

# Expert gardener shares tips for gardening

**By Pat Schiefen**  
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 Kay Melia, a familiar voice heard on radio and television for 57 years, grew his reputation as a gardener along with many good things to eat. Melia has written a book "The Gardener's Common Sense Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Midwest" which he calls the "down and dirty way to handle a productive vegetable garden."



Melia

He wrote, recorded and mailed out copies of his short garden show from 1986 to 2006. The show was aired on around 12 radio stations by other broadcasters he knew.

"I accumulated lots of copy from the show," Melia said. "And I decided to turn it into a book."

In his book he has included tips on soil, watering, preserving, varieties, recipes for cooking and tips for growing 28 fruits and vegetables. The crops he talks about are asparagus, green beans, dry shelling beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, lettuce, okra, onions, parsnips, peas, peppers, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, spinach, summer and winter squash, tomatoes, turnips and watermelon.

Melia said his favorite crop to grow is onions. He said the reasons people don't grow big sweet onions is that they don't keep them wet, don't plant plants and don't keep them weed free. He said that if you want green onions of scallions to eat you need to plant sets. Sets are little dry bulbs that can be bought by the pound or in a package. The plants are sold in twine-tied bunches or

bundles. He said to plant the onion sets around three weeks before the expected last frost date. Onions love cool soil. The deeper you plant the little bulbs the more white tender part of the green onion you will have. They can be planted as close as 2 inches apart as they will be eaten early. Also plant a row of radishes and a little leaf lettuce and you will have fresh vegetables in 35 to 40 days.

Onion plants need to be planted early as well, he said.

"I have had onion plants in the ground at a time when the temperature dropped to 20 degrees and they were not harmed," Melia said. "Onion plants should never be allowed to dry out. Keep them comfortable moist from the day you plant them until a few days before you pull them."

Irrigating onions can help to prevent the only disease problems of blight and purple blotch. These problems are caused by moisture on the leaves which can be aggravated by watering with a lawn sprinkler.

"The varieties I like are Candy for yellow onions, Super Star for yellow onions and Stockton Red Sweet for red," Melia said. Onions will let you know when they are ready to be harvested. The tops of the plants will flop over and around half of the bulb should be above ground. Its time to stop watering. After all the onions has gone down pull them from the ground in about two weeks.

He said he does not leave them lying in the garden more than 24 hours. Bright sun will sunscald them and they will not store as long. The sweeter the onion the harder it

is to store. The best way he's found to store them other than braiding is to dehydrate them.

One of his recipes for onions is the following.

**Onion Patties**  
 3/4 cup flour  
 2 teaspoons baking powder  
 1 tablespoon sugar  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 1 tablespoon corn meal  
 3/4 cup milk  
 2 1/2 cups sweet onion, finely chopped.  
 vegetable oil

Combine the dry ingredients and add milk slowly while blending. Stir in the onions and mix well. Using a tablespoon, drop small mounds of batter into a skillet containing the hot vegetable oil and press down slightly with the back of a fork. Fry until golden brown on both sides, turning once.

Melia has been married to Marilyn Johnson, originally from Garden City, for 57 years.

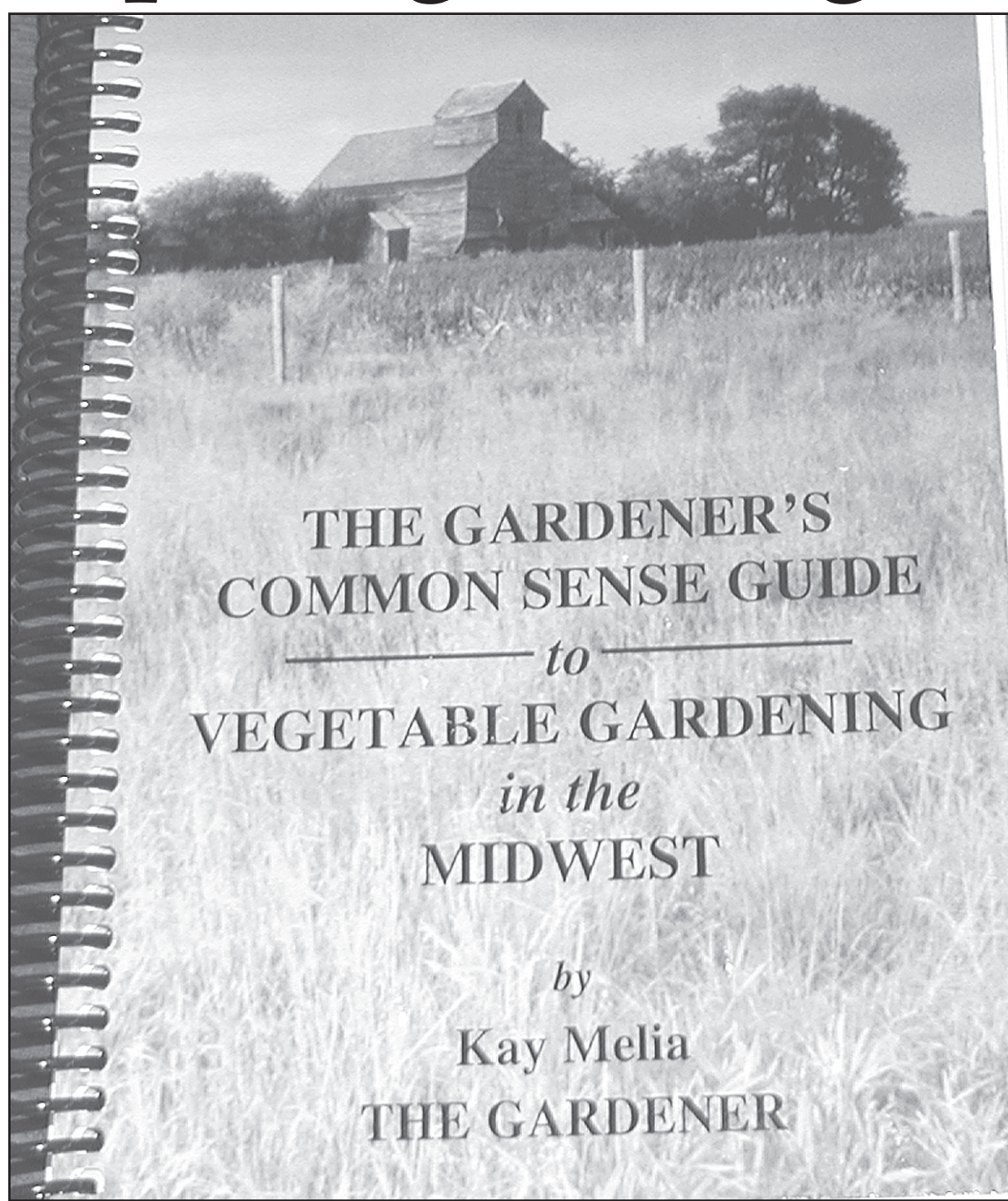
He has three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Melia said his book will be available at Jacque's Hallmark, Elliott's Furniture and Prairie Rose Floral in Goodland.

The book will also be available in St. Francis, Colby and Hays. It will cost \$15 including the tax. He said he has already sold around 300 copies.

He said anyone who wants to can grow a garden and have produce that tastes better than that that comes from the store.

Melia said he looks forward to a rematch for the Grand Champion onions at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair with Larry Keirns next year.



Kay Melia's book "The Gardener's Common Sense Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Midwest" is available at Jacque's Hallmark, Elliott's Furniture and Prairie Rose Floral. The book sells for \$15.

## Veteran visits Washington Memorial

MEMORIAL, from Page 1

Corke lives in Pratt, Katherine Morgan in Smith Center, Lois Kraiser in South Dakota and Paula Koogler in Florida.

He married Delores in 1950 and they had two other sons, Rodney Corke of Goodland and Roger

Corke of Holtom City, Texas and another daughter, Carlotta McDermott of Colby who runs the Butterfly Cafe at Renner Field in Goodland.

Corke said he did not end up using his military training. He said he finally retired from farming a year to a year and a half ago. He belongs to the First Baptist Church and sings in

the Sagebrush Barbershop Chorus.

"I was really surprised and thrilled to go to Washington, D. C.," Corke said. "It was interesting to see the memorial."

Former Kansas Senator Bob Dole often greets veterans visiting the memorial and Corke said he greeted his group.

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court. All ages are at the time of the ticket.

**Aug. 30:** Sarah M. Allen, 23, Moore, Okla., \$135 for speeding, 85/70.

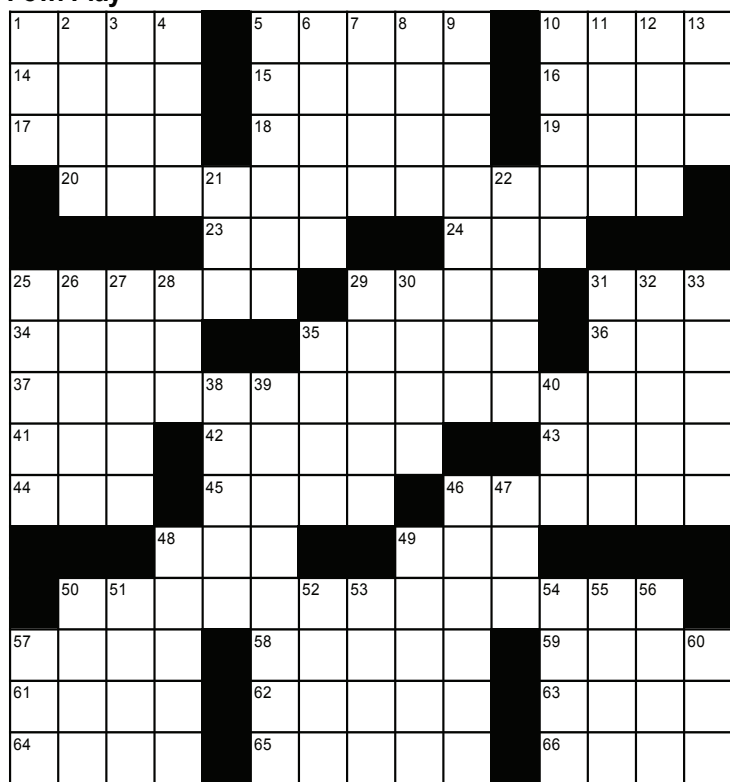
Robert M. Coates, 48, Pauline, S.C., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying Unified Carrier fees.

**Sept. 3:** Karel Tousek, 60, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, \$225 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, intoxicating beverage in commercial motor vehicle on duty.

**Sept. 4:** James Allen Ward Sr., 53, Taneytown, Md., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying Unified Carrier registration.

## Crossword Puzzle

### Fowl Play



American Profile Hometown Content

081123

### ACROSS

1. Terry item
5. Puts on a long face
10. Payroll limits
14. Harry and William's school
15. \_\_\_ garde
16. Neglect to name
17. Alka-Seltzer sound
18. Yorba \_\_, Calif.
19. Make like
20. Ruin a person's plans, perhaps
23. Suffix with butyl
24. Fed. property manager
25. Alcatraz inmate of the 1930s
29. Assist larcenously
31. Have hat in hand
34. Stress, so it's said
35. Gaming pioneer
36. Tin Man's tool
37. Like an Olympic skater, say

### DOWN

1. TKO caller
2. Ear-related
3. Classic TV clown
4. Automaker Ferrari
5. "Cheers" bartender Sam \_\_\_
6. Sheep-like
7. Glazier's unit
8. Pulls the plug on
9. Walks like a tosspot
10. Drink with marshmallows
11. Andy's TV and radio pal
12. Prop for Santa
13. Sloppy digs

65. Flight school achievements
66. Place of bliss

21. Barbie's beau
22. Port of old Rome
25. Like many zoo animals
26. Be of one mind
27. Diver's prize
28. Tolkien beast
29. Almanac section
30. Cries from the flock
31. Bursts into tears
32. Speak highly of
33. Trait carriers
35. Violinist Leopold or actor Mischa
38. Worm-\_\_\_ (decrepit)
39. Knock-down-drag-out affairs
40. Neptune's realm
46. Skewed views
47. Young fellow

48. Bull's sound
49. Japanese cultural center
50. Surfer's "catch"
51. Chimps, oranges et al.
52. String tie
53. Russia's \_\_\_ Mountains
54. Strong motivation
55. Faucet word
56. "Twittering Machine" artist Paul
57. Voting "nay"
60. Bard's nightfall

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

## SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

### Saturday

- 10 a.m.** 7/11 CBS College Football Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets at Georgia Bulldogs from Sanford Stadium
- 12:28 a.m.** 20/28 ESPN College Football Teams TBA
- 10:30 a.m.** 30/27 FXSP College Football Kansas Jayhawks at Missouri Tigers from Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Mo.
- 12 p.m.** 3/9 NBC College Football Grambling State Tigers at Southern Jaguars from Louisiana Superdome
- 1:30 p.m.** 4/6 ABC College Football Regional Coverage - Teams TBA
- 2 p.m.** 7/11 CBS College Football Auburn Tigers at Alabama Crimson Tide from Bryant-Denny Stadium
- 3 p.m.** 30/27 FXSP High School Football 5A Championships
- 5 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Football Teams TBA
- 8:30 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Las Vegas Invitational from Las Vegas, Nev.
- 30/27 FXSP College Basketball Colorado Buffaloes at Stanford Cardinal from Palo Alto, Calif**

### Sunday

- 11 a.m.** 7/11 CBS NFL Football Indianapolis Colts at Cleveland Browns from Cleveland Browns Stadium
- 22/28 ESPN PBA Bowling Clr Carmen Salvino Scorpion Championship from Hawthorn Lanes Vernon Hills, Ill.**
- 2 p.m.** 7/11 CBS NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at Oakland Raiders from Network Associates Coliseum
- 3:30 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Orlando Tournament: 3rd Place Game from Orlando, Fla.
- 4:30 p.m.** 30/27 FXSP College Basketball North Carolina-Asheville Bulldogs at North Carolina Tar Heels from The Dean Smith Center
- 6 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Orlando Tournament: Championship from Orlando, Fla.
- 6:15 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN Women's College Basketball Oklahoma Lady Sooners at Connecticut Lady Huskies from The Hartford Civic Center
- 3/9 NBC Sunday Night Football Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings from The Metrodome**
- 8:30 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Anaheim Classic: Championship from Anaheim, Calif.

### Monday

- 4 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN SportsCenter Monday Kick-off
- 5 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball ACC/Big Ten Challenge Wisconsin Badgers at Virginia Tech Hokies from Cassell Coliseum
- 6:30 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN Monday Night Football Jacksonville Jaguars at Houston Texans from Reliant Stadium

### Tuesday

- 5 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Ohio State Buckeyes at Miami Hurricanes from Miami Arena
- 5:30 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball ACC/Big Ten Challenge Clemson Tigers at Illinois Fighting Illini from Assembly Hall

- 7 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Duke Blue Devils at Purdue Boilermakers from Mackey Arena
- 7:30 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball ACC/Big Ten Challenge Virginia Cavaliers at Minnesota Golden Gophers from Williams Arena

### Wednesday

- 5 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 Jimmy V Week Jim Valvano's Espy Speech
- 5:15 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Indiana Hoosiers at Wake Forest Demon Deacons from Joel Memorial Coliseum
- 5:30 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball ACC/Big Ten Challenge Penn State Nittany Lions at Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets from Alexander Mem. Stadium
- 7:15 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN College Basketball North Carolina Tar Heels at Michigan State Spartans from Detroit, Mich.
- 7:30 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball ACC/Big Ten Challenge Florida State Seminoles at Northwestern Wildcats from Welsh-Ryan Arena
- 8 p.m.** 30/27 FXSP College Basketball Texas Christian Horned Frogs at Colorado Buffaloes from The Coors Events Conference Center

### Thursday

- 5 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball USC Trojans at Oklahoma Sooners from The Lloyd Noble Center
- 5:30 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN College Football Louisville Cardinals at Rutgers Scarlet Knights from Rutgers Stadium
- 6 p.m.** 28/40 TNT NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Dallas Mavericks from American Airlines Center
- 7 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball UCLA Bruins at Texas Longhorns from The Erwin Center
- 8:30 p.m.** 28/40 TNT NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at Denver Nuggets from Pepsi Center
- 9 p.m.** 30/27 FXSP College Basketball Oklahoma State Cowboys at Washington Huskies from Hec Edmundson Pavilion
- 11 p.m.** 28/40 TNT Inside the NBA presented by Hyundai

### Friday

- 2:30 p.m.** 23/29 ESPN2 Women's College Soccer NCAA College Cup: Semifinal #1 from Wakemed Soccer Park in Cary, N.C.
- 6 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN NBA Basketball Portland Trail Blazers at Boston Celtics from TD Banknorth Garden
- 23/29 ESPN2 College Football 2008 Marathon MAC Championship from Ford Field in Detroit, Mich.**
- 6:30 p.m.** 30/27 FXSP College Hockey Michigan State Spartans at Michigan Wolverines from Yost Ice Arena
- 8:30 p.m.** 22/28 ESPN NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Utah Jazz from Energy Solutions Arena
- 8:30 p.m.** ESPN NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers from Staples Center
- 10:30 p.m.** ESPN2 College Basketball Anaheim Classic: Semifinal #2

# The Goodland Star-News

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