Ag Radio Programs for August 9 - 15, 2021

Sericea Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This is the time of year we would normally be gearing up for late summer treatments of sericea lespedeza. We treat earlier in the season with triclopyr to try to control vegetative growth and then with metsulfuron in late summer at blooming time to try to stop seed production. With several years of this combo treatment we can get a pretty good handle on sericea populations. The problem right now though is that it has been getting dry and unless a stand of sericea get's at least a half inch of rain it may not bloom. If you see your sericea blooming then get it sprayed while it is starting to bloom up through full bloom. You want to use something with metsulfuron as an active ingredient. This would include Escort XP, Chaparral, Cimarron Max, Cimarron Plus or just generic metsulfuron. Best to use a handgun and plenty of water! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Late Season Soybean Blooms

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One of the things we all like about soybeans is that they have the flexibility to stop blooming or almost stop growing if it gets hot and dry and then resume blooming and pod set when precipitation returns. But there are still constraints to how far that flexibility will go. Pods that set in July will most likely set 3, sometimes 4 beans per pod. But once we get past the early part of August, pods that are set will likely just be 2 bean pods and as we get later we're down to 1 bean pods. The plant is still setting pods but shortening day length is limiting how much energy and food those plants have to still produce beans AND hopefully get them mature before a frost. We have a lot of soybean fields that are really trying to come on at a time when production potential is declining. We just need to keep that all in perspective in the coming weeks! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Spray Weeds When they are Small

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was coming back from judging at a county fair last week and saw a lot of wheat stubble fields that had been sprayed for vegetation control. While I was pleased to see this and I'm sure that they were getting a good kill on the volunteer wheat, which I couldn't see driving at 65, I could see far too many really big weeds, as in 3 to 5 feet tall that had been hurt by the herbicide, but were still growing and starting to recover from the damage. One thing that the early days of Roundup did to us was to just expect that we could kill a plant no matter what size it was. We did and we could, for a while. We have to remember that the smaller a weed is the easier it is to control no matter what herbicide or mechanical weed control option we use. Sure, sometimes weeds get away from us, but we need to start sooner on weed control! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Japanese Beetles in Corn and Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. With nicer weather, especially early last week, I was spending time in fields scouting for development stages as well as insect and disease issues. One thing that caught me a little off guard was the number of Japanese beetles I was finding as well as the amount of feeding damage especially in soybeans. Japanese beetles are a relatively new pest that we'll see more and more often in the years ahead. They will feed on the leaves of soybeans, leaving them very lacy looking or on the silks and ear tips of corn which can really impact seed set. They are a small beetle, about a half inch long, with coppery metallic wing covers and rows of white spots along the sides of the abdomen. Fortunately I wasn't seeing enough damage to concern me and it's late in their season so control isn't needed. But we need to keep watching! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Irregular Soybean Stands

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One thing that I have been seeing consistently this year is some regularly uneven stands of soybeans. I think we all know what happened - it rained, a lot, in May so we were trying to get planted in marginal soil moisture AND those hard rains made for some hard ground. I've walked though full season bean fields this year that are the most irregular I have ever seen for full season beans. Gaps within rows, variable height caused by variable germination. It's just been crazy. I thought that some of these uneven plants would catch up and even out, but they haven't yet and I suspect that they won't. Which then raises the question of whether this will impact yield. In a nutshell yes, but probably not as much as you suspect. Remember, soybeans have a great deal of ability to compensate so I think yield reduction will be minimal. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.