

County Agent News
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March 30, 2015

Last Monday as I wrote my column the weather was very nice. Tuesday we got 5 to 6 inches of snow. By Saturday that was just about gone. Then we had thunderstorms and rain Saturday night. Now, Monday morning it looks like a beautiful spring day even if it is a little windy!

The seeds Shelbey and I planted with the students at Bowbells and Burke Central Schools are mostly emerged and mostly starving for light. Some are already too tall and leggy with very weak stems. The first true leaves are out on many of the seedlings at Bowbells School and we will meet with the students on Thursday to talk about the differences in cotyledon and leaf shapes. The seeds in Mr. Wilson's class at Burke Central School were planted a week later, so they should be at the right stage to discuss cotyledons and leaves next week.



The tomatoes which I seeded March 21st at home are doing well but show a distinct difference in emergence between varieties. The Bush Early Girl were the first to emerge starting on the 24, then a few of the Big Zac. The Roma's popped up on the 27th. The Red Alerts are just coming up good on the 30th. I planted one whole flat to King of the North bell peppers and they have been much slower. I was just able to see a couple of them starting to push through this morning. I will be planting another flat of peppers this evening and this flat will have more than one variety so it will be interesting to see if the emergence time varies with them.

The slowest emerging seeds I've seen this year are also the tiniest. We seeded Campanula at the Bowbells School on March 10th and these tiny flower seeds (they looked like dust in the packet) are just now becoming visible seedlings but you have to look carefully!

You can watch the changes in our seedlings and plants on the NDSU Extension Service – Burke County Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/burkecountyextension>. If you enjoy what you see, "Like" our page to follow regular updates and receive other timely information about a variety of topics.



Fire Safety

The area may be wet right now but as the weather warms up and dries out we are entering the spring wildfire season. Last year's dead vegetation dries rapidly and becomes a serious fire hazard. If you are planning to use fire as a spring cleanup tool in the field or around the yard pay attention to the fire danger index and the weather forecast. Also please call the Burke County Sheriff's office at 377-2311 to let them know. Letting them know ahead of time means less chance of your volunteer firemen having to leave work or home for a quick response and then finding out that you have everything under control.