

Post Rock Extension District Column

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Crop Production Agent

Do you have your 2025 kochia management plans covered?

Now is the time to finalize plans for kochia control for northcentral Kansas. Since we have had some moisture recently, kochia can be among the first summer annual weeds to emerge in the spring. Recent KSU research suggests that kochia can begin emerging in early February, with most kochia emerging by late April. Good control of the first dense flush of kochia is essential for obtaining a good crop yield. Early-emerging



seedlings use the limited spring soil moisture in dryland production fields.

Kochia seedlings emerge in dense populations, making adequate herbicide coverage difficult. In addition, glyphosate-resistant kochia is prevalent across central to western Kansas, making kochia control even more challenging.

For these reasons, it is important to apply preemergence herbicides in late winter or early spring to control kochia before it emerges.

To successfully manage kochia, a herbicide program needs two components:

1. a very soluble and effective herbicide that can be incorporated with very little precipitation, such as dicamba
2. a herbicide that has longer residual activity, which will require perhaps 0.75 inches or more precipitation for adequate incorporation, such as atrazine.

Precipitation events during late winter are often too small to activate longer-lasting residual herbicides, but dicamba may control kochia for 4 to 6 weeks until atrazine is incorporated.

The best time to apply herbicides for kochia control is prior to kochia emergence, generally January through the first week of March but, depending on weather conditions. Later applications, for example, at the time of burndown, are more likely to occur after kochia emergence, which increases the risk of very limited control. Other herbicides with good preemergence kochia activity include: mesotrione, metribuzin, saflufenacil (Sharpen), or sulfentrazone. Be sure to check product labels for crop-specific planting intervals. For more information on controlling kochia, see the **KSU 2025 Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland, and Noncropland.**

If you have questions on “kochia management”, stop by or call me at any office of the Post Rock Extension District in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Sandra may be contacted at swick@ksu.edu or by calling Smith Center, 282-6823, Beloit 738-3597, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato, 378-3174, or Osborne 346-2521. Join us on Facebook at "Post Rock Extension". Our online "Ag Newsletter" is published every week on our website www.postrock.ksu.edu and my twitter account is @PRDcrops.