

Sugar Cane Aphids

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I was talking with a sorghum grower recently who was trying to decide between a hybrid with good yield or a hybrid with sugar cane aphid resistance. As so often happens when a new pest emerges and resistance genes are moved into the crop we often see a period of yield drag. We are slowly getting better yield but there's still some lag issues. Fortunately, we can treat for sugar cane aphids and as far north as we are, they normally get here late if they get here at all. Last year we didn't have problems and one of the reasons is that the sorghum growing regions to the south are planting a lot of resistant hybrids so the aphids can't build up big populations. So far in 2019 sugar cane aphids are only being found in extreme southern coastal Texas. Which bodes well for Kansas sorghum producers not planting resistant hybrids. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Native Hay Harvest

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We're into the second half of June. In about another month native hay harvest will be starting, or perhaps I should say should be starting. We deal with two challenges in native pasture haying: getting it harvested when we still have good quality and doing it early enough so that the grass plants can regrow and restore carbohydrate reserves in the roots. For best quality, harvest mid to late July. You will get slightly more tonnage with an August harvest but protein starts to drop like a rock once you hit August 1st. You definitely want to be through harvesting by mid August to give the native grass six weeks to build root reserves back up. After last year's drought I know there's a desire to put up as much hay as possible. But let's make sure that we're putting up hay that actually has feed value and we do it so we don't hurt the stand. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Post Emerge Weed Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In the first half of June we saw a lot of crops, soybeans mainly, go in the ground. The drier weather and sunshine also got some good growth on the corn. But good crop growing conditions are also good weed growing conditions. We had a lot of residual herbicides applied in a hurry in June sometimes under less than ideal conditions. Burn down herbicides may not have worked as fast or as well as you liked. So we may still have flushes of weeds coming up in our newly planted crops. It is very important, especially if we are dealing with any of the pigweed species, including palmer amaranth and tall waterhemp, that if we need post-emerge treatments they go on while the weeds are still small and by small I mean under two inches. These are tough weeds and we need to hit them early and we need to hit them with full herbicide rates. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sericea Lespedeza Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Sericea lespedeza continues to be a problem for native range managers and probably will for a long time. We find that the best hope of control comes with a treatment in the vegetative stage, like now, and then another treatment at flowering. Treating now is going to help control seedlings and reduce vigor of established plants. Spraying at the start of flowering will stop seed production which is a crucial goal as these are heavy seed producing plants and the seed can lie dormant for years. In the vegetative treatment phase which runs June into early July focus on using herbicides containing triclopyr and fluroxypyr. The most commonly used are Remedy Ultra or PastureGard HL. Mix Remedy at 1 to 2 pints per acre and PastureGard at 3/4 to 1½ pints per acre. Use 10 to 20 gallons of water for good thorough coverage. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Crownvetch Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As you drive down the highways this time of year you likely can't help but notice stands of plants that give blankets of pinkish purple to white flowers. This is crownvetch. A non-native legume that has, unfortunately, been heavily planted on roadsides for erosion control. Now, if the crownvetch would stay on the roadsides that would be great. But it doesn't. It spreads by seed and rhizomes and invades native and tame pastures and tends to smother out the native plants. While you can't legally spray it on the roadsides next to your pastures, you can certainly spray it once it gets into your pastures. While you can use our standard broadleaf weed killers on it, you're going to see a lot better control using a herbicide that contains aminopyralid. This includes Milestone, Chaparral, Forefront and GrazonNext. Escort works well too. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.