

County Agent News
Dan Folske
March 23, 2015

Spring Fever (Continued)

It is a nice Monday morning as I write this but some of the forecasts for Tuesday and Wednesday sound like it might be rather wintery as you read it!

My wife and I and several other fair board members attended the Western Edge Bull Riders Association season finals in Minot this past weekend and have made a decision to work with Abrahamson Rodeo Company to bring Western Edge Bull Riding to the Burke County Fair this summer. "Like" our facebook page to keep up with the 2015 Burke County Fair plans.

Back to gardening topics, I planted flats of tomatoes, peppers, and cabbages this weekend. I also planted a couple of old cake pans with marigold seed. As I was preparing to do this, sorting through seed, I realized how bad those beautiful pictures and descriptions in the seed catalogs get to me. Between the seed I have purchased this year and the carry over seed from several previous years I think I have enough seed for every garden in Bowbells; especially sweet corn, Scarlet Nantes carrots, Detroit Dark Red beets, and all kinds of tomatoes, peppers, and pumpkins.



I planted Big Max, Prize Winner, Dill's Atlantic Giant, Wyatt's Wonder, Polar Bear (an extra large white variety), Gurneys Magic Giant, First Place, Jack-B-Little, and Baby Boo pumpkins in 4" pots to get them started early. After I planted those and was getting ready to plant marigolds I also found seed for Neon pumpkins and another variety of miniature pumpkins. I won't start those varieties but will plant them directly in the garden. I really like the Neon pumpkin variety because they are a brilliant orange color with dark green streaks as soon as they start developing. This adds some nice early color to a garden. I now have trays full of potting mix and seeds setting all over the house. Once the seedlings emerge I will move them to the basement where it is cooler and I have fluorescent shop lights set up as grow lights. The cooler temperatures slow top growth and help root development to the plants are healthier and less "leggy".



By the time you read this the first two evenings of the Spring Fever Garden Forums will be completed but there is still time to partake in next week's forums on March 30th and 31st. In case you missed last week's column, I will repeat the topics for the evening of Monday, March

30th. Joe Zeleznik, Extension Forester will tell us about *Pruning Shrubs: Everything you never knew you needed to know*. Esther McGinnis, Extension Horticulturist will help us with a practical session to help make your landscaping plans about more than just appearance. *Edible Landscapes: Learn how to add attractive edible plants into the landscape to provide food for the table AND for your eyes!* will be full of tummy and eye pleasing ideas.

Topics for Tuesday, March 31st are *Herb it Up!* Morton County Extension Agent Jackie Buckley will offer tips on growing and preserving herbs in your garden or home. Learn what herbs go with certain dishes. *Stop Turf Problems Before They Start!* Jared LeBoldus, Extension Plant Pathologist will discuss common turf grass problems and proactive measures you can take. Todd West, Woody Plants Specialist, will cover *Woody Plant Diversity!* Learn why diversity is needed in landscapes and what to do about it.

Registration is requested. If you cannot make it to Bowbells, you can register to watch the broadcasts on your home computer. Registration may be done by calling the Burke County Extension office at 701-377-2927 or online at www.ag.ndsu.edu/springfever/ (if it fits your schedule you may attend some sessions in Bowbells and watch others at home).

School Horticulture Projects

Last Monday Shelby and I went to Mr. Wilson's class Burke Central to show the students the diverse shapes, sizes, and colors of vegetable and crop seeds. After viewing and discussing the seeds, the students planted many of them in the classroom so they can watch them emerge and develop. The week before, we did a similar project with K through 6th graders in Bowbells. Most of those seeds have germinated and are off to a good start. Check out and "Like" our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/burkecountyextension?ref=hl> for photos and updates.



Salad Mix



Bush Early Girl



Super Chili



Alyssum Carpet
of Snow



Picklebush
Cucumbers