

Controlling Weeds in Wheat Stubble

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you didn't double crop beans into your wheat stubble AND you haven't applied any herbicide yet, I'm sure that there is a little bit of green showing up now. You need to control that volunteer wheat as well as all those weeds before they get too big. What you use will depend on what your cropping plans are for that field. In spite of a few weed species that are now glyphosate tolerant, glyphosate still needs to be a base. To that you can add 2,4-D and dicamba to help out with those bigger pigweeds, or kochia. You probably don't want to exceed 1 quart per acre of 2,4-D or pint per acre of dicamba. You can also add Sharpen for added control. If you've got big weeds or a lot of them, plan to use 15 to 20 gallons per acre for more complete coverage. Lastly, if weeds are heat or moisture stressed control will be diminished so wait for a rain! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Alfalfa planting preparations

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Last week I talked about the importance of soil testing prior to alfalfa planting. Once we have those results back we can take the next steps. If lime and phosphorus fertilizer need to be applied, they'll need to be spread and incorporated into the soil with a disk or field cultivator. If you have a lot of stubble consider baling it make it easier to incorporate the lime. Following the tillage to incorporate the lime get it harrowed down well. It is important to have a fine seedbed as alfalfa seed is small. If you don't need to add lime and have a no till drill that will handle the residue, just plant right into that stubble or burn it off just ahead of planting. Normal planting time is going to be mid August to mid September and we often don't need preplant herbicides with fall planting, but you can. Use quality seed and 12 to 15 pounds per acre. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Weeds in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I talked about this earlier this year I talked about it a month ago and I'm going to talk about it again. This is a year where you will see a lot of what many pastures managers will call weeds, in you pastures. Again, these are a result of the decreased pasture growth in 2018 followed by a very wet May and June. Many of you will want to be out there spraying and in many cases this is a waste of time. As we get late into the summer and early autumn I expect to see a lot of annual broom with it's yellow flowers. Just ignore this stuff, it isn't a problem. About the only thing you need to be thinking about spraying this time of year is sericea lespedeza. About the time that sericea starts to bloom is the time to hit it with escort or any herbicide with metsulfuron which includes Chaparral and most Cimarron products. Apply with plenty of water! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Old World Bluestem

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The species of invasive grasses that we call old world bluestem is becoming very obvious right now as you travel the countryside. We normally treat old world bluestem in June, but if you have a lot of regrowth in areas that were hayed, a fall treatment can be very effective as well. The challenge with old world bluestem, be it Caucasian or Yellow Bluestem, is that we don't have any herbicides that are really good at taking it out without causing some damage to the desirable warm season natives. In extreme infestations we will use glyphosate followed by replanting. The herbicide Arsenal is the closest we have to selective control. It hurts the natives but not as bad as it hurts the old world bluestem. We normally apply one pint per acre with two or more applications. Look for info on herbicide demonstration plots in a few weeks. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Nitrate Caution

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'd never thought we'd see it this year with all the rain, but nitrates in forages are creeping back into the picture. We had some forage tested recently that hit almost 7,000 ppm. That level is of concern - really anything over about 3 or 4,000 is of concern. Sudden changes in weather can cause plants to take up a slug of nitrogen and then not have time to allocate it out into normal plant components like protein. In this case there was a sample of just a few plants grabbed out of one bale. We know that there are always hot spots for nitrates in any field. What we are doing now is going back and probing 10% of the bales to get a good representative sample to make sure it wasn't just one hot spot when the rest of the bales are good. But be alert, with the recent change in weather, anything is still possible! Test if you're concerned! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.