

## Ag Radio programs for September 30 - October 6, 2013

### Wheat Planting Time

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Once we hit the first of October we know that we are into wheat planting time. We have always talked about October 6<sup>th</sup> being the Hessian Fly Free date for our area and maybe I shouldn't even say this, but that probably doesn't mean a whole lot now days. Certainly, planting later in October has advantages, but they are more from an agronomic point of view, not a hessian fly prevention point of view. Over the past 15 years we have done plenty of surveys to show that Hessian Fly can still be very active in late October and early November. For our area, from an all around production point of view, I feel that we have a really good ten day window for wheat planting of October 10<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Planting earlier will have more insect problems including hessian fly, aphids and wheat curl mites. Planting later than the 20<sup>th</sup> leads to the need for higher planting rates as there will be less plant development and subsequently smaller heads next year. You can compensate with higher planting rates AND slight increases in fertilizer rates. We know that the later you plant in October the less risk of Hessian Fly, aphids (and thereby Barley Yellow Dwarf) and wheat curl mites and wheat streak mosaic. If you need to plant early, like now, for management reasons then try to use Hessian Fly resistant varieties and if possible use a systemic insecticide seed treatment. We are still sorting out the data on these but they are probably going to be of the most help in early planted wheat!

This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Spot spraying for Sericea Lespedeza

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Sericea lespedeza is in serious bloom and seed setting stage right now. That rain in mid summer really set it up for good late summer growth. Sericea with it's pretty little white blooms is pretty easy to identify at this time of year and it is also a good time to get some spot spraying of it done. Obviously if you have large patches of a half acre or more you'd need to treat it with a boom sprayer, but for cleaning up old infestations that have been previously treated, or a few early colonizing plants, spot spraying is a great way to try to stay on top of this nasty pest. The triclopyr products like Remedy Ultra and Pasture Guard can be effective in the full bloom stage. But if flowering is winding down and you are into seed pod formation and seed filling you probably need to switch over to one of the metsulfuron products like Escort XP, Cimarron Plus, Chaparral, etc. Be sure to read the label as not all products are labeled for spot treatment. Be forewarned that while these are labeled for use on pasture and range, fescue and bromegrass may show some burning and stunting. Probably my favorite for spot spraying sericea at this time of year is Escort XP. Sure, it costs about 12 bucks an ounce, but you mix an ounce with 100 gallons of water along with a non-ionic surfactant and you can do a lot of spraying. Chaparral is kind of pricey, by the ounce, but again, 2.5 ounces per 100 gallons can go a long ways. Don't forget the non-ionic surfactant with Chaparral also. Also keep in mind that spraying this late in the season can control sericea, but watch for seedlings next spring! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Gypsum and Lime

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It never ceases to amaze me how folks can get some strange notions about soil amendments and when they should use them. Take lime and gypsum, two naturally occurring soil amendments that can be found in large quantities in Kansas. They are both minerals that resulted from the evaporation of seawater millions of years ago. Lime is calcium carbonate. It is limestone of varying purity generally in fairly finely ground form. It is generally used to increase soil pH when the soils have become too acid. Gypsum is calcium sulfate. It may be found as a clear crystal called selenite or as a powder form called alabaster. The powder form is what is mined to make sheet rock! Gypsum can be used as a sulfur source, but it has no effect on soil pH. Both lime and gypsum can supply calcium to plants, but for some reason, around here, calcium is rarely a deficient mineral. Because gypsum contains sulfur, some folks think it will lower soil pH in soils that are too alkaline. It will not. Gypsum is also often touted as something to be added to loosen up tight clay soils. I wish I had a dollar for every pound sold for this reason. In sodic soils, those soils with high alkali content, gypsum can change the caustic alkali carbonates into sulfates. This can increase water infiltration in these soils. It takes several tons of gypsum per acre to be effective. But we don't have a problem with sodic soils across nearly all of Kansas. So using gypsum to loosen soils, in fields or gardens, is simply a waste. If you want to lower high pH soils, you need to add sulfur. It works but it is expensive and rarely done. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

Otte.