

Storm Damage

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's May and that means we can have severe thunderstorms with intense rain, wind and hail and we did a week ago. Any of these can be bad news for growing crops. Any corn that was out of the ground that got hailed will be fine as the growing point is still below ground, well, that assumes that it didn't drown out from the intense rains! Wheat is another story though. We had fields that were hailed. Fields that may have been on the verge of getting a fungicide treatment are no longer being considered for that. Obviously if you have hail damage you should have contacted your insurance company by now. And then comes the waiting game. Secondary tillers will likely be kicking in to try to make up some of those lost tillers. They won't make back all that lost yield, but they will get some. If you need me to look at a field, give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Corn Stand Issues

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Hard rains over the past ten days on top of recently planted corn can often be a recipe for seedling stand establishment issues. Heavy rains can also be a problem with flooding. Corn that is emerging can only handle about 72 hours of inundation or saturated soils before you start to really have issues. Corn that isn't out of the ground yet probably has a little bit more tolerance BUT it can also cause some problems with unusual disease issues like crazy top. The cooler weather during some of this has likely helped us a little. Soil temperatures peaked on May 4th and have been slowly drifting back down since then. I'm not worried about chilling injury from this weather however. The other issue we can run into is crusting. Fortunately the cooler weather has slowed down soil drying down and that has likely helped. If you need a field looked at, call me! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Leaf Rust? Stripe Rust?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Right at the first of the month we had temperatures spiking into the upper 70s and low 80s and I thought, okay, we're making the traditional switch from stripe rust weather to leaf rust weather. But then more cold fronts rolled in, rain came, hail came in some places and the picture has changed. Stripe rust is here and it's working it's way up through the canopy. Cooler weather has been good for wheat development and increasing yield potential if you avoided the hail. Flag leaves are fully out or getting there and if you are going to apply fungicides the time is nigh to make that decision.

Temperatures are finally warming back up and will hopefully stay seasonal. Take a look at your wheat and if yield potential is above 50 bu/acre you may want to consider a fungicide treatment, especially if your cultivar has poor rust resistance. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sericea Lespedeza Control Window

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. After one of the recent rains I had a call from a land owner wanting to know if it was too early to spray sericea lespedeza? Basically, yes. We have two treatment windows for Sericea. The first is late spring, basically when plants are 12 to 15 inches tall during June. At this time we are trying to knock down established plants and really hammer the seedlings. We're going to use triclopyr alone or with fluroxypyr, PastureGard HL, or picloram with fluroxypyr, Surmount. It's important to get good thorough coverage with a hand gun or if using a boom use at least 20 gallons per acre of carrier. Follow label directions for mixing rates and any adjuvants to add to the tank. The second window is going to be later in the summer as the plants are starting to bloom usually August, September and these use metsulfuron products. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Brush Control Timing

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I think we have all, at some time or another, seen something labeled as "One Size Fits All", and chuckled because we know that isn't true. Yet we try to take that same approach to brush control in pastures. Each of those brushy species actually has a specific time frame that is ideal for control. We often say to treat in the first two weeks of June, yet it's really too early for some species and too late for others. The best time to treat buckbrush is the first half of May. We're already late! But for sumac it's the last half of June. For dogwood it's about May 20 to June 10th. So you can take the one size fits all approach to brush control, or you can decide what's your biggest problem and treat in the best time frame for that species. Then you move to your second worst problem so you tailor your treatment to get the best control possible! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.