

Red Sorrel Appearing In SW Missouri Fields

SPRINGFIELD, MO.

University of Extension agronomy specialists in southwest Missouri have been getting lots of calls about the perennial weed red sorrel showing up in area pastures.

The weed is known to be toxic to cattle at certain times of the year.

Red sorrel is normally associated with low fertility and acidic soils so it can also be an indicator of fertility trouble in the pasture or hay field.

"I attribute the appearance of red sorrel in our region to the heavy moisture we have received this spring and the lack of fertilizer that has been spread. Fertilizer, particularly nitrogen,

tends to help forages crowd out this pest," said Tim Schnakenberg, an agronomy specialist with MU Extension in southwest Missouri.

Control can be gained by using Banvel, Weedmaster, Cimarron, Cimarron Max or Grazon.

"Most fields may not justify a control but if it is thick enough, it may be worth a try, particularly if other troublesome weeds exist. Unfortunately, early April is the best time for control in our region," said Schnakenberg.

For more information contact one of the following University of Missouri Extension agronomy specialists: Schnakenberg at (417) 357-6812 or Jay Chism at (417) 682-3579. Δ