

Missouri Ag News

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Fall Weed Management

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As the days get shorter and cooler many weeds will begin to disappear. However, winter annuals and rosette forming weeds may still cause problems for some farmers. Some species of brush can also be controlled this fall to help clean up pastures.

Winter annuals, like henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule* L.) at right and chickweed (*Stellaria media* (L.) Vill) seen below, germinate in the fall, grow through the winter, and produce seed in the spring. These weeds are most common in dormant warm-season grass pastures or in new seeding, but can also be problematic in established pastures. Banvil or clarity (active ingredient dicamba) mixed with 2,4-D, or Grazon P+D (a.i. picloram) can be used in grass pastures. Round-up (a.i. glyphosate) or Gramoxone (a.i. paraquat) can be used on warm-season grasses, like bermudagrass, after the crop is in winter dormancy.



Weeds that form a rosette typically germinate in the fall or early spring. Plants that form a rosette include: Thistles (*Cirsium* spp.), dandelion (*Taraxacum* spp.), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota* L.), chicory (*Cichorium intybus* L.), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa* Lam.), red sorrel (*Rumex acetosella* L.), and others.



Because of their low, spreading growth, these weeds can smother the grass and create open spaces in the pasture. Additionally, weeds like Queen Annes's lace, chicory, and dock (*Rumex*

Continued...Fall Weed Management

crispus L.) can gum up fescue seed combining equipment and create more trash in the gleaned seed. Many chemicals will control these weeds. To select the correct chemical for your farm, use the chemical recommended for the weed that occurs most frequently or the one that is the most difficult to control.

Most recommendations for brush control suggest spraying during

the spring, when the plant is growing rapidly. However, MU research with blackberry (*Rubus* spp.) suggests that fall spraying could also be effective. Area farmers spraying blackberry and other brush have been very successful. This approach works because the plant is translocating nutrients to the roots for winter dormancy, so the chemical kills the plant from the root up. This method of spraying needs to

happen before the leaves fall off to be most effective.

Make sure to read the herbicide label carefully before applying, because many herbicides can damage newly germinated grass seedlings. New seedlings need to have a sufficient root system before herbicides can be applied.

Sarah Kenyon, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Alton, MO

Water Wise Decision Making

Whether you are wanting to drill a new well, get information about a local well or want to know about groundwater recharge, you may want to be aware of two available tools from DNR-Division of Geology and Land Survey. One identifies monitoring wells and levels of recharge, the other allows you to locate wells in a given area that were drilled after 1987 (with minimal information) and look at the depth of wells, the depth of the pump, what types of materials were drilled through at a particular depth, and the gallons per minute. Both of these sites are open to anyone for use.

Monitoring well website provide a variety of information:

<http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wrc/groundwater/education/gwwhymonitor.htm>

At the lower part of the page is an interactive map to groundwater observation well information and real time data: <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/wrc/groundwater/gwnetwork.htm>

The second site, Well Information Management System (WIMS) - is a data base of all wells that have been built since 1987. <http://dnr.mo.gov/geology/geosrv/wellhd/>

Under the section Online Services click on the Well Information Management Systems link: <http://dnr.mo.gov/mowells> go to next page and click on search the well Information Management System (WIMS). Put in what information you do have (the more info you have the narrower the search) – names of people and addresses need to be exactly as

Acorn Poisoning

Now is the time of year to be on the lookout for acorn poisoning. Most people have heard of acorn poisoning and may have even had animals die from it. Acorns, oak leaves and oak bark contain tannins that, when consumed in large amounts, release toxins in the intestines and kidneys. These toxins cause lesions to form in the kidneys, liver and digestive tract reducing their function eventually shutting them down. Signs of acorn poisoning vary according to the quantity of acorns consumed. The first signs are that the animal stops eating, is depressed and does not excrete manure regularly. Excessive thirst, frequent urination, and hard dark feces occur next. Black tarry diarrhea will occur one to two weeks after consumption of acorns and the animal may not live 5-7 days after the first sign of consumption. Cattle, sheep, horses and pigs are most susceptible to acorn poisoning.

Goats, deer and other wild animals have a chemical in their saliva that binds to the toxin, reducing or eliminating the amount that reaches the digestive tract.

The best way to deal with acorn poisoning is to prevent it. Keep livestock away from acorn or oak brush covered pastures or fence them out of forests. Adding calcium hydroxide to feeds can prevent poisoning if you are unable to keep animals away from acorns and oak brush. Rations containing 10 to 15% calcium hydroxide are recommended but check with your veterinarian first before feeding. If an animal has eaten acorns and you see early signs of toxicity remove the animal from the pasture and give them fresh water and good quality hay. Oral drenching of a calcium hydroxide solution will help neutralize the tannin toxins. If the animal continues to eat, it will most likely survive and regain weight quickly.

A residual effect of acorn poisoning is the possibility of malformed calves if the acorns were consumed during the second trimester of pregnancy. Poor nutrition when the animal consumed the acorns also contributes to the severity of malformation in the calves. "Acorn calves" may be born with shortened legs, deformed hooves, domed skull or long narrow head, and laxity of the joints. These calves will be stunted and grow poorly.

Acorn poisoning is generally rare and most of the time an animal will not eat enough acorns to cause toxicity. However, there is always that one cow that will actually seek out acorns. With a little management and possibly fencing you can prevent the loss of an animal and the offspring she is carrying.

Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Greenville, MO

National Small Farm Trade Show & Conf.

Opportunities for traditional and alternative family farms will be presented through seminars and short courses for full- and part-time farmers, ranchers, gardeners and landowners. 150+ exhibitors, 20 seminars, 8 short courses, 27 talks in NCR-SARE Farmer's Forum, demonstrations, exhibitions, association meetings, and more.

November 1-3, 2012

9am - 5pm Thursday, November 1; 8am - 5pm Friday / Saturday, November 2 - 3

\$10/1 day, \$15/2 days, \$20/3 days. Short Courses are \$35 each at the door.

Hemorrhagic Disease in Livestock

Hunting season is upon us and many will be in the woods enjoying this pastime. While in the woods you may come across a larger number of dead deer this year, especially around water holes. Hemorrhagic disease (HD) in the form of bluetongue virus (BTV) or epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) is typically the cause of these sudden deaths in deer. Hemorrhagic diseases are spread through biting midges and can be transmitted to cattle, sheep and goats. The diseases can also be spread through semen of infected males and needles used on diseased animals. Cases of HD have been reported in cattle in Missouri. We should be seeing a dramatic decrease in the midges due to the weather change and some frost.

Typically, sheep are more affected by these viruses although cattle and goats can have symptoms. The incubation period for BTV or EHDV is 4-6 days. Clinical signs for the diseases include lethargy, edema, drooling, blood in the mouth/stool, lameness, abortions and fetal or calf abnormalities. Similar symptoms can be seen with other diseases so it is best to have a veterinarian examine affected animals. There is no prevention or cure for BTV or EHDV and treatments are supportive and include broad spectrum antibiotics to prevent secondary infections. Livestock may show no clinical signs and recover fully from the disease, however reproductive performance

may be affected while the animal was sick. If you have symptomatic animals contact your veterinarian for a confirmed diagnosis.

Some information provided by Dr. Craig Payne, DVM, Director, Veterinary Extension & Continuing Education, Assistant Extension Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri.

For more information please see: Pierce, Robert and Flinn, Emily. Potential Diseases and Parasites of White-tailed Deer in Missouri. G9489. University of Missouri Extension Publication. Rev. June 2012

Kendra Graham, Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Greenville, MO



Photo by - Joe Lacefield

Prussic Acid and Frost

Crops in the sorghum family, including sorghum, sorghum-sudan hybrids, and Johnsongrass, accumulate prussic acid in response to plant stress. Plant stress can be from drought, grazing, or frost. With the possibility of frost nearing, the chances of prussic acid poisoning increase.

Prussic acid volatilizes from the plant during drying; therefore, making hay is one management strategy to avoid prussic acid poisoning. If grazing the forage, wait until the plant has completely recovered from drought stress or grazing. After a frost, wait 2 weeks before grazing.

Sarah Kenyon, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Alton, MO

Dr. Anthony Ohmes....



Many of you may be familiar with Anthony Ohmes as an agronomy specialist in the southeast region who is especially good at answering questions about corn and soybean and is very willing to talk about anything to do with agronomy.

Anthony has worked for the University of Missouri for 13 years and continues his 11 years of experience in Extension with a move north in latitude. He will soon get to know more of the

producers and agricultural related groups in southeast Missouri. Cape Girardeau County welcomes Anthony to his new office in Jackson, Missouri as of October 15, 2012. Drop by and say hello.

Missouri Hay Directories

www.mda.mo.gov/abd/haydirectory

This website by the Missouri Department of Agriculture allows a search by county, hay type and bale type to find locations in or out of state that have hay available for purchase. Hay can be listed for sale by contacting Mark Murphy if you wish to be included on the list at 573-751-5633 or Mark.Murphy@mda.mo.gov.

www.mocattle.org/haydirectory.aspx

This website by the Missouri Cattlemen's Association is a list of hay for sale.

www.agebb.missouri.edu/haylst

This website by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and University of Missouri allows a search for hay and allows a posting of hay for sale.

Disaster Assistance for Crop Loss

Missouri USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Mark Cadle announced on October 4, 2012 that producers can enroll in the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program for 2011 crop year losses beginning Oct. 22, 2012. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, SURE authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

“Eligible producers who experienced a 2011 crop loss can contact their local county FSA office to learn more about the SURE program,” said Cadle. “All eligible farmers and ranchers must sign up for 2011 SURE benefits before the June 7, 2013, deadline,” he said.

To qualify for a SURE payment, the producer's operation must be located in a county, or a contiguous county, that was declared a disaster for 2011 and have at least a 10 percent production loss that affects one crop of economic significance. Producers with agricultural operations located outside a disaster county are eligible for SURE benefits if they had a production loss greater or equal to 50% of the normal production on the farm.

In Missouri, all counties received a primary Secretarial Disaster Designation or were contiguous to a county with a Secretarial Disaster Designation during 2011. This means producers in all Missouri counties can apply for SURE benefits as long as all other eligibility requirements are met.

To meet program eligibility requirements, producers must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all insurable crops through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and obtained Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on non-insurable crops, if available, from FSA. Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher do not have to meet this requirement. Forage crops intended for grazing are not eligible for SURE benefits.

For more information on SURE program eligibility requirements contact your local county FSA office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure>.



The Southeast Missouri Food Bank is eager for donations of specialty crops. The food bank will bring a 24 foot box truck to pick up

available produce. Edible produce, including seconds, should be in a crate or box.

Contact James Landewee, Operations Director at 573-651-0400 several days ahead of time if possible and specify if a refrigerated truck is needed. He will provide you with a tax receipt for anything you donate to use as a tax right-off.

Winter Wheat: Fall Management Considerations

As wheat begins to emerge this fall, begin scouting for aphids and winter grass weeds. Aphids themselves are not a major source of yield loss; however, they can be efficient vectors of barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV), which can cause substantial yield loss. Management of aphids includes insecticide seed treatments and postemergence pyrethroids. More information can be found in MU's Pest Management Guide M171.

Begin scouting your earliest planted wheat, because these fields generally are more appealing to winged aphids. Randomly exam at least ten locations in your field. Aphids will be close to the ground on cold days and out more on the leaves on warm days. Threshold for BYDV management is an average of 5 or more aphids per foot of row.

The two winter grass weeds to scout for are annual ryegrass and cheat/downy brome. Control of these grass weeds are most effective in the fall. There are both preemergence products and postemergence products available for grass weed management. MU's Pest Management Guide M171 has more information. Annual ryegrass is a smooth waxy (shiny) leaved grass while the brome family of grasses are not shiny and have hairs on the plant.



Characteristic reddening of flag leaf caused by barley yellow dwarf virus infection of wheat.

MU IPM guide 1024 has more information on identifying grass seedlings.

Another question that might come up is planting date. This wheat planting season so far has been favorable. If weather or time prevents your planting from being completed in October, wheat can be planted into November. If planting extends into November there are increased risks of reduced

tillering and winter heaving.

One management practice to consider when planting late is to increase the seeding rate by 5% to 10%, with a maximum seeding rate of 1.5 million seeds per acre, to compensate for potential reduced tillering and/or winter plant loss.

Sources: Pest Management Guide. Bradley, K. et. al. M171. University of Missouri Extension. rev. December 2010; Bradley, K. and Fishel, F. Identifying Grass

Seedlings. IPM1024. University of Missouri Extension. October 2010; Conley, S. et. al. Management of Soft Red Winter Wheat. IPM1022. University of Missouri Extension. October 2003. Found at <http://extension.missouri.edu/publications>

Dr. Anthony Ohmes, Agronomy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension, Jackson, MO

Annual Watermelon Meeting

American Legion in Kennett, MO

December 05, 2012 registration at 8:00 am

The program runs from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Call 573-686-8064 to register.



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If you are interested in receiving this publication via e-mail or being removed from the email list please send a request to denklers@missouri.edu.

Future Meetings & Events -

Missouri Forage Grassland Council Meeting: November 5-6 (10am-3pm), 2012 in Lake Ozark, MO at Resort at Port Arrowhead. To register go to agebb.missouri.edu/mfgc/2012mfgcconf.htm

Southeast Missouri Watermelon Meeting: December 5, 2012 in Kennett, MO at the American Legion Building. To register call 573-686-8064.

2012 Corn Meeting: December 6, 2012 in Miner, MO at the Miner Convention Center.

Missouri Livestock Symposium: December 7-8, 2012 in Kirksville, MO Call (660) 665-9866 or (660) 341-6625 or go to <http://missourilivestock.com>

Missouri Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention and Trade Show: December 11-13, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO

Great Plains Growers Conference: January 10-12, 2013 in St. Joseph, MO. Contact alpersm@missouri.edu, (816) 279-1691.

2013 Crop Management and Soybean Meeting: January, 2013

Missouri Rice Meeting: February, 2013 at the Eagles Lodge in Dexter, MO

Commercial Vegetable Production Workshop: February 26, 2013