

## Wheat Seed Treatments

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Last week I mentioned briefly about wheat seed treatments. I'm a firm believer that seed wheat needs to be treated every year. Yes, you can possibly skip it one year and not have a train wreck, but why risk it? Most producers have never seen a field devastated by common bunt or loose smut. That used to happen all too often. But then it was found that a simply fungicidal seed treatment stopped 99.9% of bunt or smut problems in wheat field. These are two diseases that cause infection at germination but doesn't show up until heading time. In the absence of seed treatments, the disease simply gets worse and worse, year after year. We basically have about ten commonly used wheat seed treatments now days. All of them control bunt and smut as well as the more common seedling disease issues, seed borne fusarium as well as pythium and rhizoctonia damping off. Depending on the treatment used, you can also get suppression, but probably not control of common and fusarium root rot. A few even offer suppression of Take All which can be very important in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year wheat. Some will even give suppression of fall leaf diseases. A few also have systemic insecticide control and will give a few weeks of protection against hessian fly and aphids which can be quite important in early planted wheat. The last thing has to do with grazing restrictions. Most products have a 42 to 55 day grazing restriction, which is plenty long enough to get the wheat big enough to graze. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Wheat Blends versus Pure varieties

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As we start moving full steam towards preparation for wheat planting I've started to get more questions about wheat varieties and always the question of blends. After several years of not a lot of new varieties, we seem to have a plethora of new varieties. A lot of them seem to have some real genetic horsepower going with them. As always, I recommend limiting new varieties to no more than 1/3 of your total acres. Three varieties that seem to be popular that I urge cautions with are T158 and Mint from Limagrain and Winterhawk from Westbred. All three of these are susceptible to stem rust. While we don't have stem rust issues very often, when we do, it is devastating. Limit yourself on these varieties and these may be good ones to use in a blend. In the absence of stem rust, they can be solid. Remember, we didn't have much disease pressure this year due to the dry spring. Since these things roll in cycles, I expect a whole lot more disease issues, especially leaf disease issues, next year. Just a forewarning! If you want to plant something early for grazing get one with Hessian Fly resistance such as Duster or Gallagher. Finally on blends. Seed should not be kept from a blend for seed wheat purposes as the makeup of the blend will be skewed by whatever did well this past year. You should start with fresh seed every year to make sure that you are maintaining that even mix of varieties, be it 2, 3 or 4 - but don't go more than 4 and make sure that the varieties used are complimentary, but not the same characteristics. And if you have multiple landlords, give blends serious consideration! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm

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Late season flowers are nothing to worry about!

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Over the next six weeks I will field a fair number of questions about weed issues in pastures. Some of these late season blooming forbs can appear to be taking over the pasture but in reality they are rarely anything to worry about. The kind of late season weeds to worry about, things like sericea lespedeza, you rarely see bloom. Right now there's a lot of snow on the mountain blooming in pastures. This plant is easy to identify with its green leaves edged in white and a very milky sap. This is an annual plant that is going to be readily seen in areas that have been overgrazed and trampled down, like around water, salt or mineral blocks or feeders. It dies with frost and really is not a problem in well managed pastures. Ironweed, with its big mounds of purple flowers atop a 2 to 3 foot stalk is a perennial and again is going to be most common in areas that are overgrazed. If an area becomes too thick with it we may have to spray, but try to deal with it through grazing management first. The one that seems to get everyone cranked up is annual broomweed. I haven't seen much of this yellow flower yet this year, but I expect to see it more in September than August. It is not a very hardy plant and doesn't grow well where there's competition for sunlight for the seedlings. So overgrazed areas of pastures will be more likely to have it. Do you see a trend here? Annual broomweed will also die with a freeze and simply is not a threat to grasslands, but rather an indicator plant of other issues, usually overgrazing. If you are concerned about a plant, send me a good sharp photo or bring in a sample! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.