

Volunteer Wheat Control

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. July is almost done which means we are about two months away from the start of wheat planting. Which means a couple of things. First and foremost you need to be out in those fields that had wheat this year and make sure that you aren't developing a volunteer wheat problem. We've been getting more than enough nice rains that all that wheat that went out the back of the combine will be sprouting soon if it hasn't already. Any volunteer wheat, and I mean any, I don't care where it is, needs to be destroyed over the next six weeks. If it's in double crop beans, get it. If it's in a wheat stubble field, get it. I don't care if the field is going to be in wheat, is next to a field that's going to be in wheat, or is a mile away from the nearest wheat field. Just be a good neighbor and get it killed, dead and brown, by September 15th. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Cut Stump Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We often cut down trees in pastures, fence rows, wherever 12 months out of the year, treat the stumps and move on. But cut stump treatments work best from mid July through the end of January. It's at this time that trees and woody shrubs are busy moving food reserves to the roots and when applied herbicides will go right along with the sap. It's hard to get the herbicide into the leaves this time of year, but cut stump, down it goes. Several herbicides are labeled for cut stump treatment including Tordon and anything with triclopyr. Thoroughly wet the stump and do so within 10 minutes of cutting it. There are a few species that I don't recommend cut stump treatments, namely hedge, black locust and honeylocust. These species tend to root sprout badly from cut stump treatments so tomorrow I'll talk about a good way to deal with them. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Basal Bark Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Osage orange, or hedge trees, along with honeylocust and black locust have a bad propensity of sending up lots and lots of root shoots if you try to deal with them in the normal cut and treat the stump. One technique that is a little more work but seems to have worked well is to use a basal bark treatment. In basal bark treatments you mix triclopyr with diesel or kerosene at a fairly strong rate, 25% and then thoroughly wet the bottom 12 to 15" of the trunk to the point that it is running off. You need to go all the way around the tree. For black locust or honeylocust you can also use the herbicide Milestone in the same manner. This is best done from mid July through the end of January. Then you just sit back and wait for the tree to die before you cut it down. Root sprouts are greatly reduced using this method! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Test Your Hay

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I harp on this really regularly and I'm sure you get tired of hearing it, but too bad. Testing your hay is something that a few producers do regularly but far too many don't do nearly often enough. Hay quality can change, significantly change simply from delaying cutting 3 or 4 days. And that doesn't matter if it's alfalfa, brome or native. Native hay has the added challenge of simply how many forbs are in the mix as well as how many seed stalks. Many studies over the years have shown crude protein can drop 25% in a matter of one week. I know how it goes on the farm. A rain at the wrong time can mess up everything and a busted swather can through a monkey wrench. We can't do anything about that BUT you can simply know what you are dealing with by testing hay from every field every year so you can feed it better. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Catch Your Breath

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This has been a crazy year. I mean, every year on the farm is crazy but along with Covid-19 everyone is feeling a little extra stress or frustration or simply uncertainty right now. A few weeks back, before the fair, I took a weekend and really didn't do much of anything. I did fun things that I don't always let myself do. Vacations this year are looking very different for a lot of folks. Vacations are often a time when we decompress. Vacations for many folks have become staycations. I think it's hard for farm and ranch folks to stay home and NOT do something. So here's your permission slip. Do the chores that you have to in order for the livestock to survive, but do nothing else. Go fishing one evening. Do a drive anywhere that you find relaxing and enjoyable. Just treat yourself to some sanity time. Busier times are coming, so relax a little now! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.