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K-State 2022 Chemical Weed Control Guide now available

One of the most popular K-State Extension publications is here! The 2022 Chemical Weed Control Guide is now available online at:
https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/CHEMWEEDGUIDE.pdf

To control weeds effectively, select control methods carefully and use them properly. Chemicals, tillage, crop competition, cropping rotation, mowing, and fire are alternative weed control methods that may be used alone or in combination. Available time, labor, equipment, and other costs as well as types of weeds and areas infested need to be considered when planning a weed control program.

To increase efficiency of crop production, use weed control practices in conjunction with other crop and soil management practices such as planting high-quality seed, planting at the optimum rate and date, and maintaining optimum soil fertility.

This publication provides suggestions for chemical weed control in several major crops. For crops not listed, consult your local K-State Research and Extension agricultural agent.

When viewing online file in a web browser or in Adobe, there is access to bookmarks that will guide you to the first page of every section (options vary per program settings and device type).

Orders for hard copies will be processed by the bookstore as timely as possible.
Sarah Lancaster, Weed Management Specialist

Video of the Week: Low Light Indoors, No Problem
https://kansashealthyyards.org/all-videos/video/low-light-indoors-no-problem

What to Do With the Christmas Tree After Christmas

After the holidays, many municipalities allow old Christmas trees to be placed curbside. Trees are then collected and ground up for mulch or burned. If you miss the designated date, or your trash collector doesn't accept trees, there are several options to prolong the useful life of the tree.

An old Christmas tree can be used to benefit birds, fish, and the landscape by placing it in a corner of your deck, and spreading some birdseed nearby, or tying it to a deciduous tree or post near a bird feeder. The birds benefit from having escape cover nearby when hawks or cats threaten, and the dense boughs reduce the wind chill on a cold night.

Sinking your Christmas tree in a pond is an easy way to improve fish habitat and fishing. The tree serves as a coral reef, in that the branches provide substrate for water plants to grow, and cover for minnows and other forms of small aquatic life. Larger fish are drawn by the shade and the presence of prey.

How do you sink a tree? Tie the base to a cinder block with a short, stout rope, and toss it in. Just be sure to get permission from the pond owner first! Using the little tree around the landscape requires clipping off all of the branches. Use the boughs to add extra insulation around semi-hardy perennials or to trees and shrubs that were recently planted. The leftover trunk may be used as a garden stake next spring.

You may also cut and let the tree dry for a few weeks providing some easy lighting firewood. Just beware that most conifer species tend to spark and pop more than hardwoods, as resin pockets in the wood make tiny explosions. This can delight the youngsters, but for safety's sake, keep an eye on the fire when burning Christmas tree logs! (Charlie Barden)

Care of Gift Fruit Baskets

A holiday tradition is to give gifts of fruits and nuts (along with other products). Usually these are placed in an attractive basket, wrapped with cellophane covering, and brought (or shipped) to your house. It is important that the fruit contained inside is kept in cool conditions to maintain its quality for as long as possible. Thus, it is wise to disassemble the fruit basket as soon as you receive it and place the fruit in refrigerated storage. If all the products in the basket are tree fruits (such as apples, pears, oranges or grapefruit), you can place the entire basket in a cool place- around 40 degrees F for best results. If the basket contains any bananas or other tropical fruits (with the exception of citrus), remove those fruits and store them separately. About 3-4 weeks is about as long as you can expect to store these fruits without some shriveling and loss of crispness. (Ward Upham)

Storing Pecans and Other Nuts

During the holiday season, pecans and other nuts are commonly given as gifts or purchased for holiday cooking. Nuts can quickly lose quality if not stored properly. Excessive water loss can lead to shriveled nutmeats, and the fats and oils in nuts can quickly spoil – developing an off-flavor or rancid taste. Store shelled (or unshelled nuts) in the refrigerator, or preferably the freezer. Nuts quickly absorb flavors from other stored products, so store them in a tightly sealed container so they won't lose water or absorb flavors from other fruits or vegetables. A solid plastic container with a tightly fitting lid is preferred. You can use a heavy grade resealable plastic bag as well. If nutmeats are tightly sealed, they can be stored in a freezer for up to one year, but using them within six months is preferred. (Ward Upham)

January Beef Producers Tips … *by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist*

Cow herd management

 Historically, cull cow prices have increased during the next two or three months. Check your breakevens.

 Continue feeding or grazing programs started in early winter. Weather conditions may require wrapping up grain sorghum and cornstalk field grazing. Severe winter weather may begin to limit crop residue utilization, so be prepared to move to other grazing and feeding systems

 Supplement to achieve ideal BCS at calving.

 Use this formula to compare the basis of cost per lb. of crude protein (CP): Cost of supplement, $ per hundredweight (cwt.) ÷ (100 X % CP) = cost per lb. of CP.

 Use this formula to compare energy sources on basis of cost per lb. of TDN: Cost, $ per ton ÷ [2,000 X % dry matter (DM) X % TDN in DM] = cost per lb. of TDN.

 Control lice: external parasites could increase feed costs.
 Provide an adequate water supply. Depending on body size and stage of production, cattle need 5-11 gallons (gal.) of water per head per day, even in the coldest weather.
 Sort cows into management groups. BCS and age can be used as sorting criteria. If you must mix age groups, put thin and young cows together, and feed separately from the mature, properly conditioned cows.
 Use information from forage testing to divide forage supplies into quality lots. Higher-quality feedstuffs should be utilized for replacement females, younger cows, and thin cows that may lack condition and that may be more nutritionally stressed.
 Consult your veterinarian regarding pre- and post-partum vaccination schedules.
 Continue mineral supplementation. Vitamin A should be supplemented if cows are not grazing green forage.
 Plan to attend local, state, and regional educational and industry meetings.
 Develop replacement heifers properly. Weigh them now to calculate necessary average daily gain (ADG) to achieve target breeding weights. Target the heifers to weigh about 60%-65% of their mature weight by the start of the breeding season. Thin, lightweight heifers may need extra feed for 60-80 days to “flush” before breeding.
 Bull calves to be fed out and sold in the spring as yearlings should be well onto feed. Ultrasound measurements should be taken around one year of age and provided to your breed association.
 Provide some protection, such as a windbreak, during severe winter weather to reduce energy requirements. The LCT is the temperature at which a cow requires additional energy to simply maintain her current body weight and condition. The LCT for cattle varies with hair coat and body condition. Increase the amount of dietary energy provided 1% for each degree (including wind chill) below the LCT.