Hodgeman County Fair

As we deal with the changes in our normal routines, the Hodgeman County Fair Board made a
decision to have a fair. It will be a little different in some respects, but similar in others.
I have included a letter from Doug Vieux, President of the Fair Board.

“To the friends and family of the Hodgeman County Fair,

We hope you all are well. As you have probably heard we just entered Modified Phase 2 of the
Ad Astra: A Plan to Reopen Kansas. As long as the next deadlines are met, we will be in Phase Out (4)
by fair.

I am excited to announce that the 2020 Hodgeman County Fair will proceed. With the uncertain
times that lie ahead, the Hodgeman County Fair Board has adopted a policy to hold the 2020
Hodgeman County Fair, but as a limited event. The fair board has been working to ensure this year’s
fair will be able to function within the state and federal guidelines that have been set forth.

4-H members WILL have an opportunity to exhibit their project work and finish their 4-H year.

The Hodgeman County Fair Board has adopted the following policy for 2020 only:

1. The 2020 Hodgeman County Fair will be closed to the public.
2. The 2020 Hodgeman County Fair will not allow any vendors or entertainment.
3. The 2020 Hodgeman County Fair will only host 4-H & FFA competitive events at the fairgrounds.
4. The 2020 Hodgeman County Fair will host a Virtual Fair for open class entries. Exhibit
requirements for the online judging format are being finalized.
5. The 2020 Hodgeman County Fair will have a livestock premium sale.
6. If, due to a delay in the reopening plan, the 2020 Hodgeman County Fair will move to a
Virtual 4-H Fair.
7. Procedures will be updated as the need arises.

We will see many changes this year and most of those changes will be temporary. There will be
many correspondences over the next several weeks as changes are set, and protocol is being
established. To the 4-H’ers, please look to your 4-H leaders for information as we move forward. For
the open entry presentations, updates will be in the paper, on the web at https://www.hodgeman.k-
state.edu/, or contact the Hodgeman County Extension Office at 620-357-8321 or by email at
hg@listserv.ksu.edu.

Because of the planning time and resources involved in the fair events, we are not able to
postpone to a later time in the summer. It is also uncertain at this time when large group gatherings will
be allowed and considered safe according to public health guidelines.

I thank each and every one of you for your patience and look forward to seeing all of the 4-H’ers
at the 2020 Hodgeman County Fair!

Sincerely,
Doug Vieux, President 2020 Hodgeman County Fair Board”

The 2020 Alternative Hodgeman County Fair Book will be posted on the Hodgeman County
Extension Website this week.
Also, instructions for “Virtual Open Class Entries” will be posted. The Open Class entries will
be open from June 10 to July 6.

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The Kansas State University Football team will be celebrating Kansas Agriculture with AG Day
on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at the KSU-Texas Tech football game. There will be two tickets given
Get Ready...Get Set...Go...Get Those Bagworms!

For those of you that have been waiting patiently by reading another book or counting your stockpile of toilet paper, or for some...impatently; it is time to look for bagworms. Although the cool weather we have experienced this spring will slow development, and consequently larvae hatching from eggs, bagworm caterpillars will eventually be present throughout Kansas feeding on broadleaf and evergreen trees and shrubs. Therefore, be prepared to act against bagworms once they are observed on plants. Bagworms are primarily a pest of conifers; however, they feed on a wide-range of host plants including a number of broadleaf plants, such as; rose, honey locust, hackberry, and flowering plum. It is important to apply insecticides when bagworms are less than 1/4 inch long to maximize effectiveness of insecticide applications and subsequently reduce plant damage.

Several insecticides are labeled for use against bagworms including those with the following active ingredients: acephate, Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. kurstaki, cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, trichlorfon, indoxacarb, chlorantraniliprole, and spinosad. Most of these active ingredients are commercially available and sold under various trade names or as generic products. However, several insecticides, however, may not be directly available to homeowners.

The key to managing bagworms with insecticides at this time of year is to apply insecticides early and frequently enough to kill the highly susceptible young caterpillars feeding on plant foliage. Applying insecticides weekly for four to five weeks when bagworms are first noticed will reduce problems with bagworms later in the year.

Cyfluthrin (BioAdvanced Vegetable & Garden Insect Spray), lambda-cyhalothrin (Spectracide Triazicide, Bonide Caterpillar Killer), trichlorfon, chlorantraniliprole, and indoxacarb can also be used against young caterpillars. Again, thorough coverage of all plant parts, especially the tops of trees and shrubs, where bagworms commonly start feeding, and frequent applications are essential in achieving sufficient suppression of bagworm populations. The reason multiple applications are needed is that bagworm larvae do not hatch from eggs simultaneously, but hatch over time depending on temperature. In addition, young bagworms can ‘blow in’ (called ‘ballooning’) from neighboring plants on silken threads. If left unchecked, bagworms can cause significant damage and ruin the aesthetic quality of plants. In addition, bagworms may kill plants, especially newly transplanted small evergreens, since evergreens do not usually produce another flush of growth after being fed upon or defoliated by bagworms.

If you have any questions on how to manage bagworms in your garden or landscape contact your county horticultural agent, or university-based or state extension entomologist. You can also read the new extension publication on bagworms at http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3474.pdf (Raymond Cloyd)

Recent Rains Trigger Mushroom Development

Recent rains in certain areas of Kansas have resulted in the appearance of mushrooms in home lawns and landscape beds. Although mushrooms are often spectacular in size and color, most are relatively harmless to plant life. Some of these mushrooms are associated with arc-like or circular patterns in turfgrass called fairy rings. The ring pattern is caused by the outward growth of fungal mycelium. The mycelium forms a dense, mat-like structure in the soil that decomposes organic matter. This decomposition releases nitrate into the soil, which in turn stimulates the growth of the grass at the outer portion of the ring. This results in a dark green appearance of the grass at the margin of the ring. Unfortunately, the thick fungal mat formed by the fungus interferes with water infiltration. The fungus also may release certain byproducts that are toxic to the turf. This may lead to dieback of the turf close to a Hodgeman County family who is actively farming or ranching. More details on how to receive the tickets will be given later.
to the ring. Therefore, in some cases the ring is evidenced by a darker green color and in others, by a brown ring with the outside edge being darker green than the rest of the turf.

Fairy rings are difficult to control. You can sometimes eliminate the ring by digging to a depth of 6 to 12 inches and 12 inches wide on both sides of the ring, refilling the hole with non-infested soil. Or you can try to mask the symptoms by fertilizing the rest of the lawn so that it is as dark green as the ring. This often isn’t a good idea because it tends to promote other turf problems. Commercial people can use certain fungicides to control fairy rings but these products are not available to homeowners. See http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/EP155.pdf for more info on these fungicides.

Some mushrooms in lawns are not associated with fairy rings. These may be mycorrhizal (symbiotic association with tree roots) or saprophytic (live on dead organic matter such as wood, etc.) in the soil. Because some of these mushrooms are beneficial, you don’t really want to kill them. Besides, a fungicide spray to the mushroom itself does little good. Remember the mushroom is simply the fruiting structure of the organism. Most of the fungus is below ground and inaccessible to the chemical. If mushrooms are a nuisance, pick them and dispose of them as soon as they appear. If there are too many for that to be practical, mow them off. Removing sources of organic debris from the soil can help if such is possible. Also, mushrooms tend to go away as soil dries. Patience may be the best control. Some of the mushrooms in the lawn are edible, but others are poisonous. Never eat mushrooms unless you are sure of their identity. (Ward Upham)

Three Steps to Choosing Potting Media for Outdoor Use

I have had several questions this spring on potting soils and how to choose the best potting media. Dr. Cheryl Boyer, our Nursery Crop and Marketing Specialist, has done extensive studies on potting soils and has written the following to help homeowners make a good choice. We will present her material is three parts or steps with one step each week.

Knowing what you’re working with and what you’re trying to do with it will help you understand how to manage it in practical use. These materials may also listed on the ingredient list and it’s helpful to know what to expect.

- **Lime:** One special challenge we have in Kansas is that we have a lot of limestone around, which raises the pH of our soil and our water. You may notice that many bagged products include lime or limestone as a fertilization amendment. This is because most soil-less media components are very low in pH, or acidic, and they’re trying to get the mix to be pH neutral (so that most nutrients are available for plant uptake). In Kansas, most of our soils are on the high pH, or alkaline, side. It is to our advantage to apply soil-less products that are low in pH because that will help to neutralize our native soil. We don’t need the added limestone, but it’s unlikely you’ll find a product that doesn’t have it mixed in. For sure, don’t add more!

- **Fertilizer:** As mentioned earlier, most bagged products have a “starter charge” of fertilizer. You won’t need to add anything immediately, but within a few weeks you’ll need to apply a water-based fertilizer (immediately available to plants) and/or a long-term slow-release fertilizer product. These usually come rated for months of use. A short-term product (3-4 months) may sound like it will last all summer, but if it gets really hot outside the pellets may release early (if temperature is the mode of operation). Combining a shorter-term product with a longer term one (8-9 months) may cover your needs for a longer time.

- **Wetting agent:** Some products, like peat, are harvested and packaged in a very dry state and may need help retaining water when ready for use. This will likely be pre-mixed, though if you can tell it’s very dry you may want to spread it in a wheelbarrow and mix in some water (and maybe your own re-wetting agent) until it’s consistent.

- **Watering:** Containers will need to be monitored for water more frequently than landscape beds, but they all need to be checked. This will vary in every situation, so you’ll need to keep an eye on it until you understand how all of the components are functioning together.
Potting media products are remarkably similar once you get past the packaging. Read the ingredient label (just like in the grocery store), find what you need for your application, and then choose the product that best meets your needs and your budget. Choose on price only after you’ve leveled the playing field of similar products.

Got questions about an unusual component? Let me know—I love a good alternative material discussion. (Cheryl Boyer)

Pre-harvest weed control in wheat

Drought, freeze, and other problems have impacted wheat stands in many areas of Kansas this year. The resulting thin stands in those areas have caused weeds to start showing up in many wheat fields -- especially in fields not treated earlier. When broadleaf weeds are given the opportunity to grow rapidly in wheat fields at the end of the growing season, several potential concerns arise, including harvest difficulties, dockage problems, weed seed production, and soil water depletion. No one wants to spend extra money on a below-average crop, but it may be necessary in some cases.

Unfortunately, there aren’t many good options for pre-harvest treatments in wheat. Listed below are the various herbicide options producers can use as pre-harvest aids in wheat (Table 1). There are differences in how quickly they act to control the weeds, the interval requirement between application and grain harvest, and the level or length of control achieved. All of them will require thorough spray coverage to be most effective.

Another herbicide that is sometimes mentioned as a possible pre-harvest treatment is paraquat. **Paraquat is not labeled for pre-harvest treatment in wheat.** Application of paraquat to wheat is an illegal treatment and can result in a quarantine and destruction of the harvested grain, along with severe fines.

Here is a list of some products available: Aim EC, Dicamba, Glyphosate, Metsulfuron, Sharpen, and 2,4-D LVE.

To find out advantages and disadvantages go the Hodgeman County Extension Website at [https://www.hodgeman.k-state.edu/](https://www.hodgeman.k-state.edu/).

It is very difficult to estimate the value of pre-harvest weed treatments as it will depend in part on the differences a treatment would have on harvest efficiency and dockage. It may not pay to treat wheat with lower weed densities unless harvest is delayed. If the weeds are about to set seed, a pre-harvest treatment can go a long way toward reducing weed problems in future years by preventing seed production. Sarah Lancaster, Weed Management Specialist, slancaster@ksu.edu

Warm weather may slow down stripe rust spread

Stripe rust has continued to show up in Kansas, with additional observations made in the western portion of the state. In Hodgeman County it has so far been only observed on the lower leaves. As stripe rust infections favor cool weather, the warmer days forecasted over the next week should help mitigate the risk of major spread.

Many fungicides labeled to manage wheat diseases cannot be applied after Feekes 10.5.4 or within the 30-day window prior to harvest ([https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/EP130.pdf](https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/EP130.pdf)). This will be important to remember as wheat in Kansas moves into those final stages of crop development. Research done at K-State suggests that the average yield response to a foliar fungicide on a susceptible variety in a high disease pressure situation is about 10%. The yield response for stripe rust can be more than 20% when conditions favor disease development on susceptible varieties, and stripe rust has been detected on the flag leaves. Using this figure along with estimates of a field’s yield potential and the value of wheat grain, we can quickly estimate the breakeven point for a fungicide application (taking into consideration the cost of the product and application per acre, expected bu/acre return, and the price of grain).
In general, fields with more than a 40 bu/acre yield potential are good candidates for a fungicide application when conditions are favorable for disease. Fields that have been heavily damaged by virus infection or freeze damage may not meet the economic yield threshold for an application. Kelsey Andersen Onofre, Extension Plant Pathology, andersenk@ksu.edu and Erick DeWolf, Extension Plant Pathology, dewolf1@ksu.edu