

Post Rock Extension Answers

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What’s Invading Your Garden?

By the end of July our gardens are usually thriving and we are in harvest mode. Our veggies are full-grown and putting on delicious fruits for us to enjoy. Unfortunately, we aren’t the only ones who love this season. Insects are out in full force in our gardens and landscapes. Here are the top four pests you will likely see in your landscape and how to deal with them.

Squash Bugs
Squash bugs are the grey, shield-shaped bugs that feed mainly on squash and pumpkin plants. If you have ever had these pests in your garden, you know they are almost impossible to control when fully mature. This is because squash bugs have a hard body that insecticide has difficulty penetrating. It is very important to control the insects when they are small. High squash bug populations can literally drain plants, causing them to die and wilt. Look for the eggs of the insect as well, adult females deposit brownish-red eggs in clusters on lower leaf surfaces.

When controlling squash bugs, use a general-use insecticide such as permethrin (Bug-B-Gon Multi-Purpose Garden Dust; Bug-No-More Yard and Garden Insect Spray; Lawn & Garden Insect Killer). Malathion and methoxychlor provide control if a direct application is made to young, soft-bodied squash bugs. Remember when treating that you must spray or dust the underside of the leaves because this is where the insects live.

Spider Mites
If you have tomato plants in your garden, you will most likely have spider mites. Most spider mites like hot and dry weather, and we are seeing populations start to explode. Check your plants for stippling on the upper surface of the leaves as well as some fine webbing on the underside of the leaves. If you think you have spider mites, hold a sheet of white paper beneath a leaf and tap the leaf. Mites will be dislodged and can be seen as tiny specks on the paper that move about.

Spider mite control can be challenging. A strong jet of water can be used to remove the mites but may not be as easy as it sounds. A high-pressure directed spray is needed to dislodge the mites. Since spider mites feed on the underside of the leaves, the spray is most effective if it comes from below. This can be difficult to accomplish with a thumb over the end of the hose. Some gardeners use a water wand hooked to a shut-off valve. The water breaker is then replaced by a brass nozzle. Make sure to spray your plants multiple times.

Horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps (Safer’s, for example) can also be helpful. Spray early in the morning when temperatures are cooler and plants have rehydrated.

Green June Bugs
Green June bugs have been out and about this season. The adults are about an inch in length, and velvety-green, tinged with yellow-brown coloration. The underside of the body is shiny and metallic green or gold. Adults fly like “dive bombers” over our lawns for several weeks in mid-summer.

The green June beetle has a one-year life cycle and overwinters as a grub in grass. Adults emerge in late June and are active during the day, resting at night on plants or in thatch. The adults sound like a loud bumblebee. Adults will feed on ripening fruits and may occasionally feed on plant leaves. The larvae, grub stage, feed primarily on organic matter including thatch and grass-clippings; preferring soils that are excessively moist.

If you have apricots, peaches, apples, pears, grapes, blackberries, or raspberries in your garden, keep a close eye out for this pest. Green June beetles are attracted to fruits and vegetables high in sugar content. If they are causing damage to your crops, use an insecticide like carbaryl (Sevin), acetamiprid (Ortho Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Insect Killer), or malathion (Bonide Malathion). Luckily, these beetles won’t cause much trouble in our garden, but they do make their presence known.

Grasshoppers
Last but not least is everyone’s favorite garden pest, the grasshopper. Grasshoppers may be one of the most difficult insects to control in our gardens. They are manageable if treated when they are young. Try a chemical such as permethrin, which is a good choice for vegetable crops because it is labeled for a wide variety of vegetables. However, keep in mind that hoppers can re-infest an area relatively quickly. Carbaryl (Sevin) can also be used for grasshopper control. Remember, you may need to treat more than once.

If you are interested in organic controls, try a product such as Semaspore, NOLO Bait, HopperStopper, and Grasshopper Attack. These products are selective and will affect only grasshoppers. They are more effective against the immature stages rather than adult grasshoppers. Also, some grasshopper species are less susceptible than others. They can take 3 to 6 weeks to kill the grasshoppers after ingestion.

Remember, regardless of the method used, the trick is to treat early before the population has matured. Young hoppers are much easier to control than adults and are also much less mobile.

Gardening in Kansas will always be a challenge with our spontaneous weather and the number of insects we must deal with. Incorporating a few tips and tricks into your garden maintenance will help you have a bountiful harvest. If you have any questions, please call your local Extension office.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Cassie may be contacted at cthiessen@ksu.edu or by calling Beloit (785-738-3597).

Hilltop Lodge to host ‘Back to School Party’

BELOIT – Hilltop Lodge, 815 N. Independence Ave., will host a “Back to School Party” from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 9, in Beloit.

Activities will include a 65’ bouncy house, face painting and tattoos by the Beloit High School cheer team, race cars, and train rides. Giveaways will be given to the first 100 kids with a bag of school supplies. Raffles will be available— must be present to win. Food will be available, with hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, cookies, cotton candy, snow-cones, and popcorn. Vendor Small Town Sips will be on site. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 785-738-3516.



Deer Crossing!
A mamma with twin fawns crosses the highway before possible vehicles come over the hill. Drive carefully!

SHARON SAHLFELD PHOTO

Free ImPACT concussion testing offered to area student athletes

Concussions are among the most common injuries in youth sports, affecting 5-10% of student athletes each season. With year-round training and high participation rates, the risk of concussion-related injuries continues to grow.

To help support student athletes, the Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems (MCHHS)—along with Mitchell County Regional Medical Foundation and Beloit Medical Center—is offering free ImPACT baseline concussion testing. This event will be held on Thursday, August 7, from 8:00 a.m. to noon at MCHHS, 400 W. Eighth Street, Beloit. No pre-registration is required. Testing will be conducted in 30-minute increments and takes approximately 30–45 minutes to complete.

ImPACT (Immediate Post-Con-

cussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) is a computerized evaluation tool that measures cognitive functions such as memory, attention span, and processing speed. Baseline test results provide valuable information for healthcare professionals when assessing post-injury recovery and making safe return-to-play decisions.

Baseline testing is typically recommended every other year during an athlete’s junior high and high school years. Common concussion symptoms include headaches, confusion, dizziness, fatigue, vision changes, anxiety, and irritability. Returning to play too soon can lead to prolonged recovery or serious conditions such as Second Impact Syndrome.

Kansas State High School Ac-

tivities Association (KSHSAA) guidelines require student athletes who experience a head injury to receive written medical clearance before returning to play. This testing program helps student athletes meet that requirement while ensuring their safety remains a top priority.

If a concussion does occur, a physician may recommend a personalized rehabilitation plan before clearing the athlete to return. MCHHS provides specialized rehabilitation services through its Physical Therapy Department, with licensed therapists trained in concussion and vestibular rehabilitation.

For more information or to schedule a baseline ImPACT Test on a different date, contact Samantha McMillan, MCHHS ER nurse manager, at (785) 738-9369.

Racoon causes total black out in Beloit

BY SHARON SAHLFELD
Call Editor

The Beloit City Council met on July 16, 2025, to cover agenda items.

Beloit City Manager Halley Roberson was present to discuss updated items including that the Pipeline Project has been Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) approved for the amended project to include the raw water pump station and chlorine contact loop to the pipeline project.

– An incident with a power outage took place recently with the whole town of Beloit, and was brought on by a raccoon that decided to visit the substation. The raccoon did not survive, and the power was provided in a timely manner, within 45 minutes.

– The Walnut street project continues with cement pouring planned next week. Contractors are reassuring they will hit the deadline, and were very accommodating for events to happen before being able to start on the project. The project completion date is for Sept. 26, 2025.

– The RFQ for the EDA electric is out and posted with responses due by Aug. 7.

– The LMI for solar/battery resolutions are being processed/reviewed and expectations of hearing back are for early August regarding

approval for additional incentives. A 20 percent tax incentive will be discussed more in the next meeting. Now, in the solar ordinance, 100 percent gives back for electricity.

– The KCC Pole grant administrative filings are taking place and a grant is in process.

– The Beloit power plant capacity test for engineers #1 failed, due to overheating. According to Adam Mosher, the crew was able to assess the problem, make the repair, and rerun the test to pass. Engine # 1 was placed in 1951.

– The Citywide Cleanup figures will be stated in the next meeting. Both Mayor Tom Naasz and Councilman Andrew Grabon gave thanks to the city crews for their hard work in both storm cleanup and the Citywide Clean-up. “We need to be courteous to them when they need to stop to pick things up,” said Grabon. “We need to be aware of what they are doing.”

– A Water Waste (vacuum) truck was discussed on options of restoring versus another purchase. It could be more money to fix almost all the moving parts with water running through them, on the 2008 truck. Morning work has to be done because of overheating and engine lights coming on in the single axle vehicle. Comparisons on a new unit versus a demo unit will

be looked into.

New system electric meters are being looked into with companies to learn about the updates needed for standard services.

– A EMP meeting is coming up in Jan. 2026. This group is for generating cities within the KME member cities. A meeting is set for July 21 in McPherson to discuss energy capacity sales. There is a six-month gap between Jan. 2026 and June 2026. Beloit is in a contract to sell capacity megawatts (MW) for \$2 per MW until Jan. 2026. The market price is now between \$5-6 dollars per MW. Conversations have been had in June to raise to \$5 for member cities. Beloit’s recommendation is to raise the six-month gap to \$4 per MW, to eliminate an extreme spike rate all at once.

– The council approved the city logo that will be placed on the water tower being worked on, recommended by the man with 41 years experience of recommendations.

– Neil Phillips of Chanute – Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA, covered the City of Beloit budget, with everything approved. “We appreciate the work City Clerk Mandy Lomax provides every day of the year of keeping things in line,” said Roberson. “She does a ton of work all throughout the year.”

Producers and landowners can now enroll in USDA’s Grassland Conservation Reserve program

WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can now enroll in the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (Grassland CRP). The sign-up runs from July 14, to Aug. 8, 2025.

Grassland CRP, offered by USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary working lands conservation program that enables participants to conserve grasslands while also continuing most grazing and haying practices.

Grassland CRP emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grasslands and land with shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

“Through the conservation of America’s essential grasslands, Grassland CRP supports continued agricultural productivity while at the same time prioritizing private lands stewardship,” said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. “By offering

landowners the best of both worlds — economic viability and working lands preservation — Grassland CRP provisions support USDA’s commitment to Farmers First.”

CRP, USDA’s flagship conservation program, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. For four decades, CRP has provided financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners whose accepted acres are placed under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and support wildlife habitat. The American Relief Act, 2025, extended provisions for CRP through Sept. 30, 2025.

Currently, more than 25.8 million acres are enrolled in CRP, with nearly 9.7 million acres in Grassland CRP. On May 12, FSA opened General and Continuous CRP enrollment for 2025. FSA is currently reviewing submitted offers and will

announce accepted offers at a later date. Due to the 27-million-acre statutory cap, only 1.8 million acres are available for all CRP enrollment this fiscal year.

Landowners and producers interested in Grassland CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or apply for the program before the Aug. 8 deadline.

FSA helps America’s farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov

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