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Economics of Weed Control

We just received word that the 2016 KSU Chemical Weed Control Guide will soon be available! If you are in need of a copy to begin your 2016 weed control offensive, contact a District Office or e-mail me at dhallaue@ksu.edu and we'll be sure to hold one for you. Can't wait? Find it online at: <http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/chemweedguide.pdf> !

Few would argue the importance that good weed control plays in our crop production enterprise. We know that weeds use light and moisture resources the crop needs. How important is application timing? University of Nebraska Professor of Integrated Weed Management Stevan Knezevic took a look at timing, with interesting results!

His work (three years at two eastern Nebraska sites) suggest that you have from nine (in 30 inch rows) to 19 (in narrow rows) days after soybean emergence before losing yield to weed competition. Once you reach that threshold, expect about a 2% yield loss for every leaf-stage delay past the critical stage of weed control. Once the crop canopy closes, new weed germinations and competition diminish, says Knezevic.

The information in the Chemical Weed Control Guide will be invaluable to helping you evaluate herbicide programs. Not only does it give product ratings from KSU evaluations, but it also provides critical label information about active ingredients, use rates, etc. to help you not only control weeds, but reduce resistance issues as well. Contact us to get your copy soon!

Recommended Vegetable Varieties

It doesn't much matter if the weather is warmer than normal with no snow – it's still winter! For avid gardeners, it can be a tough time of year!! Take heart! Not all is lost, since now is the time to start checking out vegetable varieties you want to try out for the coming season (in fact, it won't be long before we ought to consider starting plants indoors!!).

Trying out something new once in a while isn't all bad, but if you want to increase your chances of a good harvest, start with proven varieties. Our KSU recommendations can be found in a publication called Recommended Vegetable Varieties found your District Extension Office or online at: <http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/L41.pdf> . These plants tend to be the more 'proven' ones across the state, increasing your chances of success.

To help even more, obtain seeds from a reputable source including garden centers and seed catalogs. If choosing seeds from a business that does not specialize in plants, pay special attention to the package date, checking to be sure it was packaged for the current year. Though most seed remains viable for about three years, germination decreases as seed ages.