



# Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

## Johnson's Garden Talk

June 2004



**WEST 13th STORE**  
2707 West 13th St. N.  
Wichita, KS 67203  
316-942-1443

**EAST STORE**  
6225 E. Shadybrook  
(21st @ Woodlawn)  
Wichita, KS 67203  
316-687-5451

**RIDGE ROAD STORE**  
802 N. Ridge Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67212  
316-943-0494

**LANDSCAPE  
DESIGN & INSTALLATION  
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316-943-6886

**CORPORATE OFFICE**  
316-942-3751

**TOLL-FREE NUMBER**  
888-542-8463

**EMAIL**  
askus@johnsonsgarden.com

**WEB PAGE**  
www.johnsonsgarden.com

## Garden Tips

**Marty Johnson,**

*President, Johnson's Garden Centers & Kansas Certified Nursery Professional*

### "Johnson's Garden Show"

Live music on Johnson's Garden Center's radio show? If you tuned in to our Saturday morning talk show earlier this spring, you were entertained (?) by my singing along with Guy Clark's hit "Homegrown Tomatoes." I personally think that it's a great song, although others may differ. Jeremy and Debbie, my partners on the radio show, have continually given me a hard time about my singing skills. My thought was to bring in some professional musicians to sing "Homegrown Tomatoes" live on the radio show. On Saturday morning, May 8th, the listeners were entertained by the Praise Band from Grace Point Church. Marla Beagley, Michael Snow and Tommy Luchner did justice to Guy Clark's famous hit. Tune in Saturdays from 8-9 a.m. to see what the Johnson's "House Band" will sing next.

### Where's Wilfred?

In the April issue of "Garden Talk" I introduced Wilfred the Garden Gnome. Wilfred was released in February in Austin, Texas as part of a global game called Geocaching. Wilfred has shown up in the Dallas, Texas area visiting private gardens. To follow Wilfred in his travels, go to:

<http://www.geocaching.com/track/details.aspx?tracker=tbg2vg>

Or you can visit the Geocaching web site. Go to the travel bug link and search for Wilfred's ID number of 463277. Hopefully, in the future, Wilfred will be able to get out of Texas and travel internationally. Currently, Wilfred is on his way to New Mexico.

### Slimy Slugs

"I've got something eating my hostas!" is a common complaint coming into the stores at this time of the year. Slugs love the tender leaves of these great perennials. There are a couple of effective products that will stop the insects from making Swiss cheese out of your hostas.

Sluggo, a unique product from Monterey, is a combination of Iron Phosphate and an attractant which lures the slugs to ingest the product. Sluggo makes the slugs stop eating and death occurs in 3-6 days. Iron Phosphate is also used as an ingredient in fertilizers so it helps your plants grow at the same time! Sluggo is safe for all areas of the landscape, including vegetable gardens.

Eliminate by ferti•lome is a combination of Sevin and Methaldehyde. These products have been used for years in the control of garden pests. What ferti•lome has

added to the mix is an attractant to bait the slugs to eat the product. Eliminate is safe to use around both ornamental plantings and the vegetable garden.

### ***Beware of Bagworms***

I always mark my calendar in early summer to treat for bagworms to make sure the population is under control. If let go, those small insects turn into large (2-3") plant-eating creatures. The good folks at ferti•lome have introduced a product containing Spinosad which is a very safe insecticide. It does little to harm beneficial insects but is deadly to bagworms. Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer and Tent Caterpillar Spray attacks the insect's nervous system and causes the insect to stop feeding soon after application.

### ***And More ...***

Be sure to stop by your favorite Johnson's location to see what we have for you this summer. Check out our plants for summer color, including both tropical and hardy summer-flowering shrubs.

Add some drip irrigation to keep your plants happy and healthy this summer and have a great time on your summer vacation. ■