

Marestail Control in Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Good control of marestail in soybean fields is really dependent on having a good early burn down herbicide application. We know that glyphosate, post emerge just isn't going to do much for us on marestail and we also know that most marestail germinates in the fall or very early spring. We have a lot of good burn down products that can be applied 7 to 30 days prior to soybean planting that is just going to kick the you know what out of marestail. 2,4-D or dicamba are going to be inexpensive and effective against marestail and other broadleaf weeds. Then if you team one of those products with something that contains Canopy EX, Classic, FirstRate, Sharpen or Valor you can get residual control against spring germinating marestail and other broadleaf weed species. Here's the kicker. The sooner you get these on NOW, the better control you will get. Once that marestail starts to bolt, or send up that flower stalk, the harder it will be to control and the more herbicide you will need. As of this week, that marestail is still pretty small and easily controlled. In another 7 to 10 days, probably not so much. At that time, you may want to add glyphosate for other species control and then tank mix with FirstRate, Classic, Sharpen, Optill or 2,4-D IF you are still far enough out not to get in trouble with the 2,4-D - which is generally 7 to 15 days depending on which formulation and rate you are using. One thing I can tell you is that if you try to control marestail with glyphosate alone, you will be disappointed! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Weed Control in Thin Stands of Wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. While there are some wheat fields around looking pretty darn good right now, there were also others that just didn't get that good flush of growth last fall. One thing that I think we all know is that nature abhors a vacuum, or in this case, nature abhors bare ground. If you don't have shaded soil, weeds will try to get started and thin wheat fields are no exception. If you are going to graze or hay the wheat, you can quit listening now. But if your intention is to try to harvest a grain crop, you need to make sure that you get those weeds controlled now or you'll also be harvesting a nice weed crop. Mustards, henbit even marestail can get cranked up in thin wheat fields. You also need to decide if you want to follow up with double crop soybeans. This is becoming more and more of a regular practice and while it can be a good practice, it will limit early spring herbicide options. Your options will then be pretty much restricted to MCPA, 2,4-D, dicamba or Affinity. Other than dicamba, none of these have any residual action. They need to go on growing weeds. You also want to get dicamba applied before jointing or it can cause distorted heads and stems. A few heads per acre is no big deal, but you can see some real disasters at times. 2,4-D and MCPA can go on later, in both cases about up to boot stage. But you really need to match your herbicide selection to the weed pressure that you see. MCPA and 2,4-D are going to be better on the mustards than dicamba, but dicamba is going to have an edge on henbit and buckwheat IF the buckwheat is up and growing when you spray! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Starter Fertilizer Rates and Placement for Corn

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Corn growers are often asking if they need to apply starter fertilizer every year. Corn, more so than any other crop we have, is probably going to benefit from starter fertilizer, but I honestly can't answer that question fully without a soil test. We are usually planting corn in cool to cold soils. Phosphorus uptake is slow by corn roots in cold soils. So we may be more likely to recommend a starter fertilizer or pop up treatment with corn. Generally we wouldn't recommend phosphorus applications if the soil test level was over 20 ppm. But if the soil test phosphorus was between 20 and 30 ppm I would probably still recommend at least some starter phosphorus. In the past you haven't heard me talk to much about potassium, because it never used to be an issue. But levels are dropping and compacted cold soils are showing that they are slow to release potassium to roots. If we start seeing potassium levels under 200 and especially under 150, you will see me recommending a little bit of starter potassium. And of course, I'm a big believer in 10 to 20 pounds of nitrogen in your starter mix. I also feel that starter fertilizer is just that, a starter. While you can apply the first 20 or 30 pounds of P or K with starter, the more should really be broadcast or soil injected. Lastly, how about phosphate source. We always hear a lot of claims about poly versus orthophosphates and which one is better or more quickly available. The bottom line is it doesn't matter. The hydrolysis in the soil to convert polyphosphates to a usable form will only take 48 hours. Use the cheapest source you can buy! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

Chuck Otte.