

Get Weeds When They are Small

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. If you aren't tired of me talking about weed control in crops, just wait a few more weeks, I'll get you there. I'm going to continue to emphasize the need to treat SMALL weeds for post emerge control. We'd gotten really used to spraying 3 foot tall weeds with glyphosate and having excellent luck. While that may still work on some species, we really need to be getting out of that habit. We need to be thinking about spraying 2 to 3 inch tall weeds. Many species are herbicide dose dependent. We may get 98% control with standard rates on 2 inch tall weeds, but only 50% control on 6 inch tall weeds. There are several other things we need to be paying attention to. Correct weed ID, listen to another radio program about that, is very critical. Proper weather conditions are crucial as well. Too cold, too hot, extreme humidity and rainfall too soon after treatment can all impact herbicide efficacy, which is just a fancy way to say, how well the herbicide works. Proper rates are critical too. We didn't do ourselves any favors by using half rates of glyphosate, so use the recommended rate based on weed species and size of weed. Use the correct additives such as liquid fertilizer or crop oil concentrate. Even the type of nozzle you use is important and the big one, proper carrier rates. I've seen a sad trend to lower and lower carrier rates per acre which results in poorer control. As we try to cover more and more acres we've moved away from the good old days of 20 gallons of water per acre. Read the label! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

Weed ID Will Be Critical

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. For far too long crop producers, when they have talked to me about weed control, have talked about two weeds, weeds, or grass. If it was a broadleaf plant it was a weed, if it was a grassy plant, it was a grass. Fortunately or unfortunately, those broad classifications just aren't going to cut it anymore. With more and more weeds developing herbicide resistance, so far just in the broadleaf weeds, we are going to have to become a lot more specific in our weed identification. Just saying, I've got weeds in my soybeans, won't help us figure out what we need to treat with. Since we also need to get weeds treated when they are small, and given how fast weeds grow, we are going to need to identify those rascals in a hurry. Fortunately, you don't have to become a weed ID expert, that's what I'm here for. Let me also add that if you want to become better at weed ID, then get some of your neighbors together and we'll have a little in field weed ID session. But if you don't want to start becoming a weed taxonomist, you have two choices. Bring the weeds to me, or send me a good photo from your cell phone, which I know about 90% of you have. Okay, maybe I'd better define a good photo. Since we will often need to be IDing small weeds we need two things. The weed needs to fill as much of the photo as possible and it needs to be in focus. You can text or email me that photo. Contact me to get either contact info if you don't have it. As for live samples, it's best if that sample is fresh. Carry some resealable plastic bags in your truck, toss the weed in it and then get it to me. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK,

I'm Chuck Otte.

Smoke Management

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. We didn't do much prescribed burning last year. It was kind of dry and we were all justifiably concerned. Had we known how much rain we were going to get in May and June I'm sure there would have been a lot more burning. Which brings us up to this spring. We have a lot of fuel out in those pastures. For those unfamiliar with prescribed burning, fuel is another word for old dead grass. We have good soil moisture conditions this year as well. All of this equates to a high likelihood that we will have a lot of burning this spring. For those burning pastures in Geary, or Riley or Wabaunsee or Morris counties, we will again be under the smoke management plan. Unlike in past years, the ozone monitors across the state have already been turned on, now effective March 1 instead of April 1. So it will become critical that we take effort to try to burn on days that will not cause issues in the larger urban areas such as Lincoln, Kansas City and Wichita. There are online planning tools that you can use to help determine good days to burn to reduce the chance of having smoke issues. I'll be talking about those in coming weeks, but the most important thing that you can do is to try to spread your burning out over as much time as possible. If you just want to remove fuel or control cedars, then you can burn anytime now. Burning on days when the temperature is below 60 will also help reduce the chance of creating ozone issues. We are at a very crucial time in pasture vegetation control. We have to work together to protect fire as a tool, or we could lose it. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.