

### Sericea Lespedeza Control

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. When you are dealing with nature and ecosystems, there is much that is out of our control and the big one of those is the weather. There are things that we might like to do with our cropping plans that depend on the right weather conditions to make it happen. When it comes to pasture management, you just have to wait and see what comes along. We had a lot of rain in May and at least up until now, June hasn't dried out too much yet either. This rain creates a great conditions for growth of plants in pastures. The grasses are growing good, the wildflowers look awesome and the sericea lespedeza is growing amazingly good right now. I'm sure there's also a lot of seedlings due to the great growing conditions this spring. While things look frequent mowing and grazing with goats can slow sericea lespedeza down, neither will kill it. The only way to really control sericea is with herbicides. And even then it's a multi-year effort to stay on top of seedlings and tough to control established plants. When there are good growing conditions in the vegetative growth stage, like we are seeing now, June is a great time to treat. Unlike fall when we focus on using products containing metsulfuron, late spring and early summer spraying focuses on herbicides containing triclopyr such as Remedy Ultra at 1 to 1.5 pints per acre or Pasture Guard HL at 3/4 to 1.5 pints per acre. Plan on using a minimum of 10 gallons per acre and 20 would be better. Thorough soaking with a handgun is you best option though. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Soybean Planting

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Well, here we are into the second week of June already without a lot of soybeans in the ground and probably zero milo planted yet. The good news on both of these crops is that there is still plenty of time. Many years we've seen after wheat beans do every bit as good as full season beans. If you'd planned to start planting already there's no need to panic and start switching out maturity groups, just stay with what you've got and carry on even if you do get pushed back to early July. When you finally do get into the field don't be making a lot of changes. Use burn down herbicides liked you planned, but make sure you are going full rates if weeds have gotten bigger than you planned on. Make sure you use inoculant and a little starter phosphorus fertilizer may not hurt especially in medium and low testing soils. The soils are going to be warm when you plant, but a little pop up phosphorus may still help get stands established. As for milo we are in the preferred planting time for it, in fact there may be some justification, when it does dry up, to plant the sorghum before the beans. If we get into late June you probably should consider switching to a medium maturity group if you had been on a late season maturity group. There is some indication that heat units may be a premium as the summer goes along and we may not get the late season heat we need to get those late season sorghum hybrids to maturity. Regardless of the maturity group, I'd be aiming at 40 to 45,000 plants for a final stand. Just like with wheat, we need to get that seed about 1.5 inches below the surface. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Alfalfa Management

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We have years like this every once in a while. Those years when you struggle to get enough sunny dry days in a row that you feel comfortable getting alfalfa down and dry so you can bale it. I've seen a few fields put up I've also been seeing some windrows getting rained on. So what's an alfalfa grower to do? I spent some time looking at alfalfa management bulletins from states where regular rainfall is a much more frequent problem than for us here in Kansas. The key in making quality alfalfa hay is to get the leaves into the bale. That means timely cutting. Alfalfa should be cut with a mower conditioner and left in a wide well aerated swath. The idea is to keep the hay up on the stubble instead of down touching the soil. Once the alfalfa has dried down to about 40 to 50% moisture, or still tough, it should be tedded so that it isn't touched again before it is baled. Remember, the drier the alfalfa gets the more leaves you start to lose and the more quality that stays in the field, not in the bale. In the middle of summer drying isn't an issue other than drying too fast. This kind of weather makes things a challenge. Tennessee data shows that tedder fluffed windrows will dry faster than tighter raked windrows. So what happens if the second cutting is coming on and the first cutting hasn't been cut yet? If the second cutting is only a couple inches tall, mow the alfalfa high and get it off as soon as possible. But if the second cutting is already half the height of the first cutting, you may as well just wait because many of the leaves have been lost from the first cutting anyway so just ride it out! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.