

Green Stem of Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. As I've visited with a lot of soybean producers the past week or so, green stem syndrome has been the dominant topic. Green stem syndrome in soybeans is a condition by which the stem remains green while the seeds are mature and ready to harvest. The good news is that even though the stems may be green, if the seeds are dry you can go ahead and harvest. It may look and smell like you are cutting silage, but go ahead and harvest. You could wait for a freeze to kill and dry out the stem, but the longer you wait after the seed pods are mature to harvest, the more shattering and harvest loss you will have. So what causes green stem? It's usually a combination of events that include stress, low pod counts, or late rains and all of these can be aggravated by soybean aphids, stink bugs, leaf beetles and viruses. If you have mid season stress just as beans are blooming you can wind up with blossoms aborting and low seed count. We've seen cases where fields planted 2 to 3 weeks later than other fields are totally dried down and harvested while the earlier planted fields, with the same maturity soybeans, have green stems. Quite frankly, the soybean plant, in the late season, often steals nutrients from leaves and stems to finish maturing the beans. If you have low seed count, because of stress, there's no where for those nutrients to go. Like I said at the start, even if you do have a lot of green leaves and stems, if the seeds are dry, you're probably best to go ahead and start harvesting! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Timing of Cheatgrass herbicides on wheat

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We still have enough continuous or nearly continuous wheat to insure that we still have fields where the cheatgrasses are a problem. Obviously the best long term control of those winter annual grasses is to simply rotate out of wheat for 2 or 3 years and then stay in a good rotation. But if that isn't your option, for whatever reason, then consider using one of the cheat grass herbicides. While many of these can be used in the spring, products like PowerFlex, Olympus and Maverick are going to be more effective on the cheat grasses when used in the fall, especially if downy brome is your major weed problem. We honestly probably have until early December to use these products as long as the grasses are still growing. Unless we have some really sudden really cold weather, those grasses will be growing for quite a while yet. Another advantage for fall treatment is fewer rotation restriction. I've already mentioned getting the herbicides applied when the grass is actively growing, and preferably before it gets too big. The wheat, on the other hand, needs to have at least three leaves. If you have a lot of broad leaf weeds these herbicides will also be very effective against all the winter annual broadleaf weeds as long as there is no ALS resistant genotypes present. If you apply one of these products this fall, double check to make sure there aren't escapes next spring. Also keep in mind that while these herbicides will control cheat and Japanese brome, they are weaker on downy brome, which we have a lot of, and they will do nothing on jointed goatgrass or feral rye, which I don't see much of! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Crazy Weather

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Jeez what a crazy month. Good rains at the start of the month gave us great soil moisture and then we really started to get some great fall weather, for a change, and it looks like it's going to be continuing on for awhile which may make some late fall activities a challenge this year. If you still have wheat to plant, get it in the ground as soon as possible. Planting October 20th compared to October 1st really doesn't hurt you on yield. But delay that planting from October 20th to November 10th and you've got some issues developing really fast. The lack of a good hard freeze yet, and we are past the date of the first killing frost by well over a week, has kept harvest from wrapping up in a timely fashion which means that some recropping plans may very well be in the tank. My cut off date is about November 10th. If you can't get your wheat in the ground by then, consider not planting. The other challenge is timing that last cutting of alfalfa. To be right honest, most of the time that last cutting isn't all that great. If you don't have grain harvest done and wheat planted, don't even think about cutting alfalfa. At this point in time your focus needs to be on wrapping up harvest and getting any remaining wheat planted. If you have those tasks done and you have a fair amount of alfalfa standing, enough that it would make a decent cutting, then hold off until the end of the week and go ahead and cut it. I wouldn't expect much regrowth from her on. Regardless, you want to cut that alfalfa down after a freeze if not now or better yet graze it off. The reason for this, quite simply, is to reduce alfalfa weevil eggs! This has been Ag Outlook on

the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.