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University of Kentucky Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

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UK Forage News

Keeping Forage-Livestock producers in Kentucky informed
 Dr. S. Ray Smith and Krista Lea, MS.~ Editors

August 2018

Alfalfa & Orchardgrass Disease Reports-Summer

AG-F	
Alfalfa	
1 Alfalfa mosaic	<i>Alfalfa Mosaic Virus</i>
1 Alfalfa weevil	<i>Hypera postica</i>
1 Cowpea aphid	<i>Aphis craccivora</i>
1 Cultural/environmental problem	<i>Abiotic disorder</i>
1 Herbicide carryover	<i>Chemical</i>
5 Leptosphaerulina leaf spot; blight	<i>Leptosphaerulina trifolii</i>
1 Low pH	<i>Nutritional Disorder</i>
1 No pathogen found	<i>Undetermined</i>
1 Nutritional deficiency	<i>Nutritional Disorder</i>
2 Poor nodulation (not on list)	<i>Abiotic disorder</i>
6 Potato leafhopper	<i>Empoasca fabae</i>
1 Rhizoctonia foliar/ aerial/ web blight	<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>
1 Sclerotinia stem rot	<i>Sclerotinia sp./spp.</i>
2 Spring black stem and leaf spot	<i>Phoma medicaginis</i>
2 Summer black stem; leaf spot	<i>Cercospora medicaginis</i>
2 No Diagnosis or Sample Quality Entered	
29 Total for Alfalfa	
AG-F	
Orchardgrass	
5 Leaf Streak	<i>Cercosporidium sp./spp.</i>
1 No pathogen found	<i>Undetermined</i>
6 Total for Orchardgrass	

Forage Timely Tips: August

- ✓ Remove livestock and apply nitrogen to fescue pasture to be stockpiled.
- ✓ Take soil samples to determine perennial pasture fertility needs.
- ✓ Fertilize alfalfa and other hay/pasture fields as needed.
- ✓ Plant perennial grasses at optimal rate, date and depth.
- ✓ Harvest corn silage.
- ✓ Secure desired varieties for late summer seedings.
- ✓ Plant alfalfa by mid-August to allow sufficient size going into winter and reduce potential for sclerotinia damage.

2018

Featured Publications: Submitting Plant Specimens for Disease Diagnosis (PPFS-GEN-09)

Diagnosis of plant diseases is one of the many ways that the University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and UK Cooperative Extension serve the citizens of Kentucky. This publication is designed to help growers collect and submit the best plant samples for an accurate diagnosis. It is always best to submit samples through your local county agent so they can assist with diagnosis. Simply google the publication name & UK.

Quote of the Month: Outside Hay Storage: The Devil is in the Details

This quote can be applied to outside hay storage because a substantial portion of the often-large losses that occur when large round bales are stored outside can be avoided when various practices are implemented. Balers that compress hay more than others favor shedding of rainwater. As bale diameter increases, less hay surface is exposed to the elements. A bright, sunny and well-drained location away from trees should be selected as a hay storage site. Hay-soil contact should be avoided by placing hay on rocks or some other free-draining material. The flat ends of hay should be butted together, but there should be at least 3 feet of space between rows. A north/south orientation of rows of bales favors quicker drying after rains. Covers of various types can be used to protect hay from rain. To purchase a

Livestock Quotes and Concepts Book, contact us at ukforageextension@uky.edu.

Attend the KFGC Field Day at Morehead Sept 6

Join the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council at the Morehead State University farm September 6th. Registration begins at 4:30, with the program beginning at 5:15. Topics include Stockpiling tall fescue, alleviating tall fescue toxicosis, making quality baleage, and constructing long term high traffic areas. Dinner will be provided by the MSU FFA. Pre-register for this free event by visiting <https://18KFGCFieldDayEast.eventbrite.com>

KFGC Field Day is Ballard County August 7

The western KY Field Day will be held on August 7 from 2:30 to 6:30 at Toby and Debby Dulworth's farm - 2492 South Kirkman Rd, LaCenter, KY 42056. Tour stops will include a farm-scale demonstration of 12 warm-season annual grasses, pastures with improved crabgrass, a 30-year-old eastern gamagrass stand, fencing and watering improvements, and how the farm finishes and markets beef on an all-forage diet. Pre-register at westernkyforageday.eventbrite.com or call Christi Forsythe at 270-365-7541, ext. 221. The cost to attend is \$10 payable on the day of the event.

Register Today for the Fall Grazing School

The Fall Kentucky Grazing School will be held at the Woodford County Extension Office and the C. Oran Little

Research Center in Versailles, KY on September 25-26, 2018. The highlight of the Grazing School is always the hands-on components including: setting up temporary fence and water systems, determining stocking rate, measuring forage, forage ID and more. Registration is only \$50 and includes educational materials, transportation to and from the research farm and lunches. Space is still available, register online at <https://18FallGrazingSchool.eventbrite.com> or download the form from the UK Forage website and mail a check.

Minimizing Alfalfa Crown Rot with Potassium

USDA-ARS and University of Minnesota researchers teamed up in an effort to assess the impact of potassium fertility on crown rot disease in alfalfa. Along with being alfalfa's most common deficiency, lack of the nutrient is also one of the most recognizable. Lower leaflets develop yellow or white spots around margins, which then grow together and eventually cause total necrosis. Potassium deficiency can result in stand loss, winterkill, and extensive weed growth.

While potassium has been linked to disease resistance, there have been no direct indications that it alone is a solution. Two experiments were performed to measure potassium's effect on crown rot disease and forage yield. The first experiment used five cultivars seeded at four diverse Minnesota locations. Potash (K₂O) was applied annually at 0, 125, or 350 pounds per acre, and plants were rated for the amount of crown rot after the third production year. Results across all cultivars and locations indicated a clear reduction in crown rot symptoms with potassium fertilization. There was also significantly greater number of plants that showed absolutely no symptoms of crown rot. Learn more about the second study by viewing the full article.

~ Hay and Forage Grower, Jan. 2018

Featured Publication: Stockpiling for Fall and Winter Pasture (AGR-162)

Many cattle producers can take advantage of the late summer-fall growing conditions to obtain high-quality pasture for fall and early winter grazing. Management decisions for optimum stockpiling include selecting grass species, timing, fertilizing, grazing management or utilization, selecting classes of cattle, and designing grazing systems for efficient utilization. The high quality of stockpiled tall fescue produces good gains on both weaned stock and mature cows. These gains are a response to the high crude protein and digestibility of the fall growth of tall fescue. In particular, the sugar content rises to high levels in response to lower temperatures and shortening day length. This nutritional change does not take place overnight due to the first frost but is spread over time. See full publication at UK Forage Website. <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/agr/agr162/agr162.pdf>

Planning for Fall Seeding

Now it is the best time to begin planning for fall seeding. Failure to do so often results in missing seeding windows or inability to secure the needed supplies such as seed, herbicides and equipment. Below are a few quick reminders to improving seeding success.

- Spray herbicides now. Most herbicides require four-six weeks or more before

seeding, so if you are planning to seed in September, herbicides should be applied soon. Be sure to read and follow all label instructions.

- Research and purchase seed now. New and productive varieties may not be available in high quantities, so purchase seed now to prepare for seeding late August - mid-September
- Perform routine maintenance and any repairs needed on seeding equipment. Shallow seed placement (1/4-1/2 inch) is crucial to seeding success. Poorly maintained equipment can place seed incorrectly in the soil.
- Ensure soil fertility. If you haven't soil tested in the last 3 years for pastures or last year for hay fields, do so now and apply any needed lime, P or K as recommended. For all cool-season pastures, fall nitrogen is recommended to boost root reserves and increase winter survival.

For more information on fall establishment, contact your local county extension agent or check out our list of publications at <http://uky.edu/ag/forages>.

How Not to Submit Plant Samples for Diagnosis

When hay stands, field crops, or even garden plants begin to show symptoms of a problem, panic may set in. The two things on everyone's mind: what is the cause of the problem and what can be done about it? Since disease is often the prime suspect, the first step is to contact the county extension office. An agent can then assist in preparing a sample to submit to a University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

Avoiding common sample submission errors can result in more timely and accurate diagnoses.

1. Avoid packaging in sealed plastic bags, which promote decay; no diagnosis can be determined from rotted material. Wrap in newspaper and with extra padding to avoid damage during shipping.
2. Samples submitted with little or no packing material are often further damaged during shipping. Differentiation between symptoms and shipping damage can complicate diagnosis. Wrap rootballs in a plastic bag, leaving leaves and stems exposed; this also keeps foliage from becoming contaminated with soil from the rootball.
3. Dead is too late. Samples that contain only dead material are often impossible to accurately diagnose. The best samples include dead, dying, and healthy plant tissues. Also include details about the plants, planting site, and symptoms. This can be as important as the physical material collected.

~ KY Pest News, July 2018.

Upcoming Events (see website for details and online registration)

AUG 6 - Equine Field Day, Harrodsburg, KY

AUG 7 (if rain 9th) -KFGC Western KY Field Day, LaCenter, KY

SEPT 6 - KFGC Eastern KY Field Day, Morehead State

SEPT 25-26 - KY Grazing School, Versailles, KY

OCT 30 - KY Grazing Conf. West, Hopkinsville, KY

NOV 1 -KY Grazing Conf. East, Winchester, KY

JAN 6-8 -AFGC Conference, St. Louis, MO

JAN 22-23—Heart of America Grazing Conf., Indiana

see blue.