

Ag Radio Programs for September 7 - 13, 2020

No Program, Labor Day

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent.

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Forest Service Seedling Tree Sales

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The Kansas Forest Service sells seedling trees for various purposes including windbreaks, wildlife habitat and conservation. There is a spring and a fall sales season - springtime is bare root trees which are cheaper and in the fall they are containerized seedlings which are a little more expensive. Note that these are seedlings meaning that they are going to be 10 to 24 inches tall depending on the species. AND you have to order 25 of one species - there's no mix and match here to get up to 25. There's a great selection of deciduous trees and shrubs and a few evergreen trees as well. The cost for the trees is \$55 for 25 seedlings. If you are wanting to plant a lot of trees and are patient, this is a great way to go. If you need some advice in how to lay out a windbreak or a conservation planting, give me a call at the Extension Office! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Planting Bromegrass

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I had a couple of phone calls recently from producers wanting to know if it was too early to be planting bromegrass. I had to chuckle because I remember what one now long gone farmer once told me about planting bromegrass - plant it any month that has the letter R in its name! So no, it isn't too early to plant bromegrass. Bromegrass is a cool season grass so September and early October is a great time to plant. Some people plant it with an oats or wheat cover crop, and others don't - both seem to work fine. We generally want to plant about 15 pounds of pure live seed, that's purity times germination to figure that out and then I also like to see 30 to 40 pounds of phosphorus and 30 to 40 pounds of nitrogen applied before or at planting. If you are using an easy flow and a harrow apply the fertilizer, then the seed and then harrow it all in! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Early Fall Brome Fertilization

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In general we don't fertilize our brome grass enough or at the right time. Let's start with those brome fields that are fall grazed. I don't have a problem with that but if you want to fall graze brome you need to be applying 40 to 50 pounds of nitrogen now and I'd also like to see about 20 pounds of phosphorus and 10 pounds of sulfur go on in September as well. Then when you pull the cattle off go with another 50, 20 and 10 in November or December assuming that the ground isn't frozen. If you don't fall graze don't think you can slack off until spring. Spring is too late for brome fertilization and may explain low yields you may have been seeing. A full shot of fertilizer, meaning 80 to 100 pounds of N, 20 to 40 pounds of phosphorus and 10 to 20 pounds of sulfur needs to be applied in November to February. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Abundance of flowers in the pasture?

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Pasture managers and/or landowners are likely going to start seeing a lot of flowers blooming in their pastures over the next 6 weeks. In some cases it's going to look like the flowers are taking over the pasture. Many times I've had phone calls about this or that flowering plant that is taking over a pasture. Well, with a few exceptions, the plant in question is NOT taking over the pasture. They are taking advantage of an opportunity caused by lack of other vegetation and bare soil. Many of the wildflowers are opportunistic and need bare soil to get started. What causes bare soil? Cattle congregating in one place, like water or mineral, or just general overall overgrazing. An abundance of wildflowers may be an indication of a wet spring, but it often also is an indication of poor management that needs to be corrected. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.