

Planting Bromegrass

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. There is an old saying that you can plant bromegrass, or any of our other cool season grasses, in any month that has the letter R in it. While that's fairly accurate, I really believe that you've got the best chance to get a good stand of brome by planting in early September. Bromegrass is usually fairly fool proof but there are still a couple of ways to be sure to have a disaster. The one thing that you have to do before planting bromegrass is to pull a soil test to check pH and soil phosphorus levels. Being a perennial crop, if you have plant into an acid soil, you are going to have problems getting a good stand established. Lime will need to be applied and incorporated if in fact you have an acid soil. Secondly we need to deal with phosphorus levels. If you have low soil phosphorus, the bromegrass will germinate and start to grow, but then just sit there. Apply phosphorus preplant as prescribed by the soil test but even if you gamble and go without a soil test, plan to apply 30 to 40 pounds of nitrogen and 20 to 40 pounds of phosphorus. It is highly unlikely that you will need potassium, but after the seedling year, I'd also include about 10 pounds of sulfur annually. As for planting dates, we can probably plant anytime now up through about September 20th. If you miss that date, you can also do a winter seeding from Dec 1 to Feb 15th or a spring seeding up through April 1st. As to seeding rate, we generally feel that 10 to 15 pounds (err towards the higher level) or pure live seed is going to be best! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Pre-emergent Wheat Herbicides

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. While roundup ready technology has moved us a little away from pre-emergent herbicides at least on corn and soybean, pre-emerge herbicides are still readily available and regularly used. So have you ever wondered WHY we don't regularly use pre-emerge herbicides on wheat? Well one of the reasons is that we didn't use to have a lot of options and secondly, especially when using a good crop rotation, is that we don't have a lot of early season weed pressure in wheat...well except fo that whole cheat issue which gets back to using a good crop rotation. There are five ALS inhibiting herbicides, which will work fine as long as you don't have ALS resistant weeds. These products are Amber, Finesse, Maverick, Olympus, and Pre-Pare. A newer product with a different mode of action is Zidua. All of these are targeted more at broadleaf weeds but they will offer some suppression if not control of Cheat, Japanese Brome and to a lesser extent Downy Brome. Most of these do have some post emerge control, but really will do better as a preplant or pre-emerge. Zidua has little if any post emerge control so really needs to be applied pre-emerge to the weeds but early post-emerge to the wheat. Like all soil residual herbicides, they are dependent on rainfall or irrigation to activate them. Timing of these applications and rates of use can be really tricky so you need to spend plenty of time reading the label. And if your main problem is cheat and you are stuck in continuous wheat, then you probably need to look at one of the newer Clearfield wheats and using Beyond! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Did You Save Wheat Seed?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Although we are slowly moving more and more away from it, we do still have a lot of wheat that is kept back as seed wheat. While I can't disapprove of this practice, as long as they stay within their legal rights, I fear that far too often we stick it in the bin, then pull it out and plant it without giving it the TLC that we should. This year, especially, we need to be checking germination on that seed wheat. This comes in to play even more so if you used a pre-harvest herbicide to kill weeds to make for an easier harvest. Even applied at proper rates at the proper time, we can see some damage to germination. The cost to run a germination test is less than \$20 and even with an accelerated aging test, we're talking less than \$30. That should just be the start of your preparation for planting. Get the seed cleaned to remove trash and small seeds. A good seed cleaner can often add a couple of pounds of test weight per bushel and while all that light weight seed that goes out of the back of the combine always seems to germinate just fine, we've seen time and time again that the better the test weight of the seed wheat, the better seedling vigor we get and the better yield we'll see especially in stressful environments. And finally, have a seed treatment applied. You definitely need a fungicidal seed treatment and while the jury is still out on systemic insecticides, I think we can often see a bit less fall insect feeding damage and with that may be less of things like barley yellow dwarf, wheat streak and hessian fly damage. I think this becomes more critical if you are planting early! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck

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