

Scout for SDS in Soybean Fields

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This is the time of year that if we are going to see Sudden Death Syndrome in soybeans it starts to show up. SDS is a soil borne fungal disease that infects the plant shortly after planting. The fungal disease lives in the plant for much of the growing season and then later in the season it produces a toxin that causes leaves to start to die. It is often connected with soybean cyst nematode infested fields, but that isn't a requirement. The disease first shows up as small yellow flecks on leaves that grow and slowly kills the tissue between the veins. In a year like this, on dryland beans, it may be a challenge to separate drought damage from SDS. There are options for dealing with it if it starts to show up but the first step is to confirm what the problem is. If you have some suspicious looking areas in your bean fields, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Remember to Soil Test if Planting Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We haven't had the best conditions so far for planting alfalfa, but we have several weeks left which means that if you are going to plant alfalfa still this fall, and you haven't soil tested, there is still time. We really need to pay close attention to two measurements in that soil test. Soil pH and phosphorus. Alfalfa needs a pH neutral soil, meaning above 6.5. The nitrogen fixing bacteria do not like acid soils. Acid soils also tie up phosphorus which is needed for good plant growth. If one or both of these things needs to be fixed, it needs to be done pre-plant and worked into the soil. Both ag lime and phosphorus fertilizer simply don't move into the soil. It has to be mixed with the soil to truly be effective. We can get a soil test back in just a few days so there's still time to get the field tested and apply lime or phosphorus if needed! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Fall Sericea Lespedeza Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. When it comes to trying to get sericea lespedeza under control we find that a two pronged approach can work very well with one treatment in the spring when it's growing well and another treatment in the fall when it is blooming. Of course, we use different herbicides for those two treatments. We need to focus the fall treatment on sericea plants that are growing well and blooming. If it has been dry and the plants aren't blooming well, don't spray until they are growing well which means that some years you may well skip a treatment. For herbicide choice for fall treatments we need to use products that contain metsulfuron. That's going to include Chaparral, Cimarron Max, Cimarron Plus, Escort XP or generic metsulfuron. Treatments can be applied anytime from now through first frost if plants are actively blooming/growing! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Late Summer Field Bindweed Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Roundup Ready and Liberty Ready crops have done us a big favor in getting some stubborn field bindweed patches under control. We still have a ways to go in some fields and in pastures and other non-crop areas. Late summer and fall is probably the best time to control field bindweed. You seldom get 100% control with just one treatment but a few consecutive years and you can clean up a bindweed mess! This time of year you are most likely looking at bindweed in wheat stubble. 2,4-D, dicamba and glyphosate are the products most commonly used. Recent dry weather has slowed the bindweed growth so know that drought may reduce control. One underutilized herbicide is quinclorac, most commonly sold as Facet. It can be used preplant with wheat, or grain sorghum and can also be used in range and pasture. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Time to Get Volunteer Wheat Controlled

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's the end of August. Sure we've had our fair share of dry weather this month and a lot of that volunteer wheat that came up post harvest may not be overly lush right now, but it can still be harboring wheat curl mites that will carry wheat streak mosaic. We need that volunteer dead, as in straw colored and no moisture left at least two weeks prior to wheat planting in nearby fields. If you are going to use herbicides to control wheat you need to get it on well enough in advance for it to get the wheat well killed in plenty of time. If you are going to till it to control it, then that usually stops things right then and there. I would say that if you have volunteer wheat I would aim to get it controlled by September 15th to 20th. So you've got about three weeks to get it tilled or sprayed. If it's severely drought stressed, you may need to wait for a rain! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.