

YARD & GARDEN REPORT

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Peonies on parade

The parade of peonies is underway. Their big and fluffy flowers are bursting open across the state.

Peonies are a traditional favorite of gardeners. Their blooms grab our attention in early summer after tulips fade and before most summer flowers come into their glory.

The rich green foliage of peony is an attractive feature and serves as a background in the flower bed. Gardeners also enjoy peony blooms as a fragrant cut flower.

If you are enjoying the parade of peonies in your neighborhood, get ready to plant your own peonies later this summer. Plants and roots are available from garden centers and catalogs now.

Peony beds can also be established from divisions. Early September is a good time to divide plants. Dig up clumps and separate them using a sharp knife. Make sure each division has at least three to five eyes and a good amount of roots.

Give your peonies a sunny spot and a rich, well-drained soil. Add an inch of peat moss or compost to the soil and work it in before planting.

Set the roots so their pink eyes are pointing up and no deeper than 1.5 inches below the surface. Setting the roots deeper will greatly reduce blooming. Plants are spaced 3–4 feet apart. A healthy bed of peonies will last for generations.

Single, semidouble and double petal varieties are available. Extend the bloom season by planting early,



Figs. 1–3. Peonies are dazzling now. Establish a bed of peonies in late summer and enjoy their glorious blooms for generations.

midseason and late blooming varieties. Look for sturdy stems and fragrant flowers.

The largest collection of peonies in our state is at the North Dakota Museum of Art in Grand Forks. The display of 120 varieties honors our early settlers and the plants they brought with them.

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First aid after storms

Fierce winds and ice pellets ravaged gardens last week. Many plants were tattered and bent after the storms.

It is important to monitor our plants over the next week and see how they recover. Fortunately we are still early in the growing season and there is time to replant many of our flowers and vegetables.

Here is a summary of how to take care of your garden and landscape after strong winds and hail:

Flowers and vegetables. Trim off shredded leaves. Reassess the situation after a week. Plants that show new growth can be saved. Lightly fertilize to promote recovery. Plants that fail to show any new growth will need to be replaced.

The growing points of root and leafy vegetables are near the soil and likely withstood the hail (*Fig. 6*). Likewise the growing point of corn is near the soil surface until stalks get about 8 inches tall. Slice open the stalk, looking for the growing point. Healthy growing points will be cream-colored and not darkened.

Trees and shrubs. Promptly remove broken or hanging branches. Use a chisel or sharp knife to smooth out ragged edges of torn bark. Pruning sealants are not recommended.

The pounding of hailstones may create wounds on the upper side of branches (*Fig. 7*). These wounds are susceptible to diseases and can take several years to heal. Limbs with extensive wounding can be removed. Branches with scattered or small wounds should be monitored and can be allowed to heal naturally.

Remove bruised fruits. They are likely to be invaded by pests and will ripen prematurely before developing their flavor.



Fig. 4. This squash plant got "squashed" by hailstones. The growing point is destroyed and the crop will need to be replanted.



Fig. 5. Remove shredded leaves (center) but leaves with a few holes may be kept.



Fig. 6. Leafy vegetables have growing points near the soil and usually recover.



Fig. 7. Hail wounds can be entry points for diseases.

Survey of problems found in North Dakota yards and gardens:

TREES AND SHRUBS

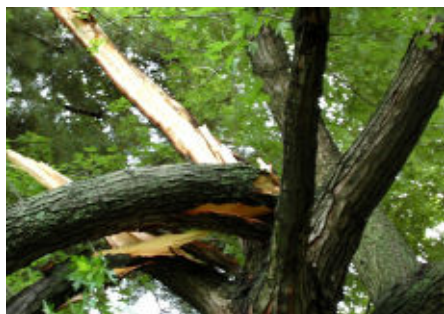


Fig. 8. Storm damage

Stay away from downed power lines. Prune broken branches, making clean cuts. Use a chisel or knife to smooth ragged edges of torn bark. Call a professional arborist if needed.



Fig. 9. Herbicide injury

Leaves become elongated, curled or cupped. Most woody plants survive. Use herbicides only when needed; autumn is best. Spray when wind is calm; use heavy droplets.



Fig. 10. Frost injury on leaves

Brown or black blotches are appearing on tissue damaged from late spring frosts. Established plants usually survive and may send out new sprouts later this year. No treatments needed.



Figs. 11, 12. Spruce sawfly

Yellowheaded spruce sawfly defoliates spruce, beginning with young needles. Insecticidal soap kills young larvae. Carbaryl, acephate or cyfluthrin is recommended for large infestations.



Fig. 13. Ash anthracnose

Blotches appear on leaf margins; leaves curl and drop. Shaded areas in canopy are most affected. Rake fallen leaves. Prune in winter to increase air movement in canopy.



Fig. 14. Cytospora canker

Fungus chokes off flow of water and branch tips die back. Entire branches die. Often found on lower branches of mature trees. Prune off dead or dying branches. Sterilize saw between cuts.



Figs. 15, 16. Aphids

Leaves curl. Pry open the leaf to reveal pests. The excrement is sticky and glistens. Damage is minor. Jet spray with water. Spray of systemic acephate may be justified for young trees.



Fig. 17. Cankers

Fungi disrupt flow of water and cause dieback. No sprays are useful since the disease is inside the wood. Prune infected branches/trunk going at least 6 inches into healthy tissue.

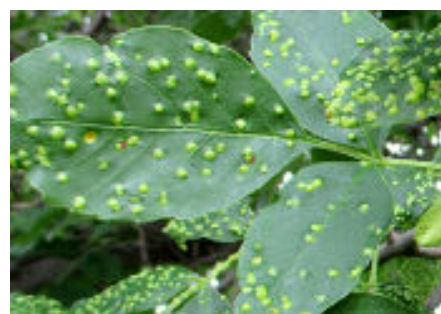


Fig. 18. Galls on leafy trees

Leaves develop bumps. Ash, linden, hackberry, and silver maple among trees affected. Damage is mostly aesthetic. Pesticides are not needed.

More problems found in North Dakota yards and gardens:

VEGETABLES



Fig. 19. Twisted vines

Pesticide drift or contaminated manure may cause extreme curling of foliage. Plants will be stunted and vegetables may be contaminated. Replanting is recommended for drift situations.



Fig. 20. Harvesting asparagus

Stop harvesting when 75% of the spears become thinner than a pencil. The remaining spears will turn into ferns that provide energy for next year's crop.



Fig. 21. Bolted Chinese cabbage

Young plants exposed to a frost or over a week of sub 50° nights in spring may go to seed. Do not sow in spring until after the last frost. Fall crops started in mid to late July are more reliable.

FRUITS



Fig. 22. Shothole disease

Bacterial or fungal lesions drop out of leaves, creating holes. Rake leaf litter. Avoid irrigating foliage. Inspect branches for cankers; remove if found.



Fig. 23. Cedar apple rust

Orange lesions on apple foliage. No treatment at this time. Prune in March to improve air flow. Apply protective sprays of fungicide next spring when blooms show first hint of color.



Fig. 24. Meadow mice

Mice gnaw on bark and destroy vascular rings. Water and nutrients from roots cannot be transported up to tree branches, causing death. Protect trees with plastic guards or hardware cloth.

MISCELLANEOUS



Fig. 25. Yellow sweetclover

Cut down or spray before seeds disperse. Use 2,4-D amine, dicamba or glyphosate. Biennial; blooms and sets seeds its second year, then dies. Seeds stay viable for 30 years.



Fig. 26. Thistle

Cut down to prevent seed dispersal; expect plants to resprout. Spot spray with dicamba or glyphosate. Fall applications are best at moving herbicide throughout its roots.



Fig. 27. Dog vomit mold

Slime mold develops on shredded bark when weather is hot and humid. The mold is harmless to plants. Rake mulch to dry it out, or scoop it out of the bed.

Weather Almanac for June 12–June 18, 2015

Site	TEMPERATURE				RAINFALL				GROWING DEGREE DAYS ^{1,2}			
	Week				Week		2015		Week		2015	
	Avg	Norm	Max	Min	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm
Bottineau	59	63	80	39	0.06	0.94	5.04	7.45	64	82	462	489
Bowman	60	62	81	44	1.19	0.75	6.54	7.52	56	75	409	441
Carrington	61	64	81	46	0.34	0.91	5.40	8.00	67	90	476	524
Crosby	61	61	87	46	0.12	0.70	5.30	6.13	64	72	460	441
Dickinson	61	62	82	46	0.39	0.86	3.94	7.38	62	78	436	471
Fargo	63	66	83	46	1.22	0.94	10.23	9.10	76	99	546	570
Grafton	62	67	83	40	0.05	0.90	8.94	7.98	76	104	492	577
Grand Forks	62	64	83	42	0.19	0.82	5.83	7.71	75	87	526	515
Hazen	61	64	81	44	0.42	0.82	6.97	7.47	62	87	460	555
Hillsboro	62	65	84	43	1.31	0.83	7.07	8.40	71	93	522	531
Jamestown	62	65	85	49	3.10	0.79	9.67	7.61	67	88	510	507
Langdon	62	61	82	43	0.01	0.93	6.90	7.47	70	69	446	408
Mandan	63	64	82	49	1.35	0.78	7.55	7.16	74	87	500	488
Minot	61	63	81	46	0.23	0.84	5.70	8.08	64	81	462	453
Mott	62	63	79	47	1.60	0.66	8.19	7.90	66	81	450	482
Rugby	60	63	80	41	0.09	0.83	4.92	8.13	64	81	457	503
Wahpeton	63	67	83	46	0.74	0.73	8.18	8.73	73	105	540	610
Watford City	61	63	87	43	0.46	0.69	4.23	6.30	64	79	478	481
Williston	62	65	86	44	0.12	0.63	4.59	5.97	67	92	487	556
Wishek	61	63	83	50	1.81	0.84	9.20	9.07	62	76	451	443

DAYLENGTH (June 18, McClusky, center of ND)³

Sunrise: 5:44 AM | Daylength: 15h 57m
 Sunset: 9:41 PM | Change since June 11: +4m

LONG-TERM OUTLOOKS⁴

6–10 Day: Temp: Above Normal; Precipitation: Below Normal
 8–14 Day: Temp: Below Normal; Precipitation: Below Normal

¹ GDDs for garden vegetables are not available. GDD data in this table are for corn, which responds to temperature as most vegetables grown in gardens. Data begin May 1 with base minimum and maximum temperatures of 50 and 86°F., respectively.

^{2,3,4} Sources: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, www.sunrisesunset.com, and National Weather Service, respectively.

Credits

Sources:

Johnny's Selected Seeds. 2013. Growing information for Chinese cabbage. Seed catalog. Albion, ME.

Missouri Botanical Garden. 2015. Hail damage. www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/environmental/hail.aspx. Accessed June 22, 2015.

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