

Utilizing Plant Tissue Analysis

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We depend heavily on soil testing to know how much and which kinds of fertilizers we need to apply. But there are an increasing number of situations now days where plant tissue testing can be very diagnostic. While you can grab plant tissues at any stage and have it analyzed, there are certain times that can be very telling on the bigger scale. For corn we are coming up on one of those times which is green silk. At that time, randomly going through a field or a problem area, and collecting 15 to 20 corn ear leaves can be very helpful. You can get a basic test of N, P and K for about \$10 or the whole deal with most all of the micronutrients for about \$35. If you have areas in corn fields that don't look right for no known reason, consider testing that area and then testing an equal number of leaves from the normal looking areas. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Be Prepared for Volunteer Wheat Issues

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In talking with several producers quite a few of them have commented on the number of small, shrunken and shriveled kernels. Which means that if you are seeing those in your bin or truck, there's an equal number that went through the combine and out the back. Now, it's been hot and dry and those kernels are just sitting out there in the field going through a natural dormancy period anyway. But when it rains those stupid little kernels can still sprout and grow into a rip roaring good stand of volunteer wheat. That volunteer wheat can do a great job of hosting wheat curl mites and other insects and diseases that can reinfect new wheat fields within a half mile or further with good winds. Just know that there will be volunteer wheat in those stubble fields and have a plan to chemically or mechanically control it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Potato Leafhoppers

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I had several calls recently about alfalfa. Some were established fields, some were new fields. Some were blooming and only 8 inches tall. Well, once alfalfa starts to bloom, that's it. It isn't getting any taller with that cutting. Get it swathed and get what you can. Drought can cause short alfalfa. Sudden shifts from really cool and wet to really hot and dry can cause problems. And potato leafhoppers can cause stunted alfalfa. In at least one of these fields potato leafhoppers were thick. You'll see leafhoppers jumping up in front of you as you walk through an alfalfa field. They have a piercing sucking mouthpart and when they feed they cause a V shaped yellowing of the leaf tips. It doesn't take very many leaf hoppers to justify treatment. If you are seeing what you think is leafhopper damage, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Pigweed Control in Wheat Stubble

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. With the issues we've seen in recent years with tall waterhemp and palmer amaranth it is a must that we initiate control when the pigweeds are small if you want to control them. I saw a soybean field recently that had 6 inch tall pigweeds in it. Those aren't going to be controlled. If you have wheat stubble fields or fallow fields of any kind you have a few more options for pigweed control. Gramoxone either alone or in combination with numerous other herbicides offers some pretty good control of bigger pigweeds, even 8 weeks after treating. Liberty, again alone or in combination seems to work really good. I also can't emphasize enough the importance of using herbicide combinations that have more than one mode of action not just for better control but to help reduce the risk, or how fast, resistance develops in weed populations. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Buckle Up for Drought

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've long said that the best long range prognosticator of weather patterns is the Climate Prediction Center. Over the years they just seem to hit it better than anybody else. Unfortunately, their July prediction is not to my liking but I fear it's probably going to be accurate. They are predicting July to be warmer and drier than normal. Great - just what I wanted to hear. But for the three month time frame they were showing us on the edge of normal temperatures and normal or slightly above normal rainfall. If we can make it through a hot and dry July then we have hope. Watch the short term weather impacts for timing of herbicide applications. Perhaps even more critically, looks like July could be some excellent prairie hay harvesting weather. Just in case August turns off wet, try to make hay in the latter half of July! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.