

Dealing With Glyphosate Resistant Weeds

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. A problem that continues to grow every year is glyphosate resistant weeds. And the more that crop producers use glyphosate and glyphosate only, the quicker the problem will grow. So, from this growing season on, you should never be using ONLY glyphosate for weed control. For burndown applications, mix something, anything with it. If time allows, use 2,4-D or dicamba. If you've been having a lot of marestail issues, then definitely get one of those broadleaf weed herbicides in there. Or you can go with one of the products like sharpen. Of course, then follow up preplant or preemerge with a soil applied residual product. In corn, atrazine and metolachlor can be a great option to control a broad swatch of grasses and weeds. Roundup ready technology has made us somewhat immune to worrying about early season weed control. We don't worry if the entire field is turning green because we'll just hit it with glyphosate and take care of that. For the most part it works, but early season competition can really hurt yield more than you realize. By going with a soil applied residual herbicide even a low inexpensive rate, you can keep that roundup ready corn or soybeans from getting weedy and help postpone that glyphosate application, possibly even getting you to the point that you can get by with just one post emerge glyphosate application. Because in the end, I know that's what you're all striving for. So mix it up, use all the tools and stop relying on glyphosate only! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Alfalfa Weevil

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you aren't tired of me saying it yet, I'll say it even more. If your idea of scouting for alfalfa weevils entails spraying when your neighbors do or waiting until the field is starting to look white when you head down the road, then you could be spraying way too soon or obviously way too late! As alfalfa grows it can withstand heavier levels of infestation. But the bottom line is that you can rarely NOT spray a field and early harvesting seldom works to your benefit. So getting out and looking for the rascals to see how many there really are is ultimately what you have to do. You also have to take into account the value of alfalfa. Even poor quality alfalfa is bringing a good price right now so if you have 8 to 12 inch alfalfa and you are finding one larvae per every stem, you'd better be getting the sprayers rolling. If your alfalfa is shorter than 8 inches, it takes 2 larvae for every three stems to justify treating. You want to apply full rates - don't skimp. You want to be applying at least 15 gallons per acre and 20 would be better. Sure, that's going to require refilling more often, but you need that level of carrier to get the spray to penetrate the canopy and to get it down into the tips of the stems where the weevil larvae like to hide and feed. Finally, consider the weather. If it's been cold and cloudy for 3 days, don't go out and spray. Wait until we've had one day with temperatures above 50 and are scheduled to have a couple more. We want those rascals up actively feeding where we can get the spray on them. And then about 10 days after treatment, start going back and checking again! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK,

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Plan for Brush Control Now

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Over the years I've seen a steady march of woody shrubs invading our pastures and it concerns me. Sure, a few patches here and there, especially along the fences, don't really bother me, but when over 1/3 and sometimes 2/3 of a pasture is essentially infested with brush, it's a problem. Then stocking rates aren't adjusted, a couple of dry years reduces grass growth and then you've got an even bigger problem. The grass is providing less competition and the brush just continues to spread. As the brush spreads, it reduces grass growth. With reduced grass growth you have less fuel for prescribed burns. That means fires aren't as hot and if they were controlling brushy species, they now aren't hot enough to accomplish it. And the spiral goes down and down. So the first thing you do is acknowledge that you need to do more than just burn. That means herbicides. The second thing is to recognize that the pasture didn't get to this condition in one year and it's going to take more than one year to get it into a better condition. So the first action step is to decide what kind of brush you are dealing with and attack each one at it's weakest time. Yes, that may mean you're going to be out in the pasture several times spraying, but we already said this wasn't going to be easy.

Buckbrush you want to spray in early May. Plum and dogwood should be sprayed mid May to mid June. Sumac you want to spray last, mainly mid to late June. Then you stop treating for brush July 1st. The pastures to spray are the ones you didn't burn. Burning and herbicide treatments just don't work the same year! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420

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