

### Alfalfa Variety Selection

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Mid August through mid September is the preferred planting time for alfalfa. We just seem to get the best stand establishment at this time due to warm soils and hopefully timely rainfall. The most important thing to do before planting alfalfa is to do a soil test to make sure we have adequate phosphorus levels and to make sure that the soil isn't too acid. The second most important thing to do is to use a good named alfalfa variety. Keep in mind that there is no accepted alfalfa variety of Kansas Common. That's just a way of saying that I harvested alfalfa seed off of my named stand but don't really have the legal right to do so or sell it. I've been asked regularly this year if Roundup Ready alfalfa is worth the expense given how many problems we are seeing with glyphosate resistant weeds. While we are seeing glyphosate resistance, the weeds that we are having problems with are not weeds that I usually associate with alfalfa. What's the number one weed problem in alfalfa? Grasses, especially foxtail and crabgrass in the late season. What's the number two problem? Well all those winter annual weeds like henbit, pennycress and the mustards. We aren't really having glyphosate resistance with those weed species. So is the Roundup Ready alfalfa worth the expense? That's for you to decide. If you don't use it, it doesn't mean you can't have clean alfalfa, it just means you need to be using those dormant season treatments and sometimes a grass control in the summer. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Sericea Lespedeza Treatment Time

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. There are two times that we strongly recommend treating sericea lespedeza. The first time is in the spring when we are going to see seedlings getting started. Those seedlings are much easier to control than established plants. We are generally using herbicides that contain triclopyr at that time. The second time that we encourage control is when the plants are starting to bloom in the late summer. Some years because of drought, we just don't see much blooming and we discourage herbicide spraying. This is not one of those years. With all the rain the sericea is growing very well and blooming has begun. For the late summer applications we are usually looking at combination products that have metsulfuron as one of the active ingredients. Metsulfuron is the active ingredient in Escort but is also found generically in many combo products. Other products to consider using at this time of year are: Chaparral, Cimarron Plus, Cimarron Extra, Cimarron Max, and PastureGard XL.

Because sericea has tiny little leaves and sometimes very thick stands, I strongly feel that high volume application with a hand gun sprayer is the only way to go. You want to mix according to label directions. Use a surfactant only if the label says too and do NOT use something like diesel fuel. Thoroughly soak the plants. My experience is that the infestation usually covers a little bit more area than you think so spray a few feet beyond where you think it is. And remember that we have native lespedezas that are beneficial and good to have that can look similar. If you aren't sure, bring a plant in for ID. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.

Did you keep seed wheat back?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you didn't keep back seed wheat for planting this fall, you can just tune out right now. If you did keep seed back, then pay attention as I run down a checklist of things you need to consider. First of all, get it commercially cleaned. Some fields had light test weight, some had a fair amount of head scab. Your goal is to have seed wheat with test weight above 57 pounds and preferably above 60 pounds. You will also want to get a germination test run. With all that was going on with the crop this year you could see lower than expected germination. This is a busy time at the seed testing lab so plan on 14 days to get a test back. If you bring your seed in to the office we can get it over the Crop Improvement Lab for you. Then of course get your seed treated with a fungicidal seed treatment. This is important for controlling the bunt and smut diseases but as we get into the latter part of the wheat planting time frame and the soils are cooling off it becomes important to control seedling diseases. If you have light test weight seed, those lighter seeds produce seedling plants that are not as vigorous and they become even more susceptible to those seedling diseases. Then, for everyone, pay close attention to planting depth. No till seeding especially in soybean stubble, amazingly, creates a lot of challenges with seed not getting planted adequately deep. Many stand issues I get called on in the spring go back to seed not being planted deep enough. Watch your speed when you're planting. Higher speeds can cause those openers to ride up resulting in shallow seeding depth!

This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.