

kruseknows iBlog



No, it's not time for tulips yet...

What is going on with our winter?

The warmer temperatures are more enjoyable than the normal but all the mud makes it a mess doing chores or any outside work. The warmer temperatures could also cause some problems with our local fruit crops, maple syrup, and our perennials.

The flowers that have broken dormancy may frost or freeze if normal temperatures return, but they will grow again and still have blooms. The greenery that is growing now is only the leaves. The blooms are still deep in the soil and won't be affected. If you are concerned about your flowers when normal winter temps return try covering the new green growth with straw or mulch. This will insulate the plant from the freezing temps.

Our fruit trees are still safe but if we continue to have warmer than average temperatures the buds could begin to swell. If the buds swell and we have average, freezing temps that could reduce the yield of our fruit crop. That would cause an increase in price for our fruit, not what we want no matter what the economic times are. The maple trees need some normal temperatures soon to produce a normal flow of sap. Under normal conditions the first sap is the thickest and gets thinner as the season wears on. If we don't have a prolonged freeze the sap will start out thinner than normal which means a reduced harvest of syrup.

The plants haven't reached the point of no return at this time. All will be fine providing we have temperatures closer to the average. While most of us are enjoying the warmer temps while we are working outside or just in our everyday travels, I think most of us hope the temperatures return to average or normal, so the fruit crop, maple syrup, and perennials will produce the expected crop. Let's all think snow...

Outstanding in the Field

Remembering what my Dad, Owen Kruse, believed was the strength of his business, this year, Kruse Farm Supply is taking a special look at the needs of our agricultural customers. Everything from pasture, turf and hay seeds to bailer twine and horse feed, these customers have unique needs that require special attention.

We want to stock what you need for your agribusiness. Let us know the products you'd like to see us stock, and give us feedback on the ones we already do. Input from our customers is the most important information we get. Just like Owen did, we are listening to what you have to say.

More and more consumers are going right to the source because they are shopping locally for their meat, vegetables and fruit products, which means our local farmers can count on more demand for their homegrown products.

We're growing our own herbs, and salad greens like lettuce right in our greenhouses to serve our restaurant customers and the general public. Ask about what's available next time you visit the store.



Which came first: chicks or eggs?

It doesn't make much difference, because we have both. Place your order for chicks or a couple dozen fresh eggs next time you stop into the store.

This year, we're offering more locally grown choices for our customers. Place your order for chickens or turkey ready for grill or freezer.

Call the store at 574-848-4151 for more details.

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How to bring some sunshine inside

Looking for a way to bring some sunshine into your home while it's still winter chilly outside? Brighten your room by forcing branches of spring-flowering trees like forsythia to open and blossom. Get a container deep enough to hold the branches you cut in your yard, fill it with warm water and bring into a room at least 70 degrees, recut the stems to help the branches absorb water and in a few days, you'll be rewarded with lovely flowers. Change the water every few days. Other tree branches of redbud, flowering dogwood, crabapple, honeysuckle, and fruit trees like apple or cherry will work, too.

Or, even easier, since there is no snow on the ground, take a woods walk and gather some pussy willows to put in a pretty vase by a mirror to reflect the soft beauty of the branches.

What you can do in February

Dust off those seed catalogs and make a list of what seeds you'd like to start inside this year. Then head out to Kruse's for help in choosing the varieties best for what plants you'd like to grow for your garden or flower bed.

It may be a little early for most seeds, but celery, leeks and seed onions are slow growing and may need a couple months before they are ready to set outside.

While there is no snow, it is a good time to check on your perennial plants. Do you need some extra mulch on your strawberries, garlic or perennial flowers? How about any "wintered-over" crops left in the ground? This won't change any damage already done, but it can prevent any future damage caused by changing soil temperatures. An ounce of prevention now will help make sure you have a better crop come the spring and summer this year.

The birds in your yard are still hungry

Stop in and see what great values we have on all the supplies you need to keep your feathered friends happy. We even have those squirrel baffles to try to outwit those tricky critters. In-store specials vary weekly, so we may have just what you are looking for at a great limited time price. This is also a good time to check bird houses and feeders for needed repairs.

February lore, weather and more

Pundit Dr. J.R. Stockton said "February is merely as long as the time needed to pass the time until March."

Maybe it's just me, but the older I get, the shorter the months seem to be. We just get through with Christmas, and suddenly it's nearly time to start gardening. Spring can't come any too soon for me.

It is said that Candlemas, on February 2 is the midpoint of winter, halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox. The shortest month at 28 days, February will get its 29th day this year 2012, which only happens every 4th year.

February weather can be unpredictable at best. Here are some of the sayings about it. On Feb. 12 through 14: if stormy, the rest of the year will have good weather, but if the weather fine on those days, the rest of the year weather not so good.

Whatever direction or strength of wind there is on Ash Wednesday, it will continue all during Lent. Ash Wednesday in 2012 is on February 22.

If February brings no rain, 'tis not good for grass or grain.

And my favorite: No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.

