

## Weed Control in Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Have you noticed that there are a few weeds in the soybeans this year. Okay, make that quite a few in many of the fields. And they are big. Let's cut to the chase and step on some toes - you're probably not going to get them controlled, it's going to cost you quite a few bucks to try, and they are the symptom of the problem, not the problem. The problem is that we've gotten lazy and wanted to rely on glyphosate as our weed control. And we've used low rates of glyphosate and we've created quite a mess. We aren't going to have cheap soybean weed control anymore. If you want a clean field, you're going to have to pay for it. I'm talking about herbicide mixes for burndown and preplant that include multiple modes of action and soil residual activity. I'm talking about more crop rotations and trying to stay away from 2 years of beans in a row in the same field. Then we can have the discussion of spraying when weeds are small. There's a lot of weeds in these fields right now that are over a foot tall. Unless you are one of the rare fields that still doesn't have herbicide resistance, your control of those weeds is going to be less than ideal. You may be wanting to try some interesting burndown products right now but be careful. If you've got soybeans in full bloom these leaf burn herbicides may knock blossoms off and abort pods. You also want to watch the waiting intervals until both harvest and recropping. Be looking for a meeting in January to discuss the topic of resistant weeds in crops. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Sugarcane Aphids

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. The first thing I'm going to say is that it's probably a good thing that we don't grow as much grain sorghum as we used to. As much as I like grain sorghum and feel that it is under appreciated, we do have a new insect pest that we need to be looking out for. The sugarcane aphid has been a serious pest of sorghum in Georgia and already two weeks ago we were seeing significant infestations on the Kansas Oklahoma border so we need to be watching our sorghum fields. Sugarcane aphids are a classic aphid and range from pale green to whitish and many shades of yellow. While we haven't had many problems with aphids in recent years, these rascals are creating issues and I suspect we may need to do some spraying in Kansas this year. They have very high reproduction rates and produce copious amounts of honeydew. I would start scouting sorghum fields now. The recommended procedure is to walk at least 25 feet into a field and then examine 50 consecutive plants in a row. If you start to see honeydew - that's the sticky dew like looking wetness on the tops of leaves, then start looking on the undersides of leaves for aphids. If you start to see quite a few aphids, call me. If you are seeing a lot of aphids - over 50 per plant, then spraying soon may be in order. There's a good one page bulletin out of Texas to aid in scouting - let me know if you want a copy. While our normal predators can help keep small populations under control - these can get past that in a hurry! So get looking and if you'll excuse me, I'm out the door to go look at some sorghum fields myself! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Wheat Seed Selection and Processing

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It's early August. We're about 8 weeks away from serious wheat seeding time. I'm not worried about controlling volunteer wheat just yet, but you do need to be getting your seed supply either ordered or getting your kept back seed processed. There's a couple of things that you really need to pay attention to. Let's start with seed treatments. I don't care what your source of seed is you NEED to be treating it with a systemic fungicide. I'm not overly concerned about seedling diseases of wheat, at least not at the start of the planting season, but we all saw the blow up over flag smut this past year. The smut diseases are easily controlled with seed treatments. With the cost being what it is, and in my opinion not that much, it's silly to be planting untreated seed. With the crazy wheat year we just had I'm not even talking about varieties right now. But I am being very insistent that every kernel that goes in the ground needs to be treated! IF you have kept back seed to replant, you need to be getting that cleaned AND treated. Cleaning wheat seed takes out the debris and garbage and also takes out the light weight seeds. We know that small kernels, under the right conditions, can survive and make a good wheat plant, but we also know that over the long haul, higher test weight in your seed wheat results in higher yields. While you're getting your seed cleaned, also have it treated. While drill box seed treatments are effective products, sadly the distribution of the product to get on each and every seed often doesn't happen. Better to have it commercially treated for better results! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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