



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

## Extension Agronomy

# eUpdate

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*02/15/2024*

These e-Updates are a regular weekly item from K-State Extension Agronomy and Kathy Gehl, Agronomy eUpdate Editor. All of the Research and Extension faculty in Agronomy will be involved as sources from time to time. If you have any questions or suggestions for topics you'd like to have us address in this weekly update, contact Kathy Gehl, 785-532-3354 [kgehl@ksu.edu](mailto:kgehl@ksu.edu), or Dalas Peterson, Extension Agronomy State Leader and Weed Management Specialist 785-532-0405 [dpeterso@ksu.edu](mailto:dpeterso@ksu.edu).

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## 1. Update - Federal court vacates labels for over-the-top dicamba herbicides

On February 6, 2024, the US District Court in Arizona issued a ruling that vacated the labels for XtendiMax, Engenia, and Tavium. The court found that the EPA violated the FIFRA notice and comment mandates for issuing new-use pesticide registrations when they issued unconditional labels for the products in 2020.

On February 14, the EPA issued a [cancellation order allowing the sale and use of products already in the distribution system](#). Products intended for use should be sold by May 31 for soybeans or June 30 for cotton. The application cutoff dates remain the same - June 30 for soybeans and July 30 for cotton.

Sarah Lancaster, Extension Weed Management Specialist  
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## 2. Preplant herbicide applications for kochia control

Now is the time to finalize plans for kochia control. In western Kansas, kochia is among the first summer annual weed to emerge in the spring. Recent research suggests that kochia can begin emerging in early February, with most kochia emerging by late April. In fact, Pat Geier, Assistant Weed Scientist at the Southwest Research & Extension Center in Garden City, found kochia emerging in fallow plots during the first week of February.

Good control of the first dense flush of kochia is essential for obtaining a good yield. Early-emerging seedlings use the limited spring soil moisture in the dryland production area. Kochia seedlings emerge in dense populations, making adequate herbicide coverage difficult (Figure 1). In addition, glyphosate-resistant kochia is prevalent across western Kansas, making kochia control even more challenging. For these reasons, it is important to apply preemergence herbicides in late winter or early spring to control this weed before it emerges. This article will be the first in a series discussing specific options for various cropping scenarios.



**Figure 1. Emerged kochia seedlings in a fallow field. Photo by Sarah Lancaster, K-State Research and Extension.**

## Herbicide program components to effectively manage kochia at germination

To successfully manage kochia, a herbicide program needs two components:

1. a very soluble and effective herbicide that can be incorporated with very little precipitation, such as dicamba; and
2. a herbicide that has longer residual activity, which will require perhaps 0.75 inches or more precipitation for adequate incorporation, such as atrazine.

Precipitation events during late winter are often too small to activate longer residual herbicides, but dicamba may control kochia for 4 to 6 weeks until the longer residual herbicide is incorporated.

The best time to apply herbicides for kochia control is generally January through the first week of March but **prior to kochia emergence**, which can vary depending on weather conditions. Later applications, for example, at the time of burndown, are more likely to occur after kochia emergence, which increases the risk of control failure (Figure 2). Fall-applied treatments can help ensure timely application; however, they are not likely to control later flushes of kochia effectively (Figure 3).

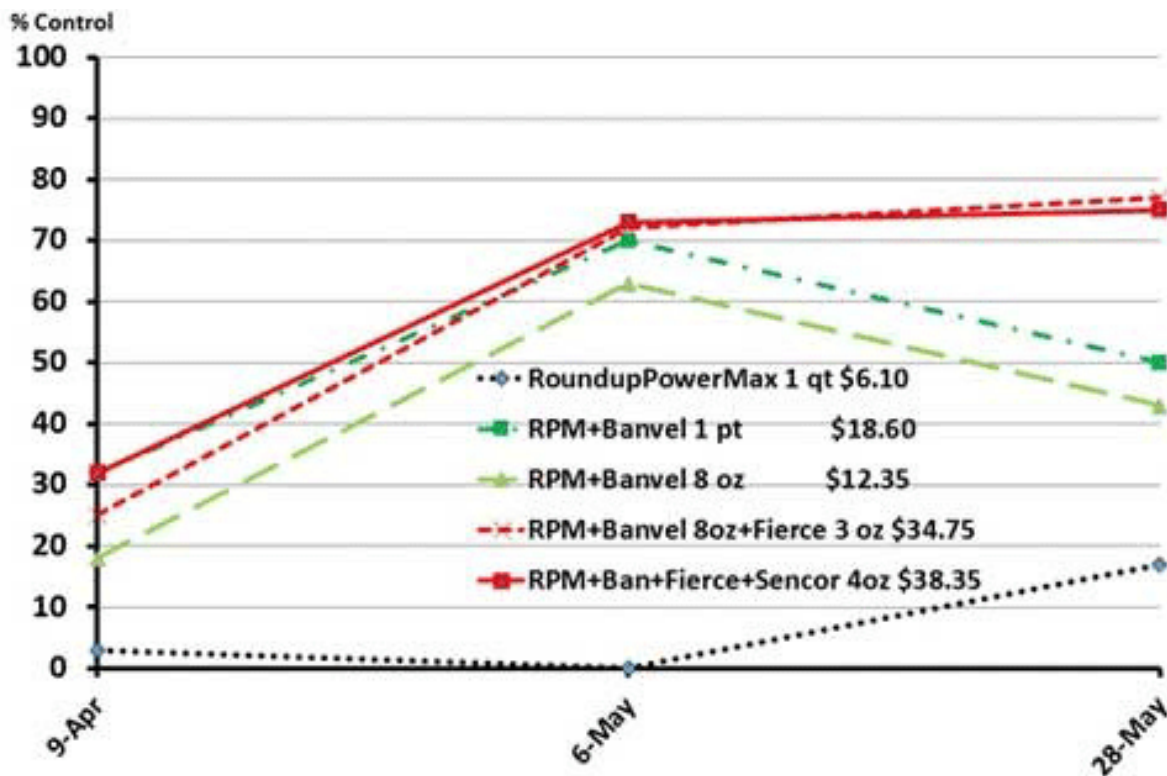
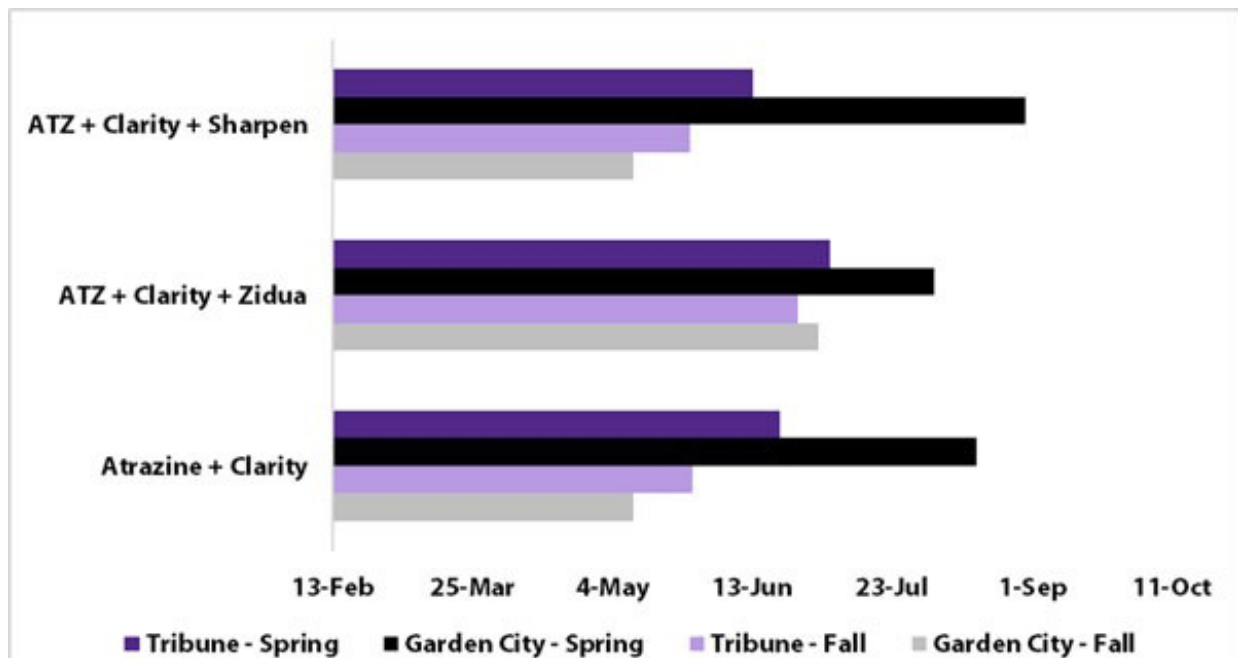


Figure 2. EPP/POST herbicides were applied on March 10, 2015, for kochia control at Tribune, KS. Kochia at cotyledon stage. Graph by C. Thompson, K-State Research and Extension.



**Figure 3. Duration of anticipated kochia control greater than 80% following fall (December 4) and spring (February 23) herbicide applications at two locations during 2015. Data from V. Kumar, K-State Research and Extension.**

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### 3. K-State Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab Samples - "The Good", "The Sick", and "The Ugly"

Quality diagnostics begins with the person collecting the sample. The ideal sample submission includes the ENTIRE plant (both healthy and sick plants), root systems bagged separately, images of symptoms, plants, and fields, and ample information related to the symptoms and production system practices.

#### **"The Good"**

- Submit healthy/non-symptomatic plants.



Remember to label your bags. Shipping can cause "bag blight," it is important to know which plants looked healthy before going into the mail.

#### **"The Sick"**

- Submit sick/symptomatic plants.



Remember to provide as much information as possible on our sample [submission form](#). This includes information such as variety/hybrid, planting date, date the problem first appeared, field history, pesticide usage, etc.

### **“The Ugly”**

- AVOID poor quality samples.





Samples degrade quickly in the mail, especially when using USPS as this carrier takes longer. The sample shown above was sent via USPS Priority Mail and took eight days to arrive. Samples that arrive in this kind of condition are extremely challenging to work with.

**To save time and money, use the recommendation below to avoid “The Ugly”:**

- Dig up plants and bag root system separate from aboveground material.
- Use two plastic bags – one for the root system and one for the entire plant.
  - Avoid leaf material contacting soil (keeps sample integrity).
- Collect and ship on the same day.
  - If this is not possible, hold plant material in the refrigerator until it is able to ship.
- Avoid collecting a sample and storing it on the dash of the truck.
- Ship overnight using UPS or FedEx.

**Overall Sample Submission Guidelines**



High quality samples lead to high quality diagnoses.

- Collect and ship samples on or before Wednesday to avoid weekend storage
  - Collect healthy and symptomatic plants (labeled)
  - Collect the entire plant.
    - Dig up the plant to keep the root system intact.
    - Bag roots separately to avoid contact with leaves.
    - Place bagged roots and above-ground materials in a larger plastic bag (see above photo).
  - Label and use plastic bags instead of paper, and do NOT add water. This maintains the sample integrity.
- Once collected:

- Fill out [submission form](#) with as much information as possible. Include variety/hybrid info (especially for wheat).
- Ship plants ASAP overnight via UPS or FedEx when possible. USPS can take up to 14 days.
- Send photos to [clinic@ksu.edu](mailto:clinic@ksu.edu) with the tracking number or date shipped.
  - 3 types of images
    - Symptom/problem close up and in focus.
    - Entire plant from ground level to top of plant.
    - Site – capture the pattern in the field, transition areas, terraces, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact us via [clinic@ksu.edu](mailto:clinic@ksu.edu) or 785-532-6716.

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#### 4. Wheat Rx seminars - Get your prescription for next year's wheat crop

A prescription for producing high-yielding and high-quality wheat is just what the doctor ordered for Kansas wheat producers — referring to expertise from Kansas State University like Drs. Romulo Lollato, Carlos Bonini Pires, Kelsey Andersen Onofre, Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Dan O'Brien, and others.

[Kansas Wheat Rx](#) combines suggested management practices for the economical and sustainable production of high-quality winter wheat in Kansas.

Mark the calendar now for two upcoming seminars in Dodge City and Wichita. Speakers will discuss cover crops and soil health, the role of wheat in a cropping system, soil fertility, fungicides, and economics of wheat production. The program will qualify for certified crop advisor (CCA) continuing credit units (CEUs).

"We cannot change the impact of weather on each year's crop, but we can arm wheat producers with the knowledge they need to maximize profitability through utilizing the genetic potential of new varieties and best management practices," said Aaron Harries, vice president of research and operations for Kansas Wheat. "We're excited to share with Kansas wheat producers what we've learned through the Kansas Wheat Commission's research investments — from the importance of variety selection to the practices and tools farmers can use to improve quality."

These programs are part of Wheat Rx, a partnership between Kansas Wheat and K-State Research and Extension, to disseminate the latest research recommendations for high-yielding and high-quality wheat to Kansas wheat farmers. This effort includes a series of extension publications at [kswheat.com/wheatrx](https://kswheat.com/wheatrx) and educational outreach like the upcoming seminars.

Kansas Association of Wheat Growers members receive one free registration to these full-day seminars. The nonmember registration fee is \$110. To take advantage of this benefit, join or renew your membership today at <https://kswheat.com/join>. Lunch will be provided.

These programs are scheduled for March 7, 2024, in Dodge City and March 8, 2024, in Wichita.

##### **March 7, 2024 – Dodge City**

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

7:30 a.m. Registration

Depot Theater, 201 E Wyatt Earp Blvd., Dodge City

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. View the full agenda and register for the event at <https://kswheat.com/dodgecity>.

##### **March 8, 2024 - Wichita**

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

7:30 a.m. Registration

Double Tree at the Airport, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. View the full agenda and register for the event at <https://kswheat.com/wichita>.



Romulo Lollato, Wheat and Forages Specialist  
[lolato@ksu.edu](mailto:lolato@ksu.edu)

## 5. 2024 Kansas Corn and Soybean Virtual School - February 22

Did you miss one of the in-person Corn and Soybean Schools? The last of the Kansas Soybean and Corn Schools is being offered as a virtual event on February 22, 2024. There is still time to register for this school, which is being hosted by K-State Research and Extension, Kansas Corn, Kansas Soybean and the Department of Agronomy,

The online session on Feb. 22 will run from 6:00 to 8:00 pm using the Zoom online platform. To receive the Zoom link, you must register at <https://kscorn.com/schools/>.

Presentations start at 6 p.m.

- Corn and Soybean Markets, Dr. Dan O'Brien
- Agronomics for Corn and Soybean Production, Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti
- Update on Corn Diseases, Dr. Rodrigo Onofre
- Updates from Kansas Soybean and Kansas Corn



Ignacio Ciampitti, Farming Systems  
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## 6. K-State Crop Talk webinar series kicks off on February 20

The popular K-State Crop Talk webinar series is back and set to start on February 20, 2024. This year, Crop Talk will be focused on agronomic topics for producers across the western half of Kansas. Topics include management for wheat production, biological products concerning soil fertility, high pH soils, and fallow replacement options in dryland systems. Continuing education credits will be offered, with one credit for each session.

Each webinar will begin at 12:00 pm (CST) and last until 1:00 pm, beginning with the first one on Tuesday, February 20.

Upon registration, participants will receive an email with instructions to attend via Zoom or YouTube. These webinars are open to all, and there is no cost. Visit the K-State Northwest Research and Extension Center's website to register: <https://www.northwest.k-state.edu/events/>.

Please contact your local KSRE extension office or the Northwest Research and Extension Center at 785-462-6281.

A complete list of webinars, with dates, topics, and speakers, is detailed below.

### **February 20 – Management Tactics for Wheat Production**

Romulo Lollato, K-State Wheat and Forages Specialist

### **February 27 - Biological Products and their Role in Soil Fertility**

Dave Franzen, North Dakota State Soil Specialist

### **March 5 – Managing Areas of Fields with High pH**

Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State Soil Fertility Specialist

### **March 12 – Fallow Replacement Options in Dryland Rotations**

Lucas Haag, K-State Northwest Area Agronomist



# Crop Talk

## Webinar Series

**Broadcast Live from 12:00 – 1:00 pm CT  
via Zoom and YouTube**

**February 20**

**Management Tactics for Wheat Production**  
*Romulo Lollato, K-State Wheat Specialist*

**February 27**

**Biological Products and Their Role in Soil Fertility**  
*Dave Franzen, North Dakota State Soil Specialist*

**March 5**

**Managing Areas of Fields with High pH**  
*Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State Soil Fertility Specialist*

**March 12**

**Fallow Replacement Options in Dryland Rotations**  
*Lucas Haag, K-State Northwest Area Agronomist*

**Register to attend at  
[www.northwest.ksu.edu/events](http://www.northwest.ksu.edu/events)**

Links for joining will be sent after registration.



Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Credits have been applied for.

If you have questions, please contact your local Extension agent or the K-State Northwest Research and Extension Center at 785-462-6281.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## 7. Great Plains Cotton Conference set for February 20 in Pratt, KS

In 2020, southern Kansas farmers planted 195,000 acres of cotton that produced 300,000 480-lb bales of cotton lint and 99,000 tons of cottonseed with a combined economic value of \$97,164,000!

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Plains Cotton Conference is scheduled for February 20 at the Pratt County 4-H Building, 81 Lake Rd, Pratt, KS 67124. This conference is co-sponsored by the Kansas Cotton Association, Cotton Incorporated, and Kansas State University.

Presentations will be focused on all things cotton, including irrigation scheduling, nutrient management, policy updates, cotton classing, pest management, economics and market outlooks, and cotton industry updates related to Kansas and the Great Plains. Nationally recognized speakers from KS, TX, TN, and NC will be presenting with an additional Panel Discussion on See-n-Spray technologies in the late afternoon.

Registration opens at 7:30 AM, with morning sessions beginning at 8:15 AM and lunch at 12:00 PM, sponsored by Corteva. Afternoon sessions begin at 1:00 PM and will wrap you at 5:30 PM.

CCA CEUs for Kansas have been requested.

### **Agenda and Topics**

- 7:30** Registration and visit sponsors' booths
- 8:15** Welcome to the Great Plains Cotton Conference – Shelley Heinrich, Cotton Board and Gary Feist, Kansas Cotton Association
- 8:30** Irrigation, utilizing soil moisture monitoring sensors, and GDD - Craig Bednarz, WTAMU
- 9:15** A New Perspective on Agronomic Research and Outreach for Cotton - Logan Simon, KSU
- 9:35** Nutrient Recommendations in Cotton – Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, KSU
- 10:05** Break
- 10:15** Policy Updates in Cotton and Cotton Trust Protocol – Tas Smith, NCC
- 11:00** What Happens at the Cotton Classing Office - Jim Waldrop and Jeannie Fowler, USDA
- 11:45** Visit sponsors' booths
- Noon** Lunch sponsored by Corteva; comments by sponsors, and visit sponsor booths
- 1:00** Insect Scouting and Management Options - Rex Friesen
- 1:30** Weed Management and Herbicide Resistance Update - Sarah Lancaster – KSU
- 2:15** Turning data into dollars – Ed Barnes, Cotton Incorporated

- 2:45** Lou Barbera – Cotton Global Market Outlook
- 3:15** Break
- 3:30** Cotton Board Update – Shelley Heinrich – Cotton Board
- 3:45** Panel Discussion on See-n-Spray technologies – Sarah Lancaster, JD rep, and farmer
- 5:00** Audience feedback and conclude
- 5:15** Visit sponsor booths

Logan Simon, Southwest Area Agronomist – Garden City  
[lsimon@ksu.edu](mailto:lsimon@ksu.edu)

## 8. Frontier District to host meeting on increasing row crop yields with weed and fungus control

The Frontier Extension District will host a meeting, "Increasing Row Crop Yields with Weed and Fungus Control," at 6:00 p.m. on February 22, 2024, at Grace Community Church, 310 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Overbrook, Kansas. Presenters for the evening will be Sarah Lancaster, weed science extension specialist, and Dr. Rodrigo Onofre, row crop extension specialist.

Lancaster will begin the evening by discussing timely tips for corn and soybean weed management and a short list of new herbicide products. She will also examine new cases of herbicide resistance and what that means for waterhemp control in corn and soybeans. She will also discuss designing a residual herbicide program to combat this troublesome weed.

Onofre will follow with a discussion of two diseases, Corn Tar Spot and how devastating it can be and Sudden Death syndrome in soybeans and what can be done to prevent it.

Corn Tar Spot is a relatively new fungus that is affecting corn acres in the northeast corner of Kansas, as well as in Illinois and Missouri. The fungi can overwinter in corn residue and then be spread by rain and wind. Tar spot develops as small, black, raised spots (circular or oval) on infected plants, and may appear on one or both sides of the leaves, leaf sheaths and husks. "Scouting fields is critical, as this fungus can spread rather quickly and can reduce yields significantly," said Ryan Schaub, Frontier District agent specializing in crop production and farm management.

"Weed control and fungal issues are becoming bigger concerns every year," said Schaub. "Plan on joining us on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. for supper and some helpful information."

Copies of the 2024 Chemical Weed Control guide will be available for attendees who have not already received a copy.

RSVP for the meeting by contacting Ryan Schaub at 785.448.6826 or [reschaub@ksu.edu](mailto:reschaub@ksu.edu).

# Increasing Row Crop Yields with Weed & Fungus Control

February 22, 2024

6:00 pm

Grace Community Church  
310 East 8th Street  
Overbrook, KS

Presenters:

Dr. Sarah Lancaster

K-State Extension Weed Management Specialist

Dr. Rodrigo Onofre

K-State Extension Row Crops Pathology Specialist



New Products for 2024

New Cases of Herbicide Resistance

Corn Tar Spot

Soybean Sudden Death Syndrome

Q&A / Discussion

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RSVP for meal & meeting to Ryan Schaub

785-448-6826 or [reschaub@ksu.edu](mailto:reschaub@ksu.edu)

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