

Frost, freeze damage Kansas plants

MANHATTAN — Kansas will need weeks to assess the damage from the Easter weekend's many record-breaking low temperatures.

"This was an exceptional event. We'll be gaining new insights into the cold damage that plants can suffer after they've experienced unusually early growth — this year due to our abnormally warm temperatures in March," said Ward Upham, who coordinates Kansas State University's Master Gardener program.

Orchard and vineyard owners and other Kansas fruit growers are likely to suffer the biggest economic losses, Upham said. For while, however, the plants in landscapes may actually look the worst.

The cold weather burned back (scorched) or wilted the brand-new leaves on many trees and shrubs. It killed the emerging top growth of many unprotected spring bulb and perennial plants.

"Nearly half the plants in my home landscape look boiled, rather than blanched — sort of like spinach. They froze so thoroughly that their cells burst and collapsed," said Chip Miller, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist for the Central Kansas District.

The cold also killed the new, green terminal growth on some branch tips.

"Even with that, our well-established ornamentals aren't likely to die," Upham said. "If all the growth on a vigorous tree or shrub freezes, the plant's dormant buds become active when the weather warms up again, and they eventually put out new growth."

For ornamentals that already are under stress, however, any sudden, deep cold snap can be life-threatening.

"The general causes for existing stress usually come down to transplant shock, drought, herbicide

drift or some other kind of damage," Miller said.

The only other plants that may have suffered killing injury are the marginally hardy ones, such as most Japanese maple, all mimosa and many magnolia varieties, Upham said. Semi-hardy garden staples that require winter mulching (e.g., mums) may have died, too, if they'd already been uncovered.

"... all of which means landscapes may look hopeless now. But they're not," Miller said. "Besides, all we can do is wait patiently and see what happens."

In contrast, the outlook for the state's 2007 fruit crop is "dire," he said.

Upham explained: "If fruit tree buds have just started to swell, most can still produce fruit after going through temperatures in the teens."

"As you might expect, though, the more a bud develops, the more warmth it needs to survive. And, by Easter, most of our fruit plants were either blooming or so close to blooming that very little of their wintertime cold hardiness remained."

With the tree fruits commonly grown in Kansas, at least 90 percent of fully-open blossoms will die whenever temperatures drop into the 22- to 25-degree F. range, Upham said.

By this year's Easter Sunday evening, 11 of the Kansas Weather Data Library's statewide network of automated stations had recorded a weekly low in the 19- to 21-degree range. Tribune had registered the highest low with 23 degrees, and Scandia the lowest with 15.

"Our apricots often freeze out, but this year I'm anticipating few to no peaches, pears, plums, cherries or apples," Upham said. "We'll be lucky if some exceptions emerge, due to growers' efforts at protecting their trees, to microclimate differences or varieties that

tend to bloom late."

Whether greenhouse and nursery vegetable, perennial and annual flower seedlings survived will depend on how much protection each grower could provide, he said.

Out in the garden, though, some hardy vegetables — asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, turnips and kale — can withstand temperatures in the mid 20s without harm.

"The above-ground growth on asparagus may well be water-soaked looking - basically dead now," Upham said. "As usual, though, continual growth will still be coming up from underground until the end of asparagus season."

Early vegetables that are frost-tolerant include Chinese cabbage, collards, Bibb lettuce, leaf lettuce, mustard, Irish potatoes, radishes, spinach and Swiss chard. In most areas, they probably needed some protective mulch to get through the cold snap unscathed, he said.

"I covered lots of plants in my own garden with several inches of straw. But, I had enough onion plants that I left some uncovered, just to see what would happen. On the uncovered plants some leaves ended up damaged, but other leaves were fine," Upham said. "I also left the potato plants uncovered, so all their new growth got killed back. But, they'll be sending up new growth from dormant 'eyes'."

Gimme a....



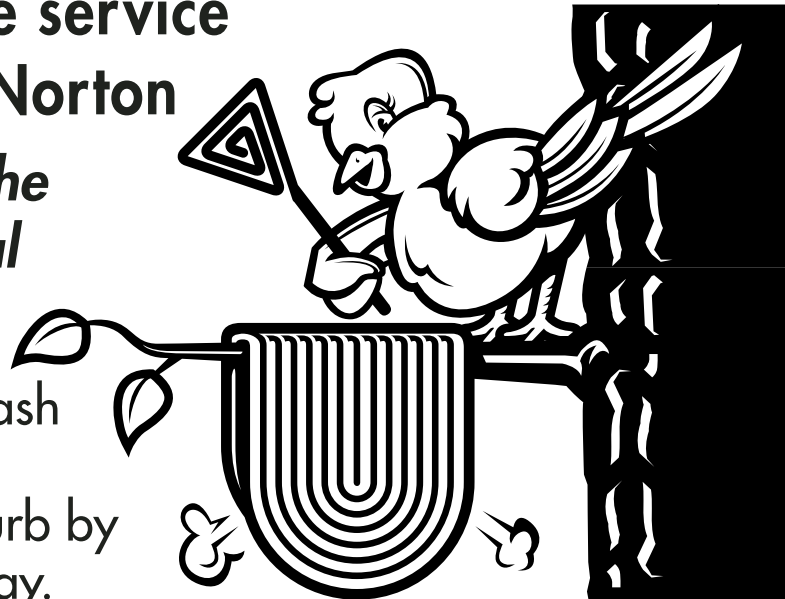
Norton Community High School hopefuls endured early morning practices in order to try out for the cheerleading squad. These girls worked hard to get their routine perfected. — Telegram photo by Sherry Hickman

City-Wide Clean-Up

Spring Clean-up is a free service provided by the City of Norton

If residents take items to the landfill themselves, normal county fees will apply

City Trucks will make special trash pickup during these days. All items **MUST** be out at the curb by 8 a.m. on your regular route day.



Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, April 23, 24 and 25
NO ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP IN THE ALLEY!

All types of trash will be picked up on your regular trash route day EXCEPT yard waste, tires, and household hazardous waste. Yard waste will be picked up on your regular yard waste route day. There will be a \$10.00 charge per item for appliances with Freon. Tree limbs must be cut no longer than 8 feet long. Yard waste must be in a solid container. Fireplace ash must be in plastic bags.

The maximum limit of items the City will pick up at each residence is one load of household items and 1 load of tree limbs. Normal household trash will be picked up in the usual manner.

SPECIAL NOTE: TRASH MUST BE SEPARATED, i.e., tree limbs from metals, etc. because they are disposed of in different locations at the landfill. Mattresses and furniture need to be separate from other trash. Hazardous waste such as paint, motor oil, batteries, pesticides, poisons, caustic chemicals, etc. WILL NOT be picked up and should be taken by owners directly to the county landfill.

NOTE: Twice-a-week pickup begins the week of April 9. Yard waste must be placed at the curb on your yard waste route day, and must be in a solid container.

For Handicap Accommodations, Call the City Office at 877-5000

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS
 Rural Telephone Service Company, Inc.) Plaintiff
 vs.) Case No. 2006-Cv-52
 Lenus Schuck) Defendant
 (Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 26)

APPRAISER'S REPORT

We the undersigned appraisers, were duly appointed by the Court to appraise certain land and easements, all as set out in these proceedings, and ordered to file this Appraisers' Report in the Clerk's office of this Court on or before the 4th day of April, 2007.

On the 16th day of March, 2007, Notice in substantially statutory form was mailed to the Defendant named in the Petition for Eminent Domain, of a public hearing to be held on the 30th of March, 2007, at 3:00 P.M. at Norton, Kansas.

Further, on the 16th day of March, 2007, notice in substantially statutory form was published in the Norton Telegram, a newspaper of general circulation in Norton County, Kansas.

On the 30th day of March, 2007, the public hearing was commenced and concluded.

On the 17th day of January, 2007, the Court found that Rural Telephone has the power of eminent domain and that the taking is necessary for the lawful corporate purpose of Rural Telephone.

NOW THEREFORE, we the undersigned appraisers submit the following appraisal on the land and easement described in the Petition for Eminent Domain, and determine damages resulting from the taking of property rights described therein, as set out below:

TRACT: West half (W/2) of Section Thirty-one (31), and the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) of Section Thirty (30), Township Five (5) South Range Twenty-two (22) and the West Half (W/2) of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4), and the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW/4 of SW/4) of Section Nineteen (19), Township Five (5), Range Twenty-two (22), West of the Sixth (6th) P.M., Norton County, Kansas.
 OWNER: Lenus Schuck
 PO Box 187
 Lenora, KS 67645
 LIENS: None
 PARTIES IN POSSESSION: Rural Telephone is not aware of any parties in possession other than the landowner.
 Value of entire tract immediately before condemnation \$229,530.00
 Value of tract remaining immediately after condemnation \$229,384.54
 Total award to the owner \$145.46

We the undersigned appraisers, made actual view of the land to be taken; and hearing was held for the submission of oral or written testimony from the plaintiff and from the defendant on the 30th day of March, 2007. That the petition for Eminent Domain in these proceedings recites that Plaintiff seeks a permanent easement on the herein described premises. In making our appraisal, we considered the value of the tract described herein, less the value of each tract remaining immediately after the condemnation of the permanent easement. This is based on the premises that the permanent easement is only a partial taking of the property.

That we herewith submit our appraisal of the land and interests taken as set out in the Petition for Eminent Domain, and as described in this Report, with owner of record and appraisals as shown herein.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2007.

Robert Wyatt
 Robert Wyatt
Don McMillan
 Don McMillan

Monte Jessup
 Monte Jessup

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of April, 2007.



By *Paula A. Engel*
 Notary Public