

Wheat Fungicides

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I hope this is the last week this season that I talk about wheat fungicides because I really want to get the wheat further along as soon as possible so it is simply too late to worry about. As expected more wheat is popping up in the state, with stripe rust being the most common problem being seen. Weather last week was good for stripe rust but conditions for most of the week were dry. Daily highs over 80 slow stripe rust down but we're in a mode of more humidity and a better chance of rain. For rust in general I just don't think we've got enough risk to justify whole scale spraying. A lot of wheat has moved into flowering and that's when we can see a chance for fusarium head blight, also known as scab. The spores for this disease is everywhere, especially if you planted wheat following corn no-till. But for disease infection to occur you have to have rain at flowering time. A series of consecutive rainy showery days will often create a heck of a lot of head blight. Once a head has finished flowering, it has no risk of contracting fusarium head blight. As of late last week the area wide risk was low for scab but areas were starting to increase to medium to the south and east, which is better than the south and west. All in all, I've only been recommending fungicide spraying for seed production fields. I think that the overall risk otherwise for general production fields has been so low that we can't justify the expense. The fungicide itself is about 1/4 the total cost of the treatment. If you have questions, call me. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Sorghum Weed Control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We have become very used to have roundup ready soybeans and roundup ready corn. Fortunately, we do not have roundup ready sorghum. If you've ever wondered why we don't, have roundup ready sorghum, just think glyphosate resistant shattercane Those factors are probably the leading reason why grain sorghum has fallen from the #2 crop in the county to the #4 crop in the county. But we still plant several thousand acres of grain sorghum annually and as far as I'm concerned, I think we should be planting more. Since we don't have the post emerge weed options in sorghum that we do in corn and beans, we need to be spending more time developing a pre-emerge program. Start with a weed free seedbed. In no-till use a burn down that involves dicamba, 2,4-D and glyphosate. This needs to go on 15 days ahead of planting. Then apply a combo residual control product that contains chloroacetamide with atrazine. There are a plethora of premixes on the market such as Bicep II Magnum, Bullet, Lariat and a hundred more, I swear. Now, there is a chance of having escapes such as any triazine resistant pigweed, puncturevine and morningglory. Using an additional pre-emerge that contains Callisto and Verdict will help control these troublesome weeds. No, this is not going to be cheap but you will get good control, assuming we have a good rainfall to get everything activated. But if you go in with only half a plan or the cheapest herbicide program you can whip together, the field is going to show it. And by the time the weeds are a foot taller than the milo, there's nothing you can do! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420

KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Brush Control in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I wish that all the woody brush and trees that grew in pastures all had the same ideal control time for herbicide spraying. Unfortunately, they don't but quite a few come pretty close. General rule of thumb is that we spray brush just after it has reached the full leaf stage. Normally that's the first half of June. This year we have been running a little bit late, BUT things are catching up quickly with some of the warm days that we've had. So while I might push that window back a little bit, I think the first half of June may still work pretty good. Naturally, if you've got plants in a cool location that are still sort of skimpy with the leaves you may want to give it another week to ten days. Over the years I've had a lot of conversations with producers about using mist blowers for brush control. I've said it before and I will say it again, mist blowers were never intended to be used for herbicide application. They were developed for insect control. Yes, they can provide some amazing results and they can also lead to some real disasters because once you turn that product into a mist, you have NO control over it. Additionally, many of the more popular brush control herbicides have right on the label, "Do not apply through a mistblower" OR "use in a mist blower not recommended". We have increasing non-ag neighbors out in the country and if you created a drift issue that results in damage and the department of ag folks come to visit, there could be a lot of problems down the road. Follow the label directions, use a handgun with coarse spray droplets and just avoid future problems! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.