

Wildfire Awareness

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I did this program last week and I'm repeating it today because I really want a good turnout at this meeting on Wednesday. We sit here in the Flint Hills and I see more and more houses going up in rural areas. All too often I see landscaping decisions being made that quite honestly put that nice new home at risk. If you are a rural homeowner you need to become more aware of wildfire, how it happens, why it's so hard to control and what you can do to make your property less at risk. The Kansas Forest Service, along with the Geary County Rural Fire Department and K-State Research and Extension are hosting a meeting on Wildfire Awareness. The meeting will be held on Wednesday June 14th at 7 p.m. at the Geary County 4-H/Sr Citizens Center, 1025 South Spring Valley Road. The meeting is free and rural residents are especially encouraged to attend. Jason Hartman, Fire Protection Specialist with the Kansas Forest Service will be discussing homeowner fire prevention, natural vs invasive land cover and fuel, land management practices, wildfires in the wildland-urban interface and landscaping for fire protection. All of these things have serious implications on how susceptible or resistant your home and property is to wildfire. If you look at the amount of fuel we had in the flint hills this spring, you can probably see that the catastrophe we saw in southwest Kansas could have just as easily been seen in the flint hills. Please come and learn what you can do so you don't become a wildfire victim. That's this Wednesday, June 14th, 7 pm at the 4-H/Sr Citizen's Building. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Sericea Lespedeza 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 a lot more sericea lespedeza in this county than most people realize. One of the problems is that a sprig here and a sprig there are easily overlooked. That is until you have patches 2 or 3 feet across. Then you have a problem. We are looking at several options including late summer burning, but at the present time we feel that the best way to suppress it is to use herbicides. So we try to apply the first treatment when it is in the vegetative growth stage which is right now. You can also do a mid to late July mowing and then a herbicide treatment 4 to 6 weeks later. Keep in mind that this is a multi-year program. You aren't going to control it with one treatment because of the resilient nature of the plant and all the seeds that it has already produced that are laying there ready to sprout. Just like treating brush, sericea is best dealt with using a handgun and high volumes of spray to get thorough coverage of the foliage. One of the challenges is that the leaves are fairly small so you really need to get the whole plant covered with spray. For the early summer treatments focus on triclopyr. Remedy Ultra at 1 to 1.5 pints per acre or PastureGard HL at 3/4 to 1.5 pints per acre. If you are using a small sprayer on your ATV to do this spraying mix 1/2 ounce of PastureGard HL per gallon of water or a 1% solution of Remedy Ultra (which would be 1 and a quarter ounces per gallon.) For the late summer treatments use products containing metsulfuron. Plan to spray annually for several years. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Preharvest Weed Control in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Wheat harvest is nearly upon us, or possibly already started given the lag time between when I record these and they air. Every year I have producers call that have weeds in their wheat and they want to know if they can spray them to make harvest go easier. The problem is that they usually call about 2 days before harvest is going to begin and that's the problem. First of all once you get a pre-harvest spray applied it's going to take anywhere from 2 to 10 days for the herbicide to act and make a noticeable dry down difference in the weed. The one herbicide that might work quicker than that, gramoxone, is NOT labeled for use as a harvest aid in wheat. Secondly, all products labeled as a harvest aid, have a harvest waiting period that ranges from 3 to 14 days in length. If you've got a field that's still pretty green and weedy you can probably get some benefit from a harvest aid application. But if the field is looking pretty close to harvest, you're just going to have to run a lot of green weeds through the combine. IF you think you want to use one, here are the products labeled from the shortest to longest harvest waiting intervals. Aim, 3 day waiting period, does act quickly - dicamba, 7 day waiting period, works slowly, glyphosate, 7 day waiting period, can take over a week to see any activity in weeds, metsulfuron, 10 day waiting period, also works very slowly, may need to mix with dicamba or 2,4-D, and then 2,4-D, 14 day waiting period and works slowly. Also, if you are thinking about double cropping beans, check the label for planting waiting intervals. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Roughleaf Dogwood Control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Roughleaf dogwood is a native shrub found throughout the eastern 2/3 of Kansas. It has white blooms on it right now and by late summer it'll have lots of white berries. While heavily utilized by wildlife, it is rarely grazed by livestock and in the absence of routine burning it readily invades grassland. Pastures frequently burned rarely have much of a problem but if the burning frequency is once every four years or less, dogwood will get established. Once it is established it is difficult to remove with fire alone. In fact it will take long term late spring burning to significantly reduce the stand. Unfortunately, it is also difficult to control with herbicides. Many of our standard brush control products including triclopyr, dicamba, tordon and 2,4-D will defoliate dogwood but actual mortality is usually less than 25%. When we talk about dogwood we hope to get better than 50% mortality. Products that have done this include PastureGard, Surmount, and Grazon P+D plus Remedy Ultra. These all need to be applied as high volume treatments where the shrubs is thoroughly wetted. One application of herbicide will not control dogwood. It will take annual treatments over multiple years. If the stand can be thinned down the first year though, this will allow more light down to the grasses and allow more fuel to grow. Following that you can burn in the late spring and then follow up with another treatment four to six weeks after burning. As I talked a few weeks ago, we are starting to realize that we can get good herbicide results the same year of burning, if done correctly! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Priorities

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. A couple of weeks ago a farmer friend "chastised me", all in fun of course, about my program on most brome hay being harvested too late. His comment was to the effect that for producers like him brome hay was pretty low on his priority and quite honestly was frequently a nuisance to even put it up. After we traded friendly barbs for a few minutes we got into some more serious discussions. But it brings up a good point about my radio programs. I try to give you the best information to help you do the best job at ag production that you can do. But I also know that everyone has different priorities. Some producers view grain sorghum as an important part of their cropping plan while others view it as a noxious weed. I can not set your priorities, you have to do that. If making quality brome hay isn't a priority with you, don't worry about it. Rancher A may not care if half of his pasture is over run with cedars and the other half with dogwood. Rancher B wants that dogwood gone and the sooner the better. So no, I don't expect you to jump up and do everything that I say immediately, because of the infinitely different and unique operations that each and every one of you have. If you want to know and learn, I want to help and I usually have the resources to do that. If there are specific ag production topics that you want to hear about, let me know - call me, email me, text me, you can even Facebook me. In the meantime, consider my programs like the infinite options you see on some menus in big restaurants. You aren't going to eat everything every visit, but you sample and choose as you go! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.