

Ag Radio Programs for September 21 - 27, 2020

Keep an Eye Out for Stinkbugs

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. That spate of dry weather started getting quite a few beans turning, but there's still a lot of vulnerable green soybean pods out there which means that stinkbugs can still cause some problems. Stinkbugs stick their mouthpart through the pod and into that bean to suck the juices out of it causing the seeds to be shrunken and deformed. R5 and R6 growth stages where you have a lot of not fully sized beans are the most vulnerable and we've got a lot out of beans that size out there right now. We generally feel that if you are seeing 10 stink bugs per 30 foot of row you need to spray. IF you can still walk through your beans get out there and start scouting. Remember that in addition to being green and brown as adults, immature stink bugs will be a mottled orange, black, yellow and white and are just as damaging as the adults! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Will Wheat Seed Treatments Help with Insects?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Several of our latest generation wheat seed treatments are insecticidal in nature as well as fungicidal. So how much help are they to controlling insect pests AFTER the wheat is out of the ground including things like aphids that carry barley yellow dwarf or the dreaded Hessian fly? Yes, some of these systemic insecticide seed treatments will give some control to early season insect pests for about the first thirty days post planting. And then the good is gone. If you are planting early I would definitely consider using them, BUT if you intend to graze, check the label to see if grazing is allowed and after how long? The earlier that insects get on wheat in the fall the more damage they will do, hence why we discourage early planting. The problem though is that their will still be insect threats after the treatment is gone. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

How Soon to Graze Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I've often said that we don't have enough folks that utilize fall wheat growth for cattle pasture. Well, of course if you don't have cattle this is a moot point. But if you do have cattle AND the field is convenient and fenceable then trying to get some wheat planted a little bit early to get some good growth and then grazing it is a good use of resources. I would make a few tweaks to the management though. Increase seeding rate about 15 to 20 pounds per acre and get at least 50 pounds of nitrogen applied pre or post planting. Once the wheat is up you want to make sure it is well rooted so it doesn't get pulled out by the grazing of the cattle. We often feel that 45 days of growth will get you there under normal conditions but with good conditions it could be earlier. Go out, grab a handful of leaves and give a pull to check on it. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Last Call for Sericea Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I had a text from a friend recently asking if it was too late to treat sericea lespedeza with metsulfuron or Escort. Well, yes and no. Likely there's been a lot of blooming already and some seed production but that plant is going to stay susceptible up until we've had a hard freeze. So treating now won't stop as much seed production as a treatment a month ago, BUT it is still going to do a fair amount of damage to the plant. But you'll definitely need to come back in early June with a triclopyr treatment.

When a range of rates is given at this late date I would tend to go to the full rate, but not over! If the recommended rate is $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 ounce, I'd use the full one ounce rate. And I would use a hand gun to thoroughly spray the plants. If it's a larger patch you will want to spray it from at least two different sides for thorough coverage. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Will We Have An Early Frost

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I always chuckle when folks ask me if I think we'll have an early frost, like I truly know. And after the weather last week I'm sure a lot of folks were thinking this was a strong likelihood. For starters our average first frost date is October 19th but the range of that date is from September 17th to November 10th. So it COULD occur at anytime. But two years out of three it will be October 19th plus or minus 12 days. Those stats are since 1951 by the way so 70 years worth of data there. The date, however, is slowly slipping later. But with that said I do what I always do and check out the climate prediction center's forecasts for the next month and three months. Now that we are past that cold blip last week, and looking at the 10 to 14 day forecasts, we are lined up, as of now, for high probability of above average temperatures. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.