

Bluestem Breezes  
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## **Dandelion Patrol**

While driving to work this morning, I passed a random tree growing out in a pasture about 50 yards from the road and it read “Smile”. Seriously. There was a sign hanging on the tree that read smile. So, I did.

I encourage you to take a drive down Skyline Road and look for the tree on the east side of the road. Skyline only runs north and south for a short stretch, so those directions will be rather helpful for you. I’m eager to hear if you find the sign.

This week, while working on various tasks, I hope you find time to smile. Even the smallest things in life are worth smiling about. For instance, a yard without dandelions indeed makes me smile. And fortunately, this is a great time of the year to spray for dandelions! Just last week I went on Dandelion Patrol in our yard. We still have a ways to go, but you have to start somewhere, right? Please read on for guidance from K-State’s Ward Upham:

Late October to early November is the most effective time to control broadleaf weeds in lawns. Dandelions usually produce a flush of new plants in late September, and the winter annual weeds henbit and chickweed should have germinated in October. These young plants are small and easily controlled with herbicides such as 2,4-D or combination products (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed-Out) that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba.

Even established dandelions are more easily controlled now than in the spring because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots. Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well and will kill the plant from the roots up.

Choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher. The better the weed is growing, the more weed killer will be moved from the leaves to the roots. Cold temperatures will slow or stop this process.

Weed Free Zone (also sold under the name of Speed Zone) contains the three active ingredients mentioned above, plus carfentrazone. It will give a quicker response than the other products mentioned especially as temperatures approach 50 degrees.

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

Further information on lawn management is available by visiting the Extension Office (215 Kansas, Courthouse, Alma; kamayer@ksu.edu; 765-3821). For Bluestem Breezes archives, check out wabaunsee.ksu.edu.