

Ag Radio Programs for May 31 - June 6, 2021

Memorial Day No Program

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent.

I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

First Round of Sericea Lespedeza

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Sericea Lespedeza is a tough noxious weed to control that is in far too many pastures. This is a weed that requires us to find the infestations and then treat twice a year for several years. The seed is a small hard seed that can live for several years in the soil before germinating. We find that using a triclopyr based treatment in early June, when plants are roughly 12 to 15 inches tall helps knock it down and also control many seedlings from the current year. The most common spring treatments we're going to use are Garlon 4 Ultra, Remedy Ultra, PastureGard HL and Surmount. Mix up at a 20 gallons per acre rate and use a handgun for good coverage on the plants. Then mark your calendar for late August or September when we are going to come back in with metsulfuron based products for control during the flowering period! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Poison Hemlock

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. If you've been farming for 30 or 40 years, or been a county agent for 30 or 40 years, you see changes including changes in the weeds that we are facing. Poison hemlock is one plant that we've seen expanding way too much the past couple of decades. While poison hemlock is deadly poisonous if you eat it, it can cause skin reactions if you get the sap on your skin which is an issue if you decide you're going to go after it with a string trimmer or a mower. This stuff has a very carrot looking leaf and right now is sending up seed stalks 6 feet tall or more and very musky stinky white flowers. It'll produce seed and die before much longer. You can try to control it now but it will be tough. But where you see it now will be where it starts growing this fall. Treat it in the fall with herbicides like escort or triclopyr. And keep after it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Get Ready to Spray Brush

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. While the different woody brush species that invade our pastures have different optimal treatment times, most pasture managers don't want to be out there three or four times a summer spraying brush. So we do the best job that we can and try to time it so we can do the most damage to the most species. And that time is basically about now or more specifically, about June 10 to June 20. That's a tad later than some years because the cool weather has slowed development of foliage. I feel that aerial spraying of pastures may not be worth the expense and feel that spot spraying brush clumps with a handgun is far more effective with less collateral damage to desirable forbs. There are many herbicides labeled for brush control in pastures. For most brushy species products with triclopyr and picloram are likely your best options! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Monitor Pasture Condition

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm actually quite surprised that we have received the amount of rain this spring that we have, especially as most of us feel that we are heading into a drought. The recent rains are going to assure us some good grass growth through at least the month of June. Climate Prediction Center is still showing an increasing chance of below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures on into early to mid summer. But at least for the time being the rains have moved us out of any drought condition. Unfortunately, all it takes is about 4 weeks with little or no rain and we can suddenly find ourselves in drought. If it keeps raining, then great. But if not, we need to be watching pasture conditions very closely, as in about every two weeks and if it does turn off dry, we need to be ready to take action quickly. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.