

Wheat Herbicide Selection

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Herbicide selection for wheat used to be really simple; 2,4-D. Unless you had wild buckwheat and then it was 2,4-D and dicamba. Oh, there were a few other rarely used herbicides but that was really just about it. Then Glean came along and the flood gates were opened. At the start of this year we had over 50 herbicides labeled for wheat. A few are for very specific lines with herbicide resistant genes, like Clearfield wheat, but most are open for use on all wheat varieties. Hopefully most of you have your wheat herbicides down already, some may still be waiting for drier weather now that it finally rained. The one caveat I always remind producers about is to pay attention to next crop plans either double crop beans, fall alfalfa, or plans for 2022. Many of these products work well, but have lengthy re-cropping intervals. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Sulfur on Wheat and Brome

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Wheat and brome are both cool season grasses. One is an annual and one is a perennial. We normally fertilize them at the same time and quite honestly use the same application rates for both. For years we applied starter fertilizer when we planted the wheat for phosphorus and then topdressed with just nitrogen in the late winter. While we were at it we also hit the brome. We now have found that we need phosphorus on the brome just about every year as we've been watching falling soil phosphorus levels. But thanks to the elimination of acid rain and cleaner pure fertilizers, we're now tapping out the sulfur reserves in the soil as well. Grasses can be sensitive to low sulfur levels and the foliar clue looks identical to nitrogen deficiency. It's time to start adding 10 to 20 pounds of sulfur annually to those fields. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Chloride Fertilization of Wheat

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. In the 1980s an Extension colleague of mine was noticing leaf spots on some variety of wheat leaves. When those leaves were taken to the pathology lab the pathologists could not culture any disease organism out of them. Just by coincidence though, in a study looking at chloride fertilizer applications, the check plots had these leaf spots but the plots treated with 10 to 20 pounds of chloride did not. Leaf tissue testing quickly showed that the wheat was chloride deficient. Just as with sulfur, we have a pretty good soil test for chloride BUT to get an accurate test we need to do a 24 inch profile test. So it often isn't done. I'm not saying to test every field every year for chloride, but once every 3 to 5 years might be a good schedule for chloride and sulfur testing, and if you are finding unexplained leaf spots, maybe more often! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Monitor Soil Temperatures

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. It's March so I don't think there is anything that the weather can do that would surprise me and the same with soil temperatures. Late last week we had a 7 day average 2" soil temperature of 48 degrees but a high of 56 and a low of 39. Even with cool air temperatures the sun is getting warm so sunny days will warm up that soil. We start April next week and once that happens many corn producers start getting the planting itch. While corn has good early season cold soil tolerance, we still want to use a little common sense. I don't like seeing corn planted until we have 7 day average 2" soil temperatures above 55 degrees. Keep in mind that a week of cold weather, as we recently saw, can drop that soil temperature and delay corn emergence. Be patient, give the soil time to warm up. Getting in a hurry gains you little or nothing! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Right Herbicide for the Job

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Whenever a producer asks me the best pre-emerge residual herbicide I always start by asking what weeds they have. The answer is often, well, just weeds. The reason I ask is really simple. Not all weeds are created equal and not all herbicides are created equal. If you are fighting a lot of pigweeds then there's a good chance we're dealing with herbicide resistance and the recommended herbicides will be different than if grass weeds are your biggest problem. Yes, the available herbicides for corn and soybeans is confusing. Corn and soybeans each have over 60 herbicides available and that isn't even counting the generics or several products with the same ingredients. This is why I encourage producers to keep a notebook and write down the weed problems in each field. They're all different, and one size doesn't fit all. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.