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### ***Sulfur Management in Brome***

Last week, I shared information on sulfur research for corn– but it isn't the only crop that will respond to applications of this 'fourth major nutrient'. For producers managing forage systems that include brome grass, sulfur can be an important nutrient consideration as well.

A two ton per acre brome crop is estimated to remove approximately eight pounds of sulfur. Work in Kansas has shown consistent forage yield responses to sulfur applications even when soil organic matter levels are greater than three percent since the cooler growing season for brome often limits early season sulfur release from organic matter. So while the response you see may not be large – often less than ten percent – applications of up to 15 pounds per acre of actual sulfur under high level management systems can result in some decent yield responses.

Remember: while sulfur is often called the fourth essential nutrient, it is still considered a *secondary* nutrient. That doesn't mean it's not important, but it does mean balancing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium first will provide greater brome yield responses than reducing any of the 'big three' and applying sulfur instead. Sulfur should be given consideration only after balancing other nutrient needs – including necessary lime applications if pH levels are low.

### ***Looking Ahead Lawn Calendar – Cool Season Grasses***

The benefits of a healthy turfgrass stand are well documented: reduced weed pressure, better drought stress, etc... Many of the practices we should implement to maintain a healthy stand should be done in the fall. Fertilizer applications and even weed control often give us the best 'bang for our buck' when done then versus in the spring. That doesn't mean there aren't still things we can do this spring, however, to give us a better opportunity for a healthy lawn.

Start with weed control. March is a great time to spot treat broadleaf weeds as you see them. Treatments are best performed on days with temperatures above 50 degrees and when rainfall will not occur within 24 hours of application.

April is typically the month for redbud trees to bloom – and that means crabgrass preventer applications. Since crabgrass preventers need to be watered in to the root zone, plan to apply at least a quarter-inch of water with the application.

If you are thinking of an application of fertilizer, think May - but only if you typically receive enough natural moisture or can provide irrigation to keep turf from going dormant in the summer (if not, fall might be a better time). Got grubs? May is also grub treatment time for products containing imidacloprid or chlorantraniliprole. Water in with a quarter inch of water.

It might be just a little early to get started on some of these chores, but it's never too early to plan. Mark the calendar today for a healthier turfgrass stand this summer.

### ***K-State Garden Hour Webinar Series Off and Running***

The K-State Garden Hour webinar series is off and running. Live webinars are held from noon to one on the first and third Wednesday of each month, with presentations recorded for later viewing. Sign up once to get registered for them all at <http://ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour>