

### Great Time to treat Field Bindweed

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. While roundup ready soybeans and corn have been a big boon to weed control, in some aspects, we still have a lot of field bindweed that could use some spraying. Regardless of where the bindweed is growing, from now until temperatures in the low 20s become regular is a great time to put a real hit on that nasty perennial weed. Keep in mind that there is not a herbicide out there that will control bindweed with just one treatment. Because of the massive size of the root system of a well established plant, and because of all the seeds that it can produce, it takes several years worth of control efforts to get the main plant and all the seedlings under control. The list of chemicals that is effective on bindweed is pretty impressive. 2,4-D, dicamba, glyphosate, Plateau, Journey, Tordon and Paramount can all be effective in the right time and place. For around the farmstead and in lawn areas, Paramount may be the best product we have right now. Tordon will work as well, but around farmsteads and homesteads with trees, there's always concern about Tordon moving in the soil water. I'd also be hesitant to use Tordon around a household water well. In wheat stubble fields going to a spring crop, 2,4-D and dicamba and glyphosate are pretty safe. Depending on what you're going to plant next spring in that field, Tordon or Paramount are options, but if you are going to beans next year, stay away from both of these. Regardless of what you use, fall is a good time though to spray bindweed! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Fall Fertilization of Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Before too much longer, the alfalfa will be going dormant. Two things that I feel should be done to stands of alfalfa every fall are fertilization with phosphorus and a dormant season herbicide treatment to control spring weeds. The fertilizer can be applied at anytime even if the alfalfa is still growing a little bit. Ideally we'd like to have a soil test done every other year, but in lieu of that, a blanket application of 40 lbs of phosphorus in the fall is great. Sometimes we can also need potassium but unless a soil test has shown a need, don't spend the money. Alfalfa is a heavy feeder of phosphorus, actually any crop where we take the entire plant takes off a lot of phosphorus. Once phosphorus starts to get below 30 ppm we can see some real yield drop off and if you get below 15 ppm it becomes real bad. I'd prefer just straight phosphorus but if you have to use a starter fertilizer formulation like 11-52 or 18-46 the little bit of nitrogen won't hurt a thing. Once the alfalfa goes dormant you can go on with a dormant season weed control product. And surprisingly, I might even consider one of these if you have roundup ready alfalfa just to help reduce the risk of glyphosate resistant weed problems developing. One thing some folks aren't aware is that some roundup formulations are now registered for an early season treatment in non RR alfalfa to control cheat. Probably my preferred dormant treatment is metribuzin but Pursuit, Sinbar, Velpar and karmex are also pretty darn effective and can be even more so if you use one of those this fall and roundup next spring! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Fall Fertilization of Bromegrass

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Okay, quick show of hands, how many of you fertilize your bromegrass before January 1<sup>st</sup>. Uh-huh, that's what I thought - I don't see very many hands in the air! Most everybody that I know fertilizes their brome in the late winter, which all too often sadly becomes early spring. By then the bromegrass is growing rapidly and the nitrogen and phosphorus don't really have the chance to get utilized like they should. I feel that a much better approach is to apply our brome fertilizer in November or early December. Sure, every once in a great while we may have a really wet winter that leaches some of that nitrogen away, but how is that any worse than applying it to late in the spring where the brome can't use it OR it's a dry spring and it never gets carried into the soil. In November and early December the brome is still putting on some growth and the roots are still quite active. If you get some rain or early snow those nutrients will get right into the root system. The roots will take up the nitrogen and phosphorus and maybe get a little extra root and tiller development going. If it doesn't rain right away it'll just stay put and then with every little snow or rain, it'll take that fertilizer into the rooting zone so when those roots start to grow in February, the nutrients are there ready to be taken up. So, right now you're hemming and hawing around not sure whether you believe me or not. So why not fertilize half your brome this fall and do the other half when you traditionally have done it and then just wait and see what it looks like at harvest. Or just trust me and do it all this fall! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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