

Are Early Season Corn Fungicides Worth It?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. For years we have worked at getting crop producers to see the benefit of applying fungicides. And finally you are buying into the notion that a fungicide can be a good investment. But now we are trying to get you to understand when is a fungicide needed and when isn't it. The real challenge is that the timing of when to apply a fungicide doesn't often align itself with the time when it is convenient to apply the fungicide. There has been an great deal of interest in early fungicide applications to corn because it can be tank mixed with glyphosate. We all know that if disease pressure is very high fungicide applications to corn when it is in the tasseling to brown silk stage can have a positive impact on yield. But what about fungicide applications much earlier, basically in the V4 to V8 stage of growth which correlates when many post emerge herbicide applications are being applied? While early season plant health is important, treatment in the early vegetative stages just don't seem to be necessary. Treatment at that tasseling and silking time frame, to protect that ear leaf, can give good returns. In fact in 243 trials across the corn belt where fungicides were applied at that time, the average yield increase was essentially 5 bu/ac, higher in years of heavier disease pressure. However, in 65 trials where a fungicide was applied at the V5/V6 stage only, yield was actually reduced by about 1 bushel per acre. So fungicides, at the right time, under heavy disease pressure are good, earlier, not so much, though! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Effective 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 am usually fascinated by the questions I receive from land owners and managers regarding brush control in pasture. The mis-information and brush control myths I find quite amusing at times and frustrating at other times. Brush control is actually quite simple. If you properly ID the species and are willing to apply the right herbicide in the right manner at the right time, we can get good control. The problem arises, most often, in wanting to do a one size fits all application and then failing to use the right chemical at the right time in the right manner. Once the woody plant has reached full leaf and especially after the leaves have gotten well matured and developed a thick waxy surface, it is very difficult to get the chemical into the plant to be effective. Basically, after late June, foliar treatments should be abandoned. Herbicides should always be mixed at the right concentration. Diesel fuel or kerosene should never be added unless called for on the label, usually in applying basal bark treatments in late summer or fall. Adding a petroleum product to a foliar spray usually just knocks the leaves off the plant before herbicides can be absorbed into the plant. Likewise, mixing solutions too strong can knock leaves off before all the herbicide can be taken in. Finally, applications are often done with too little water. You need to thoroughly soak the foliage. I love using high volume hand guns as opposed to broadcast treatments. And if you do use broadcast treatments you should aim for 20 to 30 gallons per acre as opposed to 10 to 12 gallons per acre. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

SPCC follow up

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. About a month ago we had a really good informational meeting about spill prevention control and countermeasure or SPCC. It was a good meeting with a lot of information, but some of the questions asked indicated that there is still a lot of misinformation out there. The regulations did go into effect on May 10th, but the EPA won't be allowed to do any enforcement on it until October 1st. If you exceed the 1,320 gallon storage limit, you'd better have a plan in place by October 1st. There is a template or worksheet that allows you to put a plan together pretty quickly. If you need help, let me know. There has been some misinformation floating around that unless you had a single tank in excess of 1,320 gallons you didn't come under the regulation and that is not correct. You have to add up all the capacity of containers 55 gallons in size or larger and if THOSE total over 1320 gallons, then you need a plan. There are some upper limits that change the guidelines some, but I don't think that anyone in our area is affected by those. There have been several questions about whether secondary containment was needed if you were under the 1320 gallon threshold. The EPA regulations do not say anything about that so no you don't, BUT we aware that if you have a tank of 1,100 gallons or more, there is a state regulation that requires containment as well as notification of KDHE and the local fire marshall. I still have copies of the information presented at the meeting and blank templates. Contact me if you have any questions or need the forms!

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