

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent



BRANDON KEEKER tries to get his frisbie into the basket during the tournament held at the park on Saturday. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Thistle Control during October

Thistles, everybody seems to have problems with them. But, there are things you can do now to reduce thistles in your fields next year.

Timing is everything. That's particularly true with thistle control. And October to early November is one of the best times to use herbicides.

If you had thistles this year, walk out in those infested areas this week and look close. You should find many thistle seedlings. Most thistle seedlings this fall will be small, in a flat, rosette growth form, and they are very sensitive now to certain herbicides. So spray this fall and thistles will not be a big problem next year.

Several herbicides are effective and recommended for thistle control. Maybe the most effective is a newer herbicide called Milestone, or a combination of Milestone and 2,4-D called Forefront. Two other very effective herbicides are Tordon 22K and Grazon. But be careful with Tordon and Grazon since they also can kill woody plants, including trees you might want to keep. 2,4-D also works well while it's warm, but you will get better thistle control by using a little less 2,4-D and adding a small amount of Banvel or dicamba to the mix.

Other herbicides also help control thistles in pastures – like Redeem, Cimarron, and Curtail. No matter which weed killer you use, though, be sure to read and follow label instructions, and be sure to spray on time.

Next year, avoid overgrazing your pastures so your grass stands get thicker and compete with any new thistle seedlings. Give some thought now to thistle control during October and November. Your pastures can be cleaner next spring.

Plan Access to Winter Hay
The Farmers Almanac recently predicted a snowy winter. So it may be a good idea to prepare for this heavy snow, whether you believe the prediction or not.

As we think back about some of the long, cold, and snowy periods we all have experienced in year's past, you begin to realize how lucky we have been the past few winters. Sure, we've had some cold and snowy weather. But it rarely lasted terribly long.

But what if it does last a long time this winter? Will you be ready? Will you have adequate feed supplies for your livestock on hand? Will you have easy access to all your hay supplies during a blizzard? And will you be able to get it to your animals?

If you drive around the area, you may see many hay stacks

and round bales stored next to trees or in low spots or along fence lines that might get drifted in during a blizzard. In some cases, the access road to this hay might get drifted in. And in a lot of sites, when the snow eventually melts during winter or next spring, it might be too muddy to get to the hay.

Also, how well the hay is organized. Is good hay separated from poor hay? Has it even been tested so you know what hay should be fed to cows needing only a maintenance diet and what hay should be saved for animals needing extra protein and energy. And then, can you get to either one whenever you want? Also, has the millet and cane hay been tested for nitrates? Nitrate poisoning occurs most frequently when high nitrate hay is fed to hungry animals right after a snow storm.

Don't neglect planning for bad weather in the placement of your winter feeds. Then if storms do occur, you'll be ready.

Please contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments. Until next week - Marty

Heat and drought can help some pests to succeed

Heat and drought can create a heyday for plant-feeding insects and mites.

First, more pests survive, according to Raymond Cloyd, K-State Research and Extension entomologist. Fungi are an important natural control for many insects. But, fungi function best in cool, moist weather.

"Excessive heat also speeds up insect and mite development. Some pests can increase populations rapidly," Cloyd said.

The two-spotted spider mite is well-known for increasing populations during drought conditions. But, its population explosions are just part of the problem, he said. Warm-loving mites also tend to feed more when summer weather is at its worst. For them, dry air makes eating easier.

That kind of weather also de-

feats most plants' ability to absorb and circulate enough water for good health, Cloyd added. So, when mites or insects eat plant fluids for dinner, they get concentrated nutrients – super food.

Perhaps that's why insects with sucking mouthparts (aphids, scales) tend to thrive more than pests that chew (beetles, caterpillars) during hot, dry weather. Bark and wood-boring insects gain advantages, too.

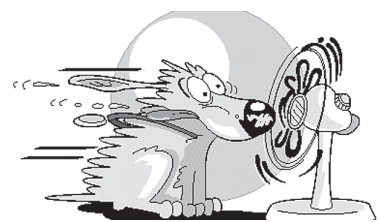
Water-stressed plants simply can't maintain their natural defenses – the allelochemicals that normally discourage pests. For example, the compound oleoresin deters wood-boring insects, Cloyd said. So, with less protection, plants become more susceptible to attack.

At the same time, water-deficient plants may emit such vola-

tile chemicals as ethanol and alpha-pinene. These chemicals are signals that attract bark beetles and wood-boring insects.

In fact, droughty plants may actually call to bark beetles. As water-stressed plants lose moisture through transpiration (like sweating), their inner water- and nutrient-carrying tubes may break apart. That produces a sound bark beetles can detect, Cloyd said.

Any breakdown in the water-carrying tissues also will attract female wood borers, ready to lay eggs – more problems in the future.



Fescue is the best grass for shade

Tall fescue is the best shade grass for Kansas, but that's not saying much.

"Mostly, tall fescue is best because the state's other recommended turfs can't handle any shade. Tall fescue can handle some. It won't survive over the long term, though, under a large tree that produces deep shade," said Ward Upham, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist.

Tall fescue can raise false hopes, Upham warned. Homeowners plant it under trees in September. The turf sprouts and grows well though fall. It greens up again in early spring.

"Growing conditions tend to be cooler and moister then, and tall

fescue is a cool-season turf. Besides, there's less leaf cover," he explained.

But, then comes summer. Hot, dry weather stresses cool-season turfs. In the extremes of 2011, for example, even well-watered lawns retreated into dormancy, Upham said.

"Shady areas are cooler. However, as sunlight filters through tree leaves, most of the 'good' light – the rays that drive photosynthesis – gets stripped out. Turf struggles to produce enough food for survival and growth," he said.

When this poor diet combines with heat and drought, tall fescue simply can't survive.

"For those who insist on trying

to grow grass in shade, I advise going with a much lighter seeding rate -- 3 to 4 pounds of fescue seed per 1,000 square feet or about half what's recommended," Upham said. "With less competition, the turf will be thinner, healthier and likely to live longer."

Even that won't work in deep shade, though. In that case, he said, homeowners have three choices:

- If it won't destroy trees' shape, prune up their lower branches so more early and late sunlight reaches the turf.
- Plant a ground cover that is well-adapted to shady sites – e.g., periwinkle or English ivy.
- Mulch under the tree.

Truck Month is still going on at Vince's GM Center...with up to \$4,505 customer cash or 0% apr for 60 months plus \$1000 on select models..

2011 Chevy Suburban, Ice Blue, Leather, DVD Player

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thought to ponder...where does the white go when the snow melts?

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Farm Machinery Auction

Sellers: Cappel Sales & Dick & Kathie Cappel

Sat, Oct. 1, 2011- 10:00 CST

Sale Site from McCook: 3 miles West to Rd 381, 1 mile North. From Orshelns: 1 mile West, 1 mile North, 3 miles West. Signs will be posted.

Machinery & Miscellaneous

- 1995 JD 6810 Chopper w/676 head and 630 pickup head, 4,108 cutter hours, 5,671 engine hrs
- 1980 JD 950 Tractor FWA: JD 75 loader, new rear tires 12.4-28, 2,503 hours, rear blade (nice)
- 2005 New Holland LS 180B Skid Steer loader, pallet forks and bucket, 327 hrs., like new
- 2005 7x20 Elite Alum., Stock Trailer
- 2009 Ford NH TC 2220 Tractor, FWA, Supersteer Hydrostatic w/240 TL Ford NH Loader
- 1972 Chevy truck, 16' box and hoist, 4-spd, 2-spd, w/327 motor (maybe 366)
- 16' Car trailer w/2-250 gal. diesel tanks w/oil filter, disposable tank and tool box, 50 gal. diesel tank w/12-v electric pump
- 91 9600 #640740 combine, 30.5x32 fronts, 14.9x24 rears, 2650 hrs.
- 843 #190622 CH
- 925 #651273 platform
- 224 #44391 platform
- 644 #568692 CH
- UFT 660 bu. Grain Cart, 30.5Lx32 tires
- Forklift extensions
- Tow bar
- Steel tractor seat
- 3 New rubber tanks (stock)
- 110-volt Fence charger
- 12-volt Fence charger
- 3 Hand saws
- 3 Welding helmets
- Electric chicken picker
- Older stick welder
- 3 Sprayers
- Tractor sun shade
- Load binders
- 16 Aluminum clad fenders for Peterbilt
- Used oil coolers, large and small
- JD Quick tach JD front weights
- JD 3-pt arm Radar Unit
- New transfer pump, 6.5 hp
- Generac 4000XL generator, new
- Lincoln Wire welder, SPI75T
- 6' Scaffolding Grain totes
- Multi-Lenser high pressure washer, LP or gas, 2,750 PSI
- 4-Wheel wagon on rubber
- 2005 S & H 2 Horse trailer (like new)

TERMS: Cash or Approved Check. Not responsible for accidents or articles after sold. All announcements day of sale shall take precedence over printed material.

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Shop, Household & Misc.

- Small safe
- Gun rack
- Gun safe
- Baseboard heaters
- Kerosene heater
- Misc. shelving
- DR Trimmer, needs engine
- Garden tools
- 2-LP Burners
- Used Holland BBQ grill
- Alm.- double dog box
- 2-Travel lawn sprinklers
- 2-10' canopies
- Gas trimmer
- Lawn chairs
- Lamps
- Christmas lights
- TV
- Gas blower
- Fire extinguisher
- 4 Rolls 1990 uncut Baseball cards (rare find)

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Dick and Kathie have sold their business to their son and will liquidate the listed items. Many more items too numerous to mention. Lunch will be served.

Thanks, Royce