

Is It Too Late To Burn?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Because of the weather this spring we've had a mere fraction of the normal amount of pasture burning we'd normally have. Traditionally, once we hit early May, the pasture burning season shuts down. But what if you wanted to burn still and you suddenly had the right conditions? Can you still burn? The answer is yes. You can burn almost any month of the year and not hurt the grass. Remember, grass evolved under periodic burning. It has the ability to be burned off and regrow quite easily, assuming that it isn't dormant and there is sufficient soil moisture. In fact, burning later is going to be more damaging to woody brush than burning earlier. Sure, the more growth you get the slower it will burn, but make no mistake, it will burn. Of course, it will also delay how soon you can turn cattle out, so that must be accounted for as well! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Seeding Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. K-State Agronomy has been doing some fascinating research in recent years about ideal seeding rates for soybeans.

They've even developed some programs to help you determine proper seeding rates. It all comes down to expected seedling establishment rate and field yield potential. Intriguingly to me, lower yielding potential fields need to be planted with higher rates. In general, for fields with yield potential under 60 bu/acre shoot for a final plant stand of about 127,000 plants per acre; for over 60 bushel yield potential fields, aim for 96 to 97,000 plants per acre. And if you don't know what your seedling establishment rate is, then we probably need to have a discussion sometime of how to figure that out, it's really just plants per foot of row divided by seeds per foot of row dropped. And don't forget seed treatments and inoculant! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Soybean Seeding Date Recommendations

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Over the years I've been here I've watched average soybean seeding date keep creeping earlier and earlier in the season. Many producers that never planted beans until after Memorial Day are now planting in mid May. There are some good yield reasons for planting earlier in May, up to a point. Geary County is on the very north side planting zone 3 and that means we should consider our ideal planting window as May 15 to June 15. And that also explains why double crop beans after an early wheat harvest are often nearly every bit as good as full season beans. If you are planting soybeans during May, and especially this year with cooler soils, fungicidal seed treatments are crucial. Not so much for June planting dates. And you may also want to spread your soybean planting dates out, given the dry weather, to spread out your risk. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Are We Planting the Right Maturity Group?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. To finish up our discussion of soybeans this week let's talk about maturity groups. We are on the north side of recommended maturity group IV zone meaning that the recommendation is to plant low maturity group IV varieties. But I know a lot of folks are planting late IIIs. Soybean blooming is triggered by shortening daylength. Lower maturity groups will flower the quickest and flowering is later with higher numbers. The goal is to have 95% of the pods on a soybean plant brown just before a killing frost. Because of the impact of shortening daylength it's important to plant the same maturity group with double crop as full season. You could plant a maturity group II soybean in late June and it would likely be only 2 to 3 inches tall when it starts to bloom, which isn't going to bode well for yield! Late IIIs and early IVs. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Time to Treat Buckbrush

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We often talk about the best time to treat pasture brush is the first half of June. This would be the Swiss army knife approach where you just want to spray once, but not necessarily the best time for each individual species. Sumac is actually best treated the last half of June. Dogwood can be treated anytime the leaves are good and green, clear into September. Buckbrush however, because it leafs out so early in the season is best sprayed now - the first half of May. This early leaf out is also why buckbrush is most easily controlled by fire, well other than cedar trees that is. Buckbrush is actually fairly easy to control with herbicides. 1 to 2 quarts of 2,4-D per acre works well. Other good products, although restricted use, include Grazon P+D, Remedy Ultra and Trycera. As always, read and follow all label directions first! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.