

Gardener amazed with slicing garden onion

By Kay Melia

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As long as I live, I shall always view the common garden onion with amazement, wonder, surprise, astonishment, admiration and curiosity. And if I could think of another synonym, I would use it to describe the uncommon growth and production of the plain old slicing garden onion.

Oh yeah...I like to eat 'em too! It goes without saying that I love to grow them. Nothing in my garden gets as much TLC as the six rows of onions, amounting to about 180 foot of row that I plant each year. In past



kay melia

• the gardener

years, the resulting crop amounts to many pounds more than my family can absorb, even with winter storage, so we share them with others and offer a few at the Farmer's Market. This year's crop will be a little short because of light hail and heavy wind-driven rain that broke off some of the very large leaves. There are some very definite

"do's and don'ts" that must be observed when growing prize-winning onions. First, do not plant the little bulbs or sets if you expect to harvest big slicing onions. Bulbs and sets are to be planted if you wish to harvest green onions, sometimes called scallions. You must plant the little onion plant that is usually available in bunches of 60 to 75 onions in twine-tied or rubber-banded bunches. This the most serious misunderstanding a gardener can have when trying to grow the big

slicers, probably because the little bulbs look like they should mature into bigger bulbs, while the green plants resemble scallions. Ah the mysteries of a backyard garden! Another serious oversight by onion growers is failing to get their plants into the ground early enough. The earlier the better should be the rallying cry of all those who plant onions. Onion plants are very hardy, ignoring temperatures as low as 22 degrees, and generally thrive on the coolness of early spring. March 20th is a good planting date in Northwest Kansas. Wait until May 15th and the crop just won't produce the big ones

in the heat of summer. After the onion plants are in the ground, every effort should be made to keep them weed free. If onions have serious competition from weeds, you'll likely be disappointed with undersized onions. Because of the short distance between plants, (generally between 4 and 5 inches) you must lay the hoe aside and utilize the thumb and forefinger to rid the row of weeds. But the absolutely most important aspect of growing 15 to 20 ounce onions is to never let them get dry. Never! Water them the day after you plant them, and be sure the soil

around them is always damp. In the heat of summer, an everyday drink would be appreciated! For every leaf on the onion plant, there will be a ring of onion in the bulb. The larger the leaf, the thicker the ring, the larger the onion. There will be a ring form for every leaf! When they are mature, the top will fall over, of it's own accord. Don't force it. It will do the job without your help. Plant the plants instead of the bulbs or sets. Plant early. Remove the weeds. Water incessantly. Harvest the big sweet ones. Be amazed!!

Be wary of summer home improvement scams

By Derek Schmidt

Kansas Attorney General

Summer can be a time to catch up on those home improvement projects that have been building up through the winter months.

So with the increase in home improvement projects, it's no surprise that our office also sees an increase in complaints about home-improvement scams.

Now, a dispute between a legitimate home-improvement contractor and a homeowner about the quality, timeliness or nature of work provided more often than not is a private legal matter over which our office has no jurisdiction. But when the contractor is fraudulent or engages in deceptive or unconscionable practices to scam Kansans out of their hard-earned money, the law gives us the authority to intervene. Homeowners should be espe-

cially wary of people going door-to-door offering services. It is not uncommon for these roving sales people to target homes where the homeowner is particularly vulnerable - an older person who lives alone, for example.

One common scam involves someone claiming to be a contractor approaching a homeowner saying they have leftover materials from a nearby job. Then, they offer to do the work at a highly discounted rate if the homeowner can pay a portion in advance. Remember, if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is. It is always a good idea to get multiple bids on home improvement projects to ensure quotes are within the competitive rates.

The best advice our office can give when selecting a contractor is to use your references. Working with a well-known, reputable, local

contractor is always the best way to go. Friends, family and neighbors are the best sources for recommendations. The Better Business Bureau offers an online directory of accredited businesses, and there are a number of websites that offer reviews of local contractors. You

should be sure any contractor you work with is insured and carries all of the required local permits. Finally, do not give final payment for any work until it has been completed to your satisfaction.

If you do fall victim to a scam, our office is here to help. You can

file a complaint with our consumer protection division by visiting our website, www.ksag.org, or by calling (785) 296-3751 or (800) 432-2310. Even if we find that there has not been a violation of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act, the staff in our office can provide

information on options to settle your disputes. This includes our mediation program, small claims court or contacting a private attorney or the Better Business Bureau.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Grant helped libraries to digitize city maps

A \$30,000 grant has helped the University of Kansas Libraries digitize and deliver slices of history in the form of highly detailed, full-color maps that document 241 cities and towns in Kansas including Goodland.

The Sanborn Map Co. created maps of cities across the United States at intervals of four or five years, starting in the late 1860s. The maps provided insurance underwriters with information about the locations of businesses, the structures in which they were located and any information needed to assess their liability for insurance purposes, such as building materials used. Now they show how cities changed and grew over time and offer insights into Kansas history.

"There's a tremendous amount of detail - where windows were located, number of stories to a building, roof composition," Sherry Williams, curator of collections at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, said of the maps. "Historians, historic preservationists, architects and city planners love these maps, and making them freely available online will bring them to whole new audiences."

Before this project, visitors to KU's Spencer Research Library could see and use the complete set of print maps for Kansas, but no color digital versions were available online until now.

The grant, from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, funded the digitization of the maps documenting Kansas cities and towns from 1883 through 1922 (which are now in the public domain); KU Libraries provided the online home for the digital collection, comprising 5,245 images, at <http://cds.lib.ku.edu/sanborn-maps>. The collection is searchable by city, county and date.

Williams served as the project director, and Wade Garrison, librarian with the Center for Digital Scholarship at KU Libraries, was the project manager.

Spencer Research Library and its staff are dedicated to the preservation of diverse collections ranging from medieval manuscripts and other rare books to Kansas historical records to national political documents. For more information, visit <http://spencer.lib.ku.edu>.

The Center for Digital Scholarship supports KU's evolving research environment with expertise and tools for creating and using digital scholarship to enhance research, teaching and learning at KU.

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission promotes the preservation and use of America's documentary heritage essential to understanding our de-

mocracy, history and culture.

The other 240 cities and towns include Abilene, Alma, Altoona, Anthony, Arkansas City, Atchison, Attica, Augusta, Baldwin City, Baxter Springs, Beattie, Belle Plaine, Belleville, Beloit, Bern, Blue Rapids, Burlingame, Burlington, Burr Oak, Burrton, Caldwell, Caney, Carbondale, Cawker City, Cedar Vale, Centralia, Chanute, Chapman, Cheney, Cherokee, Cherryvale, Chetopa, Clay Center, Clifton, Clyde, Coffeyville, Colby, Coldwater, Columbus, Concordia, Cottonwood Falls, Council Grove, Dodge City, Douglass, Downs, El Dorado, Elk City, Ellinwood, Ellis, Ellsworth, Emporia, Enterprise, Erie, Eureka, Everest, Florence, Fort Scott, Frankfort, Fredonia, Galena, Garden City, Garnett, Gas, Girard, Great Bend, Greenleaf, Greensburg, Grenola, Halstead, Hanover, Harper, Hays, Herington, Hiawatha, Highland, Hillsboro, Hoisington, Holton, Horton, Howard, Humboldt, Hutchinson, Independence, Iola, Irving, Junction City, Kansas City, Kingman, Kinsley, Kiowa, Kirwin, LaCygne, LaHarpe, Lamed, Latham, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Leon, Leonardville, Liberal, Lincoln, Lindsborg, Longton, Lyndon, Lyons, Manhattan, Mankato, Marion, Marysville, McPherson, Medicine Lodge, Minneapolis, Moline, Mulvane, Neodesha, Newton, Nickerson, Norton, Oberlin, Olathe, Osage City, Osawatimie, Osborne, Oskaloosa, Oswego, Ottawa, Paola, Parsons, Peabody, Phillipsburg, Pittsburg, Pleasanton, Pratt, Randolph, Rossville, Russell, Sabetha, Salina, Sedan, Sedgwick, Seneca, Severance, Smith Center, Solomon, St. John, St. Marys, St. Paul, Stafford, Sterling, Stockton, Strong City, Summerfield, Topeka, Treece, Troy, Valley Falls, WaKeeney, Wamego, Washington, Waterville, Weir, Wellington, West Mineral, Wetmore, White Cloud, Wichita, Winchester, Winfield, Wyandotte and Yates Center

Worship warms the heart



<p>Calvary Gospel Church Pastor: Randy and Mary Payne Fourth & College • 890-3605 Sunday: Kid's Church: 10 am Morning Service: 10 am Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m. except last Sunday of the month Wednesday: Royal Rangers, Missionettes 6:30 p.m. during school year Youth @ the Rock House, Sixth & Caldwell: 6:30 p.m. Life Groups - Call for information Join us on Facebook www.calvarygospel.net</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Pastor: Father Norbert Diabal 307 W. 13th • 890-7205 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment Mass Schedule: Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am Spanish Mass: Sunday: 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Promiseland Baptist Church Pastor: Rick Holmes • 890-7082 225 W. 16th (785) 890-7944 Sunday: Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Morning Service: 11:30 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study Service 6:30 p.m. Thursdays: Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.</p>
<p>Goodland United Methodist Church 1116 Sherman 899-3631 Pastors: Dustin and Shelly Petz Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages</p>	<p>Pleasant Home Church Serving the rural community for over 120 years Rt. 1, Box 180 • 3190 Road 70 (785) 694-2807 Pastor: Perry Baird Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Iglesia Del Dios Vivo La Luz Del Mundo Spanish Speaking Church Minister: Esteban Ortiz B. 1601 Texas • 899-5275 Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m. Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>
<p>Bible Baptist Church Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks Fifth & Broadway 890-7368 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Morning Service: 10 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984 Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.</p>	<p>Kanorado United Methodist Church Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.</p>
<p>United Methodist Church Brewster Pastor: Dorine Chambers Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST Winona: Minister: Sheryl Johnson Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pastor: Rev. Carol Edling Jolly Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233 Sunday: Church School - All ages 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays 5-7 p.m. Wednesday: Prayer Class - Noon Pastor Carol's Class 5:45 p.m. www.goodlandfccdoc.org</p>	<p>Goodland Bible Church 109 Willow Road • 899-6400 Pastor: Chad DeJong Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Church of the Nazarene Pastor: Bob Willis Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797 Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:50 a.m. Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Word of Life 10th & Clark 1-888-781-3450 Pastor: (to be announced) Services: (to be announced) A Foursquare Gospel Church</p>	<p>Harvest Evangelical Free Church 521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423 Pastor: Brian Fugleberg Sunday: Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school: none in summer Wednesday: Senior High 6:30 p.m. at church Junior High none in the summer www.goodlandefree.com</p>
<p>First Baptist Church Pastor: Travis Blake 1121 Main 890-3450 Sunday: Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m. Wheatridge Center</p>	<p>St. Paul's Episcopal Church 13th & Center Church 890-2115 or 890-7245 Services: 5 p.m. Saturday evening</p>	<p>Church of Christ 401 Caldwell 890-6185 Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Seventh Day Adventist Church 1160 Cattletrail Pastor: Jerry Nowack Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Emmanuel Lutheran Church 13th & Sherman • 890-6161 Pastor: Darian Hybl Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Church of Christ 401 Caldwell 890-6185 Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>

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