

### Wheat Disease Pressure

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Unless you read the scripts for these radio programs on line (and they are posted on our office website after they have aired), you don't know that there is a title at the top of each one. For today's program the topic is wheat disease pressure. And the quick answer is that there isn't really any wheat disease pressure. We had a hard enough winter that we froze out the green leaf material that most of the leaf diseases need to overwinter on. Which means that for the leaf diseases to get started up, there needs to be fungus spores blow in from the south. While God knows we've had plenty of south winds this spring, what have they blown in? Dust, that's what. If the wind is blowing in dust then it means that it's dry or drier to the south and there's no leaf diseases there either. For a disease to get started we need a susceptible plant, okay, we have that, we need disease spores, nope don't have those, and we need free moisture on the leaves of the plant - we've had that very rarely. Without all three in place at the same time, you aren't going to have diseases. Late last week the state of Kansas was virtually wheat disease free. Our plant pathologist couldn't find anything and neither could most county agents. Disease pressure in Oklahoma is low. Quite frankly the drought is hurting wheat leaf diseases worse than it is the wheat. It is unlikely that you will need to apply any fungicide this year. The wheat is heading and will be blooming soon and after that we could all use some rain! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Timing Brush Control Sprays

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Nothing drives me crazier than a pasture owner or manager saying that they want to go spray brush in pastures, what should they use? So I ask them what kind of brush they have and the response is just, you know, brush. So here's where it drives me nuts. We have 3 or 4 principle brush species in our pastures. Buckbrush, smooth sumac and rough-leaved dogwood are the big three and then we can also throw in wild plum, chokecherry, blackberry and maybe fragrant sumac. But maybe what we really have are trees that just haven't gotten very big. The problem is that brush species aren't one size fits all, or in this case, one spray season or spray mixture doesn't fit all. You really need to target what your worst problem is and go after that first. If you take a shotgun approach you wind up with a lot of holes in the pattern! You want to spray when the species is just reaching full leaf. At that time root reserves are at their lowest and leaves are more readily going to take up the herbicide. Buckbrush is early and easy. Spray the first half of May with 1 - 2 qts of 2,4-D per acre. Dogwood is a little later, May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>. And you're going to need something with a little more kick. Make sure you use something that has triclopyr in it. Sumac is the latest. For Sumac you spray June 10 to the 25<sup>th</sup>. Fortunately, sumac is also easily controlled with 2,4-D 1 - 2 qts per acre. Other ideal dates for treatment time of other species, and preferred herbicides, can be found in our chemical weed control handbook which is available on line or at an Extension Office near you! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Starter Fertilizers for Soybeans?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. One of the common misconceptions that we battle is that soybeans don't need any fertilizer. I think this false idea came from the simple fact that since soybeans are a legume, if they have been properly inoculated, they will produce their own nitrogen and they don't need NITROGEN fertilizer...for the most part. But the fact is that soybeans can respond very favorably to starter fertilizer, especially when soils are low in phosphorus. Soybeans are actually heavy removers of significant levels of nutrients. Soybeans remove 0.8 lbs of phosphorus with every bushel of grain they produce. That's 60% more than wheat and 240% more than corn. Granted, corn yields are quite a bit higher, but, a 50 bushel bean crop takes off as much phosphorus as a 120 bushel corn crop or an 80 bushel wheat crop. Ideally, we'd want a soil test done before you fertilize your beans. Some years it seems like every single field that gets tested is adequate in phosphorus and the next year 3 out of every 4 fields needs phosphorus. Our rule of thumb is that once you get over 20 ppm phosphorus on the soil test, you aren't going to see any yield improvement from fertilizing. BUT, I don't see a problem with applying 20 pounds of phosphorus as starter fertilizer when you plant. A little nitrogen can also help boost the crop along until the nitrogen nodules kick in. If you didn't really need the phosphorus, then you aren't out that much money and you're helping build soil test levels for future crops. But if you did need it, you just saved yourself some frustration and put some yield in the bin! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.