

Dectes Stem Borer

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Dectes stem borer is a gray long-horned beetle that lays eggs at the base of soybean plants, the small larvae burrows into the soybean stem and it slowly feeds and weakens the stem. In many cases the infested plant will lodge as we get towards harvest. A few plants here and there are no big deal but once you start to get 5, 10 or even 15% lodged plants then you can have a serious issue. The borer is native to the US. It originally was found in sunflowers but as more and more soybeans started being planted they figured out that they can make a living off of soybeans too! There is no genetic resistance in soybeans and chemical treatments aren't practical. It's incidence has been increasing in recent years for many reasons. All you can do is be aware that you have it through scouting and then try to get those worst infested fields harvested first. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Palmer Amaranth Control in Grain Sorghum

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In some ways we have been blessed that the seed companies recognized that making a roundup ready grain sorghum would be a big mistake. But it also means that weed control in grain sorghum is still old school. But what happens when soil residual herbicides break down and we start getting some big palmer amaranth in our sorghum. Well, there's nothing that's likely to do a good job on palmer amaranth once it gets 2 feet tall but at least you can try to knock it back a bit. Research at Hays last year focused on controlling pigweeds in sorghum. They looked at atrazine, Clarity, and Huskie each alone and in all combinations. They actually all did a pretty good job of knocking the pigweeds back and holding them back for up to 7 weeks. But this was pigweeds under a foot, not three feet tall, so adjust your expectations. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Wheat Variety Insect and Disease Ratings

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. K-State has released the updated Wheat Variety Insect and Disease Ratings for 2020. Let me know if you want a copy. It now includes new varieties like KS Dallas, KS Western Star, Showdown, WB4267 and WB4792. Historically our biggest threat from diseases is soilborne mosaic, leaf rust and stem rust with barley yellow dwarf, tan spot and Septoria leaf blotch right behind. As you are looking for wheat cultivars to plant I would start with soilborne resistance. We can spray for the rusts and just about everything else. Hessian fly resistance is great too, especially if you are planting wheat early for grazing, but that really narrows the field of what's available. Barley yellow dwarf resistance would be good too for grazing wheat, but not a lot of choices there. Pick up a copy and check it out as you prepare for wheat planting. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Flowers in Pastures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm just going to tell all you pasture managers right now that we are going to have a lot of flowers growing in your pastures later the month and September. We had good rains in May which got a lot of seeds sprouted and enough rain continuing through the summer that a lot of wildflowers are going to be blooming. I'm sure we'll see a lot of annual broomweed - that's the pretty yellow flowers that turn pastures into a sea of yellow. Then there's also a lot of goldenrod that causes a lot of concern in September as well. Most of the time these flowers, weeds if you want to call them that, are not a problem. They don't diminish grass production at all. What some of these flowers often do show, though, are areas that are likely being grazed a little heavier than they should be. If you're concerned, call me so we can go look at it! 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. With the rains and decent weather we've been getting, sericea lespedeza is going to be starting to bloom before long. Early bloom is a good time to get in there for another herbicide treatment and a very crucial treatment as we want to stop those plants from making more seed. Sericea is a prolific seed producer and that seed can stay dormant in the soil for quite a while. For the late summer or blooming time treatments we want to make sure we have metsulfuron in the herbicide mix which gives us a lot of options. We can go with Chaparral, Escort XP, or just generic Metsulfuron, Cimarron Plus, Cimarron X-tra and Cimarron Max. Picloram and triclopyr based herbicides simply aren't going to be as effective in late summer. Follow the label for mixing rates and additives. Higher volume for good foliar coverage is crucial! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.