Researchers Seeking Input About Weed Challenges for Kansas Farmers

Every year Kansas farmers wage a silent but persistent battle with weeds that rob their crops of valuable moisture and nutrients in the soil and reduce crop yields.

Compounding the problem is the fact that even as herbicides are developed to combat them, some weeds develop resistance to the herbicide, which then becomes less effective over time.

At stake are billions of dollars in economic losses in North America alone, according to a seven-year study by the Weed Science Society of America conducted from 2007 to 2013.

To help researchers determine which weeds pose the most serious threats to Kansas farmers and what they are doing currently to manage the problem, Kansas State University researchers are asking producers, crop consultants, crop certified advisors and Extension agents to complete a short online survey. The information gathered will help guide research on innovative, cost effective and integrated weed management practices and to further improve outreach programs across the state.

The survey, developed by weed researcher Vipan Kumar, who is based at the K-State Agricultural Research Center in Hays, will remain open until July 15. The research team asks that Kansas farmers, consultants, advisors and Extension agents in all parts of the state participate in the survey. Questions can be directed to Kumar at vkumar@ksu.edu.

The information is especially important, Kumar said, because many growers are battling herbicide resistant weeds. His message to producers is “help us to help you” by completing the survey.

Because Kansas’ topography, climate, and cropping systems change dramatically from east to west, it’s difficult to get a clear picture of weed problems in all parts of the state, he said, and without traditional field days because of COVID-19, this year it’s even more difficult to have those formal and informal conversations about the current challenges.

Even when field days can occur, they are good starting points for addressing farmers’ questions, but only in a certain geographical area. The survey will provide a better picture statewide, Kumar added.

A new publication you might want to check out is Cover Crops Grown Post-Wheat for Forage Under Dryland Conditions in the High Plains. MF3523 (https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3523.pdf). Sandy Johnson et al. Cover crops planted after a wheat crop may offer a longer and more flexible grazing period than spring-planted cover crops within wheat-based dryland cropping systems. This publication provides guidance to growing cover crops for forage in the High Plains.
Remember the K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series, hosted by K-State Research and Extension horticulture staff across the state of Kansas. Please join us each week on Wednesdays at noon for some horticultural refreshment and training.

Each webinar in the series has a separate registration page. You will need to click on each webinar that you would like to attend. Sessions will be recorded and posted here after each event.

July 2020 Remaining Presentations include:

**Wednesday, July 22nd: Pesticide Label Safety - Lynn Loughary**

Unlock the truth about pesticides and separate fact from internet fiction. Lynn Loughary, Wyandotte County Horticulture Extension Agent, will walk you through how pesticides are developed and which situations will provide you optimal control with the least environmental impact. Learn what you need to know in order to safely use these products and achieve the most effective results.

**REGISTER HERE** ([https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HOfARqegRBG_5nc8o1V5YA?_x_zm_rtaid=d4uyRiZyTh2eC34F43bZ6Q.1594653841579.4f3c014f36151a0e6f74ac2463886af1&_x_zm_rhtaid=971](https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HOfARqegRBG_5nc8o1V5YA?_x_zm_rtaid=d4uyRiZyTh2eC34F43bZ6Q.1594653841579.4f3c014f36151a0e6f74ac2463886af1&_x_zm_rhtaid=971))

**Wednesday, July 29th: How to Choose Potting Media for Gardening Success - Dr. Cheryl Boyer**

Selecting a bag of potting media at the garden center can be a confusing experience. Fortunately, there is solid science behind engineering quality soils for growing plants. Dr. Cheryl Boyer, K-State Nursery Crop Production Extension Specialist, will cover purposes, materials, mixes and how to manage soil-less potting media for container-gardening success.

**REGISTER HERE** ([https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xypo5mRHT6Mw4_a4Dnzvw?_x_zm_rtaid=d4uyRiZyTh2eC34F43bZ6Q.1594653841579.4f3c014f36151a0e6f74ac2463886af1&_x_zm_rhtaid=971](https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xypo5mRHT6Mw4_a4Dnzvw?_x_zm_rtaid=d4uyRiZyTh2eC34F43bZ6Q.1594653841579.4f3c014f36151a0e6f74ac2463886af1&_x_zm_rhtaid=971))