

## Utility Safety

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. I was at our National County Agent Association national meetings last week in Chattanooga. One of our major sponsors is the Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance. While they really emphasize pipeline safety, the same message applies to all buried utilities and even overhead utilities. I know a retired county agent friend who was digging post holes and nailed a fiber optic line. He never told me how much that mistake cost him, but emergency services for part of his county was out of order for awhile. I watched a video at the Safety Alliance's booth in our trade show of one heck of a high pressure gas line fire that occurred when a crew was putting in drainage tile. They hadn't called 811 for a locate in the field and they sliced right through it. A few days later the same crew working in a different field nailed a different pipeline with the same result. They hadn't learned their lesson and again hadn't called 811 for a locate. There are so many pipes, wires and cable running everywhere anymore it just isn't worth the risk. The 811 resource responds quickly and marks where there may be problems and if you hit something that wasn't marked, it's not your fault. I've used them before doing landscaping at the 4-H Building and even the simple act of setting a pole for a Purple Martin house. And then, besides thinking about what's below ground, always keep your eyes to the sky. I lost two friends back in Nebraska the same fall because they ran augers into powerlines, so let's be careful out there! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Late Summer Burning for Sericea

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. In the ongoing battle with sericea lespedeza there's a new tool showing a lot of promise and that tool is an old tool, fire. What's different though is that it's an old tool but we are using it at a different time. I don't know if this year, with all the heat and drought that we've had will be the year to try it, but I'm not going to discourage you from trying it if you want. K-State researchers have been working on this for about 5 years and there's still a few things that we need to figure out yet. What we do know is that a late summer burn essentially sometime in August, will reduce seed production in the area burned to next to zero and that alone is a big step forward. The fire may also stimulate some of the seed bank to sprout and start growing in the fall and a follow up herbicide treatment may really help control those seedlings and many probably won't become well enough established to survive the winter anyway. Sericea is a perennial plant and just a single burn is not going to kill it. Burning several years in a row will start to decrease it but an August burn along with herbicides in the spring may afford a pretty good combo to start to turn the corner. But you need to keep in mind that sericea didn't get to be this bad in one year and you aren't going to turn it back around in one year either. Even if you just think you have scattered plants, you need to be looking to spray twice a year for several years and then continue to monitor those locations for at least five years. This is one very tough weed! This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Late Summer Herbicides for Sericea

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Yesterday we talked about considering an August burn to aid in controlling sericea lespedeza. If we aren't going to try that then in our ongoing onslaught against sericea we recommend up to two herbicide applications per year. Early in the year, usually in June, when the plant is growing vigorously, and there are new seedlings we recommend hitting it with triclopyr. We seem to find that triclopyr when sericea is in the vegetative growth stage seems to give us our biggest impact and appears to be better against new seedlings. But by now we have to be watching it to see if it is starting to bloom. If the conditions aren't good enough that the plant is blooming, just leave the sprayer in the shed and don't waste your time or money. If, however, we've had enough rain and it's cooled off enough it will start to bloom and our attack will benefit from herbicide treatments. At this time we want to be sure to use products that are or include metsulfuron. If there are other herbicides included, that's fine, but metsulfuron is the key. You want to start spraying just about the time the plant is starting to bloom. Metsulfuron containing herbicides that we would normally use or recommend include Chaparral, metsulfuron, Escort XP, Cimarron Plus, Cimarron X-tra or Cimarron Max. Read and follow label directions for mixing rates and surfactants. In some cases you may be broadcast spraying with a boom, make sure you are applying at least 20 gallons per acre for thorough coverage. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Controlling Brush in Brome Waterways

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Brome waterways present some special challenges for brush control. For starters, bromegrass, as a cool season grass, is more likely to show leaf burn from some brush herbicides. The grass will grow out of it, but it can be disconcerting post treatment. Secondly, since many waterways are hayed, these plants may be getting clipped off year after year. They are swathed off in June and then have all summer to grow back. Every time they are cut off and grow back, the root system gets a little bigger. You may wind up with a small tree that is only a foot tall but has a 20 year old root system under it. We are also swathing these fields at about the same time that we would normally be treating woody species so now we have to come back during early August and try to do some control. Fortunately, while early August is well past the normal treatment time frame, regrowth on these woody plants results in younger leaves that are more likely to take up the herbicide. In fact with tough to control species like locust and hedge, treatments can be made clear into early September as long as the leaves are healthy looking and green. I would consider going with some of the heavier hitters for brush control like Chaparral plus 2,4-D, Chaparral plus triclopyr, Forefront plus triclopyr or even Grazon P+D with Triclopyr. You can expect some discoloration of the bromegrass after treatment but that's okay. Control is better when a hand gun is used. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.

## Wheat Variety Considerations

This is Ag Outlook on 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County, K-State Research and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Agent. Hopefully the wheat variety trial booklet will be out soon. Slowly the results are coming on line but as of the time that I was writing this, the two that I really wanted, Riley and Saline County were not yet available. But let's go ahead and see if we can make any sense out of the results that we've got on a very crazy year. Unfortunately the results that are online are only the 2018 results and does not include the multiple year averages that I really prefer to see. The results that were on line were showing a fair amount of variation but that shouldn't be a surprise considering the year. First of all Wildcat Genetics, what used to be K-State releases have a replacement for Everest called Zenda. It's going to be very similar to Everest with possibly some of the best scab resistance out there. It outyielded Everest in the locations that I looked at. There appeared to be several soon to be released lines from several private companies that had intriguing yield, but until they are released with more than a number we'll be hard pressed to know for sure how they'll react in our fields. Of the named varieties, those that were significantly above test average included Syngenta Flint, Monument and Benefit as well as WestBred Grainfield. Hopefully by next week I'll have more updates on these. The testing program also did some yield trials under standard and intensive management. Intensive management was simply 40 pounds more nitrogen and two fungicide applications. But I'll have to cover that later. This has been Ag Outlook on the Talk of JC, 1420 KJCK, I'm Chuck Otte.