

Gardening Q&A

11-05-2018

Q. I am trying to find as good resource to help me identify weeds in our area. Do you have any recommendations?

A. If you get the opportunity to attend a program on weeds go ahead and attend. Check the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office in your county and adjacent counties for scheduled classes. The Southern Living Garden Problem Solver has a pretty good collection of weed photos and control recommendations. The Gardeners Weed Book by Barbara Pleasant is also a good resource.

Q. Is it too late to apply St Augustine sod to our landscape? We hate to wait until next spring if there is only limited danger from cold weather. The sod supplier says they have not had trouble from cold weather in years as long as the sod is applied to accomplish root to soil contact and rolled.

A. I agree with the sod supplier. If you live in Dallas there is some danger from the cold damaging an actively growing new lawn but in this area, it has not been a problem.

Q. What are the recommended groundcovers for a lawn that receives too much shade to grow St Augustine grass? Zoysia grass is not an option is it? I understand it has some shade tolerance.

A. Zoysia grass does not have as much shade tolerance as St Augustine grass. St Augustine is not getting enough sun, zoysia won't either. Consider lirioppe, dwarf ruellia, Asiatic jasmine, and monkey grass. For the shade.

Q. I see that despite a constant battle with cabbage loopers, my broccoli is already forming heads! Will we be able to harvest broccoli for Thanksgiving?

A. It sounds like it. Thanksgiving is our usual goal for the first broccoli harvest. Make sure you give the plants another application of fertilizer to finish the initial heads and meet the needs of the secondary heads. "Winterizer" lawn fertilizer such as 18-6-12 or 15-5-10 works well.

Q. Remind me what we have to spray on our peach and plum trees at this time of the year?

A. We spray copper hydroxide (Kocide) on the trees to combat the bacterial diseases. The Kocide will knock off the leaves but that is part of the treatment. Bacterial leaf spots reduce yield and fruit quality.

Q. Is there any option with the acorns? They are so messy and they get stuck in the dogs paws. I am also afraid with this bumper crop we will be overwhelmed by oak seedlings!

A. The best option is to be patient and let the squirrels, doves, blue jays, grackles, woodpeckers and deer clean up the acorns. Most acorns do not germinate so that should not be an issue. If you want to speed up the wildlife feeding frenzy, pile up the acorns where they will be driven over. It allows smaller birds to access a bigger share.