

Cold Weather Injury in Wheat?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It got cold about then days ago. I don't think it got below 20 but it certainly got into the low 20s. Of course, the wheat had finally started growing and really greening up so we have the question of whether there was any damage. Now, I'm convinced that any cold spell will likely have caused damage on at least a few plants somewhere in every wheat field. But was their field wide or large areas of damage?

Basically not that I've seen. A lot of the wheat either hasn't started to joint yet or just now started to joint, or what we also call first hollow stem. At this time there is still very good cold tolerance and we'd need to see temperatures down into the mid teens for several hours before we'd expect damage to begin. We weren't quite there. The temperatures are currently running at or above normal so wheat will be progressing rapidly now. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Chloride Deficiency in Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. We've known for nearly 40 years now that we can develop chloride deficiency in wheat and when we do, it can look a lot like various leaf diseases. One of the reasons we're developing this problem is due to "cleaner" fertilizers and the fact that we rarely fertilize for potassium. Our standard potassium fertilizer is one half chloride. We have plenty of potassium in the soil so we simply rarely use potassium chloride. If you know you have a chloride deficiency there's still time to fertilize this year, but hurry. If not, look for excessive leaf spotting, especially if you see differences in varieties. Then after harvest let's get a profile soil sample pulled for analysis. Chloride, like nitrate, is mobile in the soil so we need to look at that top 18 to 24 inches. While we're at it we can test for nitrate and sulfur at the same time. Make the most of it! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Too Late to Fertilize Brome?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I had a phone call last week asking if it was too late to fertilize bromegrass. The answer is a quick and resounding no. While November through February fertilizations will give you a better yield response, early April applications are certainly justifiable. I would go with about the same rates but just be aware that yield response will be less than a late fall or winter application of the same amount. That is assuming we receive enough precipitation, which is about a quarter to a half inch minimum, to wash the fertilizer into the root zone. I know several times over the past 10 years that we've received inadequate rainfall in March and April to move those spring applications down to the roots and yield has suffered. One positive to an April fertilization is that crude protein is usually increased about 2 full percentage points. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Careful with your timing of 2,4-D

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. 2,4-D is still regularly used alone and in tank mixes for broadleaf weed control in wheat. The problem is that you have to pay close attention to the timing of these sprays or there can be issues. Most 2,4-D labels call for it to be used on wheat from full tiller stage until prior to the boot stage. Most times we are going to be using it about now - the time between full tiller and jointing. But if you have late planted wheat it may not quite be to full tiller stage yet. Applying 2,4-D prior to the full tiller stage can stunt the wheat and reduce tillering. On the other hand, going the other direction and getting 2,4-D on just a little late will result in malformed heads and heads trapped in the boot. In fact, the damage may be very similar to freeze damage on wheat. So while 2,4-D can be a very price attractive herbicide, be sure to use it at the proper time! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Weed Control in Bromegrass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Bromegrass is really taking off. Brome fields, like any grass stand, can have issues with weeds, especially weedy grasses. How often have you seen the brome harvested and by August it's a tangled mess of foxtail and crabgrass. The brome sometimes goes dormant through the summer and these summer annual grasses can just take over. There is a product labeled for brome that is the same active ingredient as in some lawn crabgrass preventers. Prowl H2O, with the active ingredient of pendimethalin, just last year received a supplemental label for control of annual grasses and many small seeded weeds like pigweeds. If you want to control foxtails and crabgrass I'd be aiming to get it applied pretty soon now. The label has a range of 1.1 to 4.2 quarts per acre. I would want to go the first year with 2 to 3 quarts per acre to see how it does. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.