

# Your garden needs mulch

**Kay Melia**  
Master Gardener

I'm sitting here trying to reach a decision of utmost gardening importance, and after a show of hands, I finally have an answer.

I have determined that the absolutely without question nicest thing you can do for your backyard vegetable garden right now, is to mulch it! No other decision you make concerning the summer-long care of your garden is as important as mulching it. Nothing. Not watering, not weeding, not fertilizing...nothing! The thing of it is that if you mulch your garden crop now, you will not have to water it, weed it, or fertilize it as often as you normally would. That is a proven fact! Think about it. A substantial layer of mulch alongside your growing plants will suppress the growth of weeds, and very few will show up the rest of the summer. It will also shade the sun from completely drying out the soil, and you will save untold dollars on your water bill. And finally, the heavy layer of mulch will also slowly release a few nutrients to your garden soil. The big payoff comes next fall when you plow the mulch deeply into the soil where it will biodegrade as it provides a winter supply of food for the earthworms that will surely be attracted to your garden due to your generosity in providing it for them.

Do I have your attention yet? If I do, you may be asking questions like "Alright smart guy... where do I find this mulch stuff, what is it made of, and how much does it cost?" Actually, most of us have it available right there in the yard, and it doesn't cost a dime.

In many cases, I may be preaching to the choir here. Many of you, particularly the veteran gardeners among you, know all about the good things

that can happen when you add great gobs of biodegradable material (read mulch) to your growing garden. If you don't mulch, it doesn't mean your garden is doomed. It's just that mulching makes your job so much easier, and the garden is going to be so much more productive, this year and next.

Choosing the right mulch is a snap! The best one is the one that is most available to you, and that would be dry grass clippings. Don't use them when they are freshly cut as they will form an airless barrier at the soil surface and will tend to rot, causing an unacceptable odor. Dry them out completely before using them. My favorite mulch, by far, is leaves. Like those that fall from trees. I store dozens of big trash bags full every fall, and use them the following summer. Most of the ones I use have been run through a lawnmower and as such are mixed with a few grass clippings which makes them even more useful. (Thanks Ron!) In the summer, as soon as soil temperatures approach 65 to 70 degrees, I force many, many handfuls of these delicious leaves alongside just about everything I have growing, and then sit back and watch the plants thrive.

Other materials that make great mulch include straw, rotted hay, dry horse, cow, or chicken manure, shredded newspaper, and shredded wood chips. Just about anything that is biodegradable after being plowed under next fall is fair game.

Indeed, mulch is a protective cover placed over the soil near your vegetable plants and helps retain soil moisture, reduce erosion, provide nutrients, and suppress weed growth and seed germination. Mulching the garden mimics the leaf cover that is formed on forest floors. Now, today or tomorrow, is the time to apply it!

# Lighter than air



Eisenhower Elementary students held their end of the year science fair on May 18 at the school. The fair featured exhibits of science experiments students had conducted to learn about scientific process and experimentation. The fair was open to parents to view after the exhibits had been judged and scored. Pictured, 4th grader Lexi Kats shows off a science experiment to her mother, Monica, at the science fair.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

## POLICE LOG

<p><b>May 21</b> Vehicle stop Theft report Report of children left unattended Report of two males running out of empty rental house (27) Click It or Ticket vehicle stops <b>May 22</b> (4) vehicle stops (23) Click It or Ticket vehicle stops Item recovered from theft Report of two small children walking in street unattended Keys locked in vehicle Court paper service <b>May 23</b> (2) vehicle stops (56) Click It or Ticket vehicle stops Report of possible phone harassment</p>	<p>rassment DUI, one arrest <b>May 24</b> Vehicle stop Civil standby Report of phone harassment Two-vehicle accident (2) Seatbelt citation, one arrest <b>May 25</b> Welfare check (2) Keys locked in vehicle <b>May 25</b> Vehicle stop Request to block off two parking stalls in front of theater to take pictures Returned found license plate Keys locked in vehicle <b>May 26</b> (7) vehicle stops Dog running loose, owner picked up Report of water leak</p>	<p>Request for extra patrol Request to remove individual from business Report that house was broken into sometime within the last 10 months Two-vehicle accident, Loves Request to speak to officer concerning civil matter Civil stand by <b>May 27</b> Welfare check Dog running loose, picked up by animal control Vehicle stop Keys locked in vehicle Damage to concession stand, Blue Jay field Dog complaint Report of property damage</p>
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# University is hosting youth camps

The Fort Hays State University Science and Mathematics Education Institute invites young adults entering grades six through nine to participate in a new five-day summer program.

From June 25-June 29, the university will hold its first Art and Science Summer Program focused on roller coasters. Participants of this program will not only learn about the physics of theme park rides, but will also construct and design working model roller coasters.

This program, held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day in room 107 of Rarick Hall on the campus, will encourage unique creativity and originality from all participating individuals.

Students must provide their own sack lunch. The deadline to register for this program is June 15. Registration costs \$60 and space is limited to 35 participants. Online registration is available at [fhsu.edu/smei](http://fhsu.edu/smei) under 2012 Art Camp.

The university's Math and Science Education Institute invites kids to play with water and "Make a Splash with Math" during the university's Mathematics Camp, June 18-21.

The Mathematics Camp, held in Rarick Hall on campus, will help kids entering grades five through seven become more familiar and confident in their math foundations. By using basic math skills, they can contribute to the conception, design and creation of a water park.

Starting at 8 a.m. campers will interact with peers and instructors on campus who will help them grow confident in their use of math by introducing them to the construction of water parks, from water slides to concession stands.

The camp will end at noon each day. At the end of the four-day program, the children will celebrate their success by playing exciting, water-based

games. The deadline to register for this water experience is June 6. Registration costs \$60 per child, but need-based financial assistance is available upon request. Space is limited to 30 children. Online registration is available at [www.fhsu.edu/smei/camps](http://www.fhsu.edu/smei/camps) under 2012 Math Camp Flyer.

**James E. Reeves**  
DPM, P.A.  
Norton Hospital Specialty Clinic  
**Tuesday, June 5, 2012**  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Call to schedule an appointment  
**PHONE: 785-877-3351**

**The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year.**

- Early Childhood Special Education Teacher
- Head Start Teacher (Atwood, St. Francis)
- Speech/Language Pathologist
- Gifted Consultant
- Interrelated Teacher
- Head Start Aide (Norton, Atwood)
- Head Start Para (Oakley)
- Head Start Bus Driver (Oakley)

To receive an application contact Rose Langley at 785-672-3125 extension 200. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. \*NKESC is an EOE\*

**Nineteenth Annual Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show**  
Sunday, June 3, 2012 • Main Street, Selden, Kansas

No Admission or Entry Fees  
**Antique Tractors & Cars**  
Classic Motorcycles and Small Engines Welcome

**Events Include**  
Raffle—Pedal Tractor  
10:00 am—Horseshoe Pitching Competition  
Antique Baler Demonstration  
1:00 pm—Kiddie Tractor Pull (ages 5-6, 7-8, 9-10)  
2:00 pm—Barrel Roll Competition  
—Washer Drop Competition  
3:30 pm—Parade  
Children's Raffle and Coin Toss

**Parade at 3:00 pm**  
Plaques awarded to top exhibitors (5 Tractor/5 Car/2 Small Engine)  
**Come join the family fun and view antique classic tractors, cars, small engines**  
Live entertainment during and after lunch  
Barrel Train Rides  
FOOD AND DRINKS SERVED ALL DAY  
HAMBURGERS/BBQ BARK

**Sponsored by: Selden Community Foundation**  
For More Information: 785-386-4231 • 785-386-4536 • 785-386-8033  
Bring Your Own Lawn Chairs  
Information available online at <http://www.skywavs.org/towns/Selden/events.htm> or via email [seldenpl@ruraltel.net](mailto:seldenpl@ruraltel.net)

# June Community Calendar

<p><b>Monday, May 28</b> Rotary, Town &amp; Country Kitchen-east Highway 36, noon-1 p.m. Lenora TOPS, Lenora United Parish Church, 5-6 p.m. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 283, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Norton TOPS, United Methodist Church-Fellowship Hall, 7-8 p.m. Divorce Support Group, United Methodist Church-Odds &amp; Ends Room, 8-9 p.m. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 283, 8-9 p.m.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, May 29</b> Open God Squad, VFW Hall-north Highway 283, noon-1 p.m. Open 12 Step Women's Group, VFW Hall-north Highway 283, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 283, 8:30-9:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, May 30</b> Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 36, noon-1 p.m. Pool Committee Meeting, Norton City Office, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge, Norton Manor, 7-10 p.m. Roundtable Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 36, 8:30-9:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Thursday, May 31</b> Norton County Commissioners, Norton County Courthouse-2nd Floor, 9 a.m.-noon Preschool Story Hour at the Library, Norton Public Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 36, 8-9 p.m. Fireworks Fundraiser, Pamida parking lot, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. lunch, 5-7 p.m. supper (hamburgers, chips and drink)-donations</p> <p><b>Friday, June 1</b> Free Car Seat Installation, Norton County Health Department-801 N. Norton, 8 a.m.-noon. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 36, noon-1 p.m. Library hosts program by Astrophysicist-Astronomer, Norton Recreation Gym-Washington</p>	<p>Square, 2-4 p.m. Non-smoking Open Alcoholics Anonymous, Norton Christian Church-208 N. Kansas Ave. 7-8 p.m. 7th, 8th and 9th Graders at The Rock, The Rock-corner of Main and State Streets, 7-10 p.m. Open Al-Anon, VFW Hall-north Highway 36, 7-8 p.m. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 36, 8:30-9:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday, June 2</b> Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 36, 1-2 p.m. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 36, 8-9 p.m. Norton County Horse Council-Clinician, Norton County Equine Facility-south Elmwood Park, 2-day event, for questions call Dave Donovan 785-871-0337</p> <p><b>Sunday, June 3</b> God's Pantry, Trinity Episcopal Church-corner of State and Waverly Streets, 3-4 p.m. Open Norton Narcotics Anonymous, United Methodist Church-Fellowship Hall, 7-8 p.m. Norton County Horse Council-Clinician, Norton County Equine Facility-south Elmwood Park, 2-day event, for questions call Dave Donovan 785-871-0337</p> <p><b>Monday, June 4</b> Norton County Commissioners, Norton County Courthouse-2nd Floor, 9 a.m.-noon Rotary, Town &amp; Country Kitchen-east Highway 36, noon-1 p.m. Lenora TOPS, Lenora United Parish Church, 5-6 p.m. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 283, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Norton TOPS, United Methodist Church-Fellowship Hall, 7-8 p.m. Almena City Council, Almena City Hall, 7-8 p.m. Clayton City Council, Clayton City Offices, 7-8 p.m. Open Alcoholics Anonymous, VFW Hall-north Highway 283, 8-9 p.m.</p>
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The Community Calendar is brought to you by . . .

**THE NORTON TELEGRAM**

To get your event included on the calendar Call Mike at 785-877-3361 or send by email: [mstephens@nwkansas.com](mailto:mstephens@nwkansas.com)