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Brush Control Options

The 2022 edition of the KSU Chemical Weed Control guide is at the printers (access the online version at: <https://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/CHEMWEEDGUIDE.pdf> - print copies available after the first of the year). It includes herbicide recommendations for all our major field crops plus pasture and rangeland recommendations, including brush control options.

It's pretty easy to see where most of our interest lies when it comes to brush control – over two and a half pages are devoted to foliar applications. During this time of the year, however, foliar isn't an option, and it might be time to consider some of the options that get a little less page space: cut stump, soil applications, and this week, basal bark considerations.

Many woody species can be effectively controlled through mid-winter via application of herbicide to the bark at the base of the tree. Most labels call for mixing with an oil-type carrier for better penetration across the bark to the living tissue just below the bark that needs to absorb herbicide for control to take place. Mixtures should be liberally applied to the circumference of the tree from the ground all the way up to a height of 12 to 18 inches. This allows the tree to absorb product to kill it standing. It takes more product than cut stump treatments (next week...), but avoids time spent cutting and piling trees.

Avoid treatment when ground is saturated, snow covered, or frozen, or efficacy may be reduced. Labeled products include PastureGard HL, Remedy Ultra, and Milestone. Always read and follow label directions. Not all product application windows or oil/diluent mixes are identical.

K-State Garden Hour

If you can't get enough of good gardening information, check out the K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series. The first Wednesday of the month is the date. Noon to one is the time. The place? It's up to you. This webinar series can be accessed anywhere you can get a connection to the internet and is recorded for posting after each event.

The 2022 series kicks off January 5th discussing vegetable varieties. Eleven more monthly sessions will follow on topics ranging from indoor seed starting to landscaping. Check out registration at: https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2MfHtfkEQS6ql8Q_vr9OYA or contact any of our District Offices for details.

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Helping Children Cope with Holiday Stress

For many children, the holidays are happy, fun and exciting times. There is a break from school and chance to see friends and relatives. However, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) notes that for some children, the holidays can also be stressful and confusing. Family plans and celebrations may be complicated by divorce, separation or remarriage. The holidays can also be a difficult time for children who have lost a parent, sibling, or close relative. This year, many children are also separated from parents due to ongoing military service.

The holidays often remind children of what's changed and what's now different. For example, a child from a divorced family may feel sad on some level because he/she misses the 'intact' family he/she used to have. A child whose parent is on active military duty may feel it's particularly unfair that his/her daddy or mommy needs to be away over the holidays.

The following are some tips for parents to help children cope with holiday stress:

- Discuss holiday plans well in advance, and include your children in the planning process. Kids need some degree of control and predictability. Prolonged uncertainty, constantly changing or last-minute decisions can all increase stress.
- Make sure kids get plenty of rest. While it may be exciting to stay up late, lack of sleep often leads to increased irritability.
- Limit the amount of time kids spend along watching TV or playing video games. Encourage physical activity and interaction with peers.
- Don't promise things you can't produce. For example, don't promise a parent will be home in time for the holidays if the decision is really out of your control.
- Don't try and compensate for an absent family member with lots of gifts. What most kids really want is your time and attention.
- Uphold and maintain family traditions even if a parent is absent. Kids count on certain traditions. They can have an important grounding effect by letting kids know that even though some things have changed, other things have remained the same.
- As the adult, take care of yourself. Try to avoid getting overloaded with obligations. If you feel stressed, it increases the pressure and tension on your children.

Most kids, even those dealing with loss or family transitions, do enjoy the holidays. However, preparation, patience and honesty can help prevent conflict, reduce stress, and enhance the holiday season for the whole family.