

Corn Leaf Spots

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It shouldn't come to anyone's surprise that given all the crazy weather we've had so far this summer, we're starting to see leaf spots show up on corn leaves. You're probably also going to be seeing them on soybean and grain sorghum leaves too at the rate we're going! The question then becomes, which ones are a concern, which ones can you do anything about and which ones do we still have a hope to control? Like with all diseases, the time to treat a disease is usually well before we are seeing it everywhere. We generally are most concerned with gray leaf spot in corn. We are starting to see some of this. We are also seeing a less common disease right now as well, northern corn leaf blight. Both of these diseases will be worse in no till corn on corn. Northern corn leaf blight will generally have large oblong lesions lower down in the canopy. Gray leaf spot starts out with yellow halos surrounding a pinpoint lesion then progressing to a medium size pale brown or gray rectangular lesions. Northern corn leaf blight is rarely a big enough issue to worry about. Gray leaf spot probably needs to be sprayed about every other year. The best time to treat for these is early tasseling to silking. Treatment outside of these time frames is rarely beneficial enough to pay for the treatment. You need to be aware of your hybrid's susceptibility to these diseases, looking at the long range forecast and then scouting for early detection. A lot of things to consider at a busy time of year!

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Why do herbicide treatments fail?

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. It doesn't matter whether it's controlling weeds in the lawn, weeds and brush in a pasture or weeds in a crop field, we regularly are dealing with control issues from lack of control or less control than desired. In reality, while we want to blame the herbicide for being a bad batch, it most often comes down to application error or applicator error. To be effective with a herbicide application is very easy. Use the right amount of the right herbicide at the right growth stage of the weed and crop during the right weather conditions. That's a lot of things you have to get right. Weather is a big one. Plants that are stressed due to heat or drought or even saturated soils, are going to be less likely to be controlled, and crops more likely to be damaged. For most weeds and most herbicides, temperatures between 75 and 85 are ideal with sunny skies, moderate humidity and low wind speeds. Good luck getting all of those by the way. Temperatures in the 90s and even low 100s are not good spraying days! Weeds also get away from us. A weed under 3 inches in height is going to be easiest to control. 3 to 6 inches is usually still controllable but once they get over 6 inches, it gets tough. Then we sometimes fail to read labels and use a product that may be weak or non-effective or use it at a lower rate than recommended to try to get by cheaply. The K-State Herbicide Weed Control bulletin is great place to check effectiveness of products. So if you want to get good control, know your target and use the right dose of the right herbicide at the right time and you'll have better results! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Come to the Fair

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Next week is the annual Geary County Free Fair. Events get started on Monday afternoon and evening of the 20th, really get rolling on Tuesday and then wrap up the evening of the 23rd. The horse show is Monday evening the 20th. The beef show is Tuesday evening the 21st. The sheep and swine show are Wednesday evening the 22nd and the livestock and project auction are Thursday evening the 23rd. The annual BBQ and watermelon feed are all slated for Thursday evening so cross your fingers for good weather but come on out anyway. I'm sure all the kids want to know that the Pedal Tractor Pull is Monday night the 20th. Over the years I have really come to appreciate our fair. I've been to a lot of county fairs in my years in several different states. I've had the privilege to even judge in a lot of county fairs over the years. What makes the Geary County Free Fair so special to me is that the focus isn't on a carnival or grand stand shows. It isn't about a demo derby or lots of commercial booths. What it does focus on is the 4-Hers, their projects and what they've learned. It's a 72 hour mini community of people from all across the county who come together to see the works of these young men and women, catch up with friends and neighbors, unplug and just relax for a few hours. For the kids, the four days go by way too fast. For the Extension Office staff, and many of the volunteers, the time may not go by fast enough. But the time is about right, and the focus is correct. So don't come to the Extension office Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday next week. We'll be at the fair! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.