

Mark Your Calendar:

May 8th at 6:30 pm – Yard and Garden Workshop at the Hope American Legion. Esther McGinnis, NDSU Extension Horticulturist Specialist, will talk about exciting new perennial and annual plants for 2014 and common vegetable production problems. Other topics include how to get your kids to eat vegetables and how to solve common tree problems.

This spring has already proven to be challenging with a late April blizzard and now persistent rain. This raises the questions of what is the optimal seeding time for small grains and what should we do if we end up seeding past the optimal dates. Small grains are cool season crops that require relatively cool temperatures in order to achieve high yield potential. Therefore, when planted late, small grains develop during warmer temperatures that are detrimental to yield. The optimum planting dates for small grains in Steele County is the last week of April and the recommended last planting date is the 4th week of May. When planting is delayed beyond the last recommended planting date, yield reductions accelerate and profitable crop production becomes risky.

When planting is delayed beyond the optimum date, it may be beneficial to increase the seeding rate by 1% per day of delay up to a maximum of about 1.6 million seeds per acre. This increase will partially compensate for the decrease in grain yield associated with reduced tillering that occurs when plants develop in warmer than optimum temperatures. Though differences in the maturity of commonly grown small grain varieties are not great, earlier maturing varieties are recommended for planting dates near June 1st.

For more information, contact the Steele County Extension office by phone 701-524-2253, e-mail alicia.harstad@ndsu.edu, or Facebook at www.facebook.com/steelecountyextension. NDSU is an equal opportunity institution.