weekend and in all of your outdoor activities. Tick populations are predicted to be high this year and they are all emerging at the same time now due to the cool spring. Ticks are found in grassy or wooded areas clinging to grass and other plant materials waiting for a person or animal to walk by so they can grab on as they pass. If you are going outdoors to areas where ticks are commonly found, wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants and closed toe shoes to reduce exposed areas where ticks can attach to your skin. Also, use insect repellents any time you are outdoors, the repellents with DEET have the highest efficacy. In addition, make sure you check yourself and your outdoor activity companions for ticks when you move indoors to ensure no ticks have attached themselves to anyone which can lead to other health issues.

## GARDENING CALENDAR

- Mid-late May: Prune spring blooming shrubs after they have finished blooming for the year (within 3 weeks after blooming is completed)
- May 28: Apply 2nd fertilizer application to the lawn
- Late May-June: Begin looking for bagworms developing on evergreens, spray when the bags are less than 1 inch long
- June: Begin scouting for squash bugs and squash vine borer
- June 15: Apply white grub control insecticides to the lawn
- June 1-20: Apply Sedgehammer to the lawn for Yellow Nutsedge