

Ag Radio Programs for July 18 - 24, 2022

Take Time to Visit the Fair

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. This is Geary County Free Fair week. I encourage all of you to take a little break from your normal routine and come on out to view the exhibits and projects that the 4-Hers have been working on, in some cases, for several months. The 4-H Building is filled with exhibits from cooking to photography and woodworking and everything else in between. On the livestock side you already missed the horse show, it was last night, but the sheep and goat show is tonight at 7, the beef show tomorrow night at 7 and the swine show will be Wednesday night at 6:30. Thursday evening wraps things up with the 4-H Barbecue and watermelon feed followed by the livestock and project auction that starts at 6:30. Technology allowing the livestock shows will be streamed on Facebook Live. Look for Geary County K-State Research and Extension. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Cut Stump Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Once we get past about mid July, trees and shrubs have normally maxed out their leaf area so they are starting to move nutrients, food reserves if you will, into the root system. From now until early February is a great time to make cut stump treatments to control trees and large shrubs. A cut stump treatment is about as simple as it sounds. Cut down the tree and within a few minutes, and it needs to be within about 15 minutes for maximum uptake of the herbicide, apply the treatment. While everyone's mind immediately goes to Tordon 22K or Tordon RTU when talking about cut stump treatments, there are many other good herbicides to consider. Glyphosate will work, as will Crossbow, various triclopyr products and even dicamba. For black locust or honeylocust consider using Milestone, 10% strength in water. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Basal Bark Treatments

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Yesterday I was talking about cut stump treatments from now through mid winter, which is about when sap starts rising again. But this is also the time to apply basal bark treatments. Basal bark treatments involve using a herbicide, usually triclopyr based, mixed strong in diesel or kerosene and then sprayed on the trunk of the tree from ground level up about 15 to 20 inches. You need to make sure you get all the way around the trunk of the tree and apply to the point of runoff. Then you can come back a year later, when the tree is dead, and cut it down. Many producers have mentioned that doing this with hedge and honeylocust trees they wind up with far fewer to no, root sprouts coming up later. For black and honeylocust, if trunks are less than six inches in diameter you can also use Milestone as a basal bark treatment. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Dig Safe

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. You can see it all over town and out in the country, literally everywhere. More and more utilities are going underground. Many times property owners think they know where something is buried, but they really don't. I can tell you the story of a retired county agent who was putting up a new mailbox and hit a fiber optic underground cable. It didn't go well! Do not take that risk. Always call DigSafe before you start putting anything in the ground more than a couple of inches. I've done this on several occasions because if you contact for a locate first, liability is lifted off of you. It's simple. Just dial 8-1-1 or go online at kansas811.com. Detail where you want to dig, what the project is and they are usually there in a day or two. Yes, you do have to plan ahead. But isn't the piece of mind and liability worth that! 8-1-1. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

Not All Thistles Are Bad

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Thanks to some amazing media efforts many people in Kansas are well aware of Musk Thistle and that it needs to be controlled. The problem is that some people then assume that all thistles are bad and need to be destroyed, which is not correct! Musk thistle is non-native and blooms early in the season. The blooms nod over and the stem is usually devoid of foliage or bristles for several inches below the head. Virtually all the other thistles, and especially the ones that are blooming from now on through to fall are native and not a big threat. Most commonly around here our mid to late summer thistles are going to be tall thistle and wavy-leaf thistle. Not only are they native and not overly aggressive, their blooms are heavily used by butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Stay after the musk thistle, but leave the rest alone. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.