

Cut Stump Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Even though many trees look like they're still sort of growing, they went into dormant season mode a long time ago.

Likewise, even when they look dormant in February or March, they have already started growing. From about August 1 to mid January, herbicide treatments applied to cut stumps OR basal bark treatments, are going to get pulled down to the roots right along with the sap. Cedars I don't care about treating. Cut them off at the base and they are dead. But if you have deciduous trees to cut out of a pasture, fence row, or wherever, late summer, fall and up to mid-winter is a great time to do this and then treat the freshly cut stump. If you're in the middle of a pasture and have no desirable trees around, Tordon is great. Other than that use dicamba, triclopyr, or 2,4-D just be sure to treat within 15 minutes of cutting. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Dormant Herbicides on Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. One thing that I wish more alfalfa producers would do is to apply dormant season herbicides to their alfalfa stands.

Obviously we aren't into the alfalfa dormant season yet but I want to start getting you thinking about it now. Some producers, not enough, but some, do apply phosphorus in the dormant season and this is a great way to get 40 or so pounds of phosphorus down AND get some herbicide applied. We have many excellent herbicides to control the mustards and do a pretty good job on the downy brome and cheat as well. Depending on application timing, some of the products will even reach into early spring and help with foxtail, crabgrass and pigweeds. However, if your response is that if you control the downy brome and cheat this fall you'll have nothing to cut, maybe it's time to start a new stand! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Late Wheat and Starter Fertilizer

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Soil tests and recommendations from those soil tests are frequently based on average or good growing conditions. But when we get into late season wheat planting, we know that cold, or especially cold and wet fields can change the way that plants and soil nutrients interact. Even though soil phosphorus may be adequate according to a soil test, we'll often still see responses from starter fertilizer in cold wet soils, either early spring in corn or late fall with wheat. For wheat planting, from here on out, I would plan to apply an extra 10 to 20 pounds of phosphorus as starter fertilizer. Ideally, put it right in the drill row as long as there's not more than 10 pounds of nitrogen per acre in direct seed contact. If there's no nitrogen in your starter then there's no limit on how much phosphorus you can use. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Lodging Soybeans

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. There are many things that can cause soybeans to lodge prior to harvesting. While not as bad with the newer varieties as some of the good old ones, simply excessive growth in good growing seasons and heavy pod load can all cause the beans to start to lodge. There are stalk rots that can impact soybeans especially in years of extreme weather such as very wet early, dry later on. Then there's also increasing issues with dectes stem borer in soybeans. When you're in the middle of harvest you may not care why the beans are lodging, you're just trying to figure out how to get through them and lose the fewest soybeans. Ultimately we need to know why. Make a note, of where in the field the lodging was worst. Then after harvest we can go back in and try to determine what was the cause and what we can do to reduce it, next year. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Late Season Wheat Seeding Rates

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. As we move into the last third of October it's time to start pushing wheat seeding rates up, especially given the cooler damper soils this month. This is the fourth October in a row that has been damp and delayed some wheat planting. By now I'd recommend pushing seeding rates up to 90 pounds per acre and anything after November 1st I'd move that up to 110 to 120 pounds per acre. Under no circumstances should you push the rate beyond 120 pounds. Studies just don't support planting heavier rates than that. If something is causing you to think more than 120 pounds I would counter with, maybe it's time to forget wheat planting for this fall and switch to a spring crop next year. And as I mentioned a couple of days ago I would use some starter fertilizer regardless of soil test oh, and a seed treatment! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.