TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE SMITH COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Monthly Newsletter | March, 2024

The official monthly newsletter of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Smith County

March Issue:

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SMITH COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



SMITH COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT HORTICULTURE



SMITH COUNTY PRAIRIEVIEW EXTENSION AGENT AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES







Wildfire Relief for the Texas Panhandle

Thank you for your interest in helping the residents of the Texas Panhandle who sustained losses as a result of the wildfires beginning February 26, 2024. Following is contact information for donating hay, feed, fencing supplies or other livestock or ranch supplies.

SUPPLY POINTS FOR LIVESTOCK FEED AND RANCH SUPPLIES

(Please call for supply point hours of operation prior to delivering supplies)

East Location

North Location

Clyde Carruth Pavilion 301 Bull Barn Drive Pampa, TX 79065 Contact: Marcus Preuninger Office: 806.669.8033

Canadian AH&N Ranch Supply 100 Hackberry Trail Canadian, TX 79014 Contact: Andy Holloway Office: 806.323.9114

Hutchinson Animal Supply Pt. 407 Industrial Blvd Borger, TX 79007 Contact: Hanna Conner Office: 806.878.4026

West Location

Thank you to those who are willing and able to donate the following items:

Hay | Feed | Cow Feed **Fence Supplies** *Wildlife Feed*

General guestions about AGRICULTURE needs & supply deliveries - please call 806.354.5800 (8a-5p)

WILDFIRE RELIEF DONATION ASSISTANCE

Hemphill County

For All General Donations (excluding Agriculture) AgriLife Extension - Hemphill Co. 10965 Exhibition Center Road Canadian, Texas 79014 Ph: 806-323-9114

Hemphill County

For people who lost their home http://fbccanadian.org/firehelp

Hemphill County Agriculture Wildfire Relief, P.O. Box 300 Canadian, Texas 79014

Hutchinson County

Hutchinson relief fund: Hutchinson County United Way fund at the Amarillo National Bank - or -

https://www.hutchinsoncountyunitedway.org/donate

<u>Hemphill County</u>

To support ranchers in the county and surrounding areas, you can mail donations to: Canadian Volunteer Fire Department PO Box 300, Canadian, Texas 79014 Reference the check to state "Rancher Wildlife Relief Fund"

Gray County

Mail to: City of Pampa, Attn: Finance PO Box 2499, Pampa, Texas 79066

First Bank Southwest, Ph: 806.665.2341 Reference: City of Pampa for Smokehouse Creek Fire

Roberts County

Donations to help the people of Roberts County recover from the Smokehouse Creek Fire can be delivered to any BOC Bank location (Miami, Shamrock, McLean or Amarillo) or be mailed to: BOC Bank, P.O. Box 8, Miami, Texas 79059

Donors who wish to specifically help farmers and ranchers restore their agricultural operations should make checks payable to: Unmet Needs Agriculture. All other donations should be made payable to: Unmet Needs General Through a partnership with the Miami Ministerial Alliance, a 501(c)3, all donations are tax-deductible.

Carson County

Monetary donations to Carson County Relief Fund at any Happy State Bank Branch location. Or mail to: Happy State Bank, Panhandle Branch PO Box 990, Panhandle, TX 79068

Potter County Agriculture

Checks made payable to: Potter Ag. Can be mailed or delivered to: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Attn: Potter Ag. 3301 SE 10th Building 1, Amarillo, TX 79104

TDA Star Fund | https://texasagriculture.gov/Home/Production-Agriculture/Disaster-Assistance/STAR-Fund

HAY AND FERTILIZATION PRACTICES

WRITTEN BY: CLINT PERKINS

When forage is harvested as hay, it removes nutrients from the soil without recycling dead decaying plant matter and/or animal manures and urine from grazing animals. Consequently, maintaining a higher fertility level in a hay meadow becomes crucial compared to pastures. An annual hay crop of 6 tons per acre will deplete 300 pounds of nitrogen, 84 pounds of phosphorus, and 252 pounds of potassium. Failure to replenish these nutrients annually leads to soil depletion, resulting in declining soil fertility levels and reduced yields. To sustain grass stands, maximize yields, and ensure quality, it is imperative to prioritize soil fertility management. In East Texas fields, nitrogen and potassium levels typically tend to be low. For areas where hay is harvested 3-4 times a year, a recommended 1-1 ratio of nitrogen to potassium is suggested.

Soil test reports provide guidelines for fertilizer application in pounds per acre for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Phosphorus and potassium rates are annual, while the nitrogen requirement is for the initial fertilization. Subsequent nitrogen rates are usually outlined in the report. However, it's important to note that the suggested fertilizer rates are not absolute; they serve as guidelines. Producers, with their knowledge of specific fields, may need to adjust the rates based on their experience.

For Bermuda grass and Bahia grass meadows, fertilizer blends like 25-5-15 and 21-8-17 generally meet nutrient requirements, aligning closely with the grasses' needs. In hay meadows with a medium to high soil phosphorus level, a 21-0-21 fertilizer blend is effective, but a soil test is essential to prevent phosphorus deficiency. These blends should be consistently applied with each fertilizer round to avert soil deficiencies.

While a fertilizer blend may supply nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium for the first cutting, applying only nitrogen for the second cutting can lead to the grass depleting phosphorus and potassium from the soil. This can result in decreased forage yields and stand quality, even if sufficient nitrogen is present.

To ensure an adequate nutrient supply, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers can be applied in the fall or early spring, followed by nitrogen-only applications. If potassium requirements exceed 100 pounds, split applications are recommended. A thin grass stand often indicates low potassium levels. Achieving the correct nutrient balance is essential for maintaining stands and yields.

There is no one-size-fits-all recommendation for all soils and management programs. Following specific recommendations based on soil testing is the most reliable way to attain the correct nutrient levels for a particular soil. Soil testing should be viewed as a cost-saving tool, guiding producers to purchase only the elements lacking in the soil, thus avoiding unnecessary excesses. For further information, please reach out to Clint Perkins at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office in Smith County, located at 1517 West Front Street, Suite 116, Tyler, TX 75702, or call 903-590-2980.

CRAPEMYRTLE PRUNING 101

Written by: Greg Grant



The misguided annual practice of crapemyrtle butchering is in full swing.As a crapemyrtle lover and owner of an alleé of them along my driveway, I literally cringe when I see the site of carved crapes. The only pruning crapemyrtles ever need (if at all) is thinning the trunks as they are developing to the desired permanent number, removing suckers as they sprout at the base, and cutting out dead wood and crossing or rubbing branches. That's it.As with all trees in our landscapes, they should never be topped or heavily pruned. Here's why.

1.Pruning crapemyrtles decreases cold hardiness.Let's not soon forget the freeze damage inflicted on many crapemyrtles in recent memory.

2.Topping crapemyrtles causes them to sucker more at the base leading to more work to remove the unwanted sprouts. The ultimate goal is to have a permanent number of trunks (odd numbers like 3, 5 or 7 look best) with no suckers and no more topping.

3.Hack jobs on crapemyrtles costs money. Crews don't cut and haul crapemyrtle branches for free and the fuel used for the equipment isn't cheap or environmentally friendly. I suspect crapemyrtle bark scale (the tree's primary insect pest) is spread tree to tree and neighborhood to neighborhood by pruning equipment and trailers as well.

4.Topping crapemyrtles produces a plethora of new shoots and narrow crotch angles for the pesky crapemyrtle bark scale to hide and overwinter in. Crapemyrtle bark scale also likes to feed on new succulent growth and callus tissue produced by pruning.

5.Cutting and hauling crapemyrtle limbs is loads of work.I've had shoulder surgery, two neck surgeries, back surgery, and four hip surgeries. I'm certainly not looking for things to bend over and pick up!

6.If your crapemyrtle grows too big for the space you have it in, then you have the wrong cultivar and should remove it entirely instead of chopping on it annually. Some are bushes and most are small trees. They range in ultimate heights from 3-30 feet. Plant varieties accordingly.

7.Crapemyrtles have some of the most beautiful trunks and branching structure of any ornamental tree that we grow. A crapemyrtle never pruned will always be prettier than one that is maimed. The standard aesthetic rule of thumb is two-thirds upper branches and one-third sinuous lower trunks. Topping produces the opposite.

8.Cutting crapemyrtles back severely produces long sappy growth that flops and droops when they bloom. It creates larger blooms but fewer of them. It also delays the bloom time.

9.Topping crapemyrtles isn't recommended by any horticultural expert or educational publication in the world, with all agreeing that it's harmful to the tree and unattractive.

10.If your crapemyrtle has been horribly scarred by "crape murder," cut it to the ground in early spring and watch how fast it grows back. Wait one year then select the number of permanent trunks you want. Dwarf and semi-dwarf cultivars however can be grown as summer blooming shrubs by cutting back to around one foot high each spring when they begin to sprout.

Squash & Zucchini

WRITTEN BY: ANTHONY BROWN

Squash and Zucchini are healthy and delicious vegetables that many East Texans love to eat. Traditionally squash and zucchini were a popular Native American crop grown alongside corn and beans. Known as the three sisters, squash was grown as a ground cover plant to prevent weeds from growing alongside the bean and corn crop. They are prolific producers, so you would only need a few plants to sustain your family and a few friends. Growing these two vegetables are very simple and easy. They are very popular warm season vegetables and can be prepared in many ways. Squash and zucchini need to be planted in well-drained soils and may require fertilization depending on your soils analysis. It is always Important to conduct a soil test on the plot that you are wishing to plant on. It is preferred to have a pH of at least a 6.0 and no greater than a 6.5. Before planting these vegetables, you would need to till soil 2 or 3 weeks prior to planting.

When you are ready to plant, always keep in mind that these two crops can grow only in the spring or summer, always plant after the threat of frost; it would be safe to plant after the Easter snap. Plant both in mounds 18 to 48 inches apart from each other and rows need to be at least 3-8 feet apart. Depending on the variety of squash and zucchini, this will determine if they need more space than others. You can either purchase seeds or transplants to begin the growing process. If you go the seeding route you will need to plant 5-6 seeds per mound 1 inch deep. Soon after planting and they begin to emerge; you will need to select the healthiest 3 sprouts and dispose of the others.





Depending on your soil test, apply around 2 or 3 sprouts of fertilizer per 100 square feet; work the fertilizer into the soil 3-4 inches deep. When you notice the first blooms, then that would be the best time to apply the fertilizer. To keep plants from wilting, keep plants irrigated regularly. Depending on our weather conditions you may need to water plants early in the morning or late in the evening.

To prevent weeds from competing with these crops, an herbicide application may need to be used or you will need to pull weeds manually from around the plants. Always read the label before you apply any pesticide. Squash and zucchini are most susceptible to disease around harvest time. you will need to apply a fungicide. The natural predators to both these vegetables are, Squash vine borer, Squash bug and the Cucumber beetle. Talk to your local County Extension Agent about an insecticide that you will need to apply to help combat these insects. I will give you a fair warning; when it's time to pick your harvest I would strongly advise you to put on long sleeves, if not you will develop an itch on your skin. Both vegetables are great sources of Vitamin A and C. Keep squash and zucchini refrigerated, or frozen until they are ready to be prepared. You can cook these vegetables by boiling, grilling, frying, or baking them. Be sure to contact you local County Extension Agent, if you have any questions about both of the vegetables.



UNCOVERING THE MYSTERY BEHIND TURF LOSS IN SPRING 2023 Latest News About Turfgrass diseases

Many people in Texas have wondered why they are losing so much turf in Spring 2023 (Fig. 1) and whether take-all root rot is responsible. Despite having a mild spring with plenty of rain, many home lawns did not recover as in the past year. Ed Solon with TruGreen also noticed this issue and has been busy responding to Texas customers regarding above-normal turf loss in Spring 2023. The recent statewide turf damage is likely related to adverse weather conditions in the previous year. Texas suffered from last summer's record-high temperatures and drought due to La Niña climate pattern. Water restrictions were imposed voluntarily or involuntarily throughout Texas, making it difficult to keep up with water needs for lawns.

DROUGHT

Drought has a significant impact on turfgrass health, growth, and appearance. As the soil dries out, the grass becomes stressed and more susceptible to damage



loss in a home lawn, May 2023.

*Professor & Extension Specialist, Department of Plant Pathology & Microbiology, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension from pests, diseases, and traffic. The grass changes color from green to grayish-blue or brown, and leaf blades become wilted or curled. As the drought stress continues, the grass becomes thin and patchy and eventually moves to summer dormancy. Turfgrass starts to die as the water deficit condition extends for more than 1 month.

After the hot and dry summer, precipitation in Fall 2022 was back to annual average levels. This late-season precipitation promoted large patch disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*, a common fall disease that infects and decimates turf until the plants go completely to winter dormancy (Fig. 2). Finally, the winter delivered some harsh freezes, particularly in North Texas. During the past summer and fall, through the winter, turf damage was more than usual. Often, dead turfgrass is recognized in the spring, and sometimes it never recovers, even with additional supplementation of



Figure 2. Large patch disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* in a St. Augustinegrass home lawn, November 2021.



Young-Ki Jo*

water and fertilizer in the spring. This practice may promote dormant grass to grow but does not make dead plants revive. Dr. Manuel Chavarria, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist, pointed out that many people fertilized their lawns in March and started to irrigate every day or 3 times a week, not realizing that the grass did not get fully out of dormancy. Dr. Young-Ki Jo lives in College Station, Texas, and did not turn on lawn irrigation until May 30, 2023, but his lawn looks green and healthy.

WHAT ABOUT TAKE-ALL ROOT ROT DISEASE?

Take-all root rot is a common fungal disease that affects warm-season turfgrass growing in Texas, including St. Augustinegrass, bermudagrass, and zoysiagrass. The disease is caused by the fungus Gaeumannomyces species, which survives in soil, roots, and stolons (Fig. 3) for extended periods and infects turfgrass during warm weather and wet soil conditions. The fungus can be found in unhealthy grasses in damaged turf. However, it is also easy to find the fungus in healthy-looking grasses near the same damaged turf area. This indicates that take-all root rot does not instantly kill the plant or is not the single source of turf loss. Instead, drought stress exacerbates the symptoms of the disease. When turfgrass is already infected with the fungus, drought stress can cause infected plants to progress with rapid decline, leading to death.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The bottom line is that dead individual plants are not coming back in the spring. Adjacent healthy turfgrass



Figure 3. Fungal hyphae colonizing on St. Augustinegrass stolons infected by take-all root rot.

needs to grow back and recolonize the damaged space, which is the case when the damaged area is small. The medium-sized damaged area can be plugged in with healthy turfgrass (Fig. 4). The best option is to plug in with the same turfgrass if there is healthy turfgrass in the same area, such as around a flowerbed or backyard. The large-damaged area will be left with the option to be resodded.

All these turf-repair practices require removing dead plant materials from the area and adding good soil and amendment first (Fig. 5). Spring is the best time for fungicide application to remediate take-all root rot (Table 1) since the fungus is most active. Fungicides need to be used with plenty of water (4 to 5 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet), or the grass needs to be thoroughly watered (¼ to ½ inch water) immediately after application. The water will ensure that the product moves into the grass stolon and root zone rather than drying on the leaves. However, it is important to emphasize that fungicides alone are not a cure-all since their effectiveness can vary, and turf recovery requires proper cultural practices, such as mowing and irrigation.



Figure 4. Plugs of St. Augustinegrass planted in the damaged area of a home lawn. Wellestablished plugs start producing new stolons.



Figure 5. Soil amendment practices can promote turfgrass recovery, such as topdressing with peat moss (4-cubic-feet bale per 1,000 square feet of turf). Picture credited to Ed Solon.



TABLE 1. FUN	GICIDES LABELED FOR CONTROL OF TAKE-ALL ROOT ROT DISEASE FOR HOMEOWNERS
COMMON NAME	TRADE NAMES
Azoxystrobin	Maxide Disease Killer Heritage G
Myclobutanil	Spectracide Immunox Lawn Disease Control Fertilome F-Stop Green Light Fung-Away Systemic Lawn Fungicide Monterey Fungi-Max
Propiconazole	Ferti-Lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide II Monterey Fungi-Fighter Bonide Infuse Systemic Disease Control Bayer Fungus Control for Lawns Ready to Spray
Chlorothalonil	Bonide Fung-onil Lawn and Garden Disease Control
Thiophanate-methyl	Fungo 50 Fungo Flo Scott's Lawn Fungus Control Southern Ag Thiomyl Bonide Systemic Disease Control Lawn and Landscape

<u>Plant</u>	Pathology
	& Microbiology

Products or trade names are not all inclusive, and the information is provided with the understanding that no discrimination is intended or no endorsements by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.



COMMON NATURALIZED EAST TEXAS NARCISSUS

NARCISSUS JONQUILLA (WILD JONQUIL/ "SWEETIE")



Clusters of tiny, yellow, very fragrant blooms usually in February. Narrow, rush-like round green foliage. Multiplies best in sandy-loam soils. Species native to Spain and France. Produces viable seed so not only perennializes but will naturalize on good sites if the seed capsules are allowed to ripen.

NARCISSUS X ODORUS (CAMPERNELLE JONQUIL):

Clusters (2-3) of medium sized yellow, fragrant blooms usually in February. Blossoms sometimes split or deformed. Narrow foliage rounded on one side (from its jonquil parent) and with a slight blue-gray color (from its daffodil parent). An old natural hybrid between *N. jonquilla* (jonquil) and *N. pseudonarcissus* (daffodil). Sterile (seedless) so only multiplies by division.



NARCISSUS X INTERMEDIUS (TEXAS STAR JONQUIL)

Clusters of small, pale yellow, "starry", fragrant blooms in usually in late February or early March. Fairly narrow foliage somewhat rounded (from its jonquil parent) but flatter and greener (from its narcissus parent) than campernelle foliage. Flowers start to bloom down in the foliage. A natural hybrid between *N. jonquilla* (jonquil) and *N. tazetta* (narcissus). Sterile (seedless), so only multiplies by division. Fabulous fragrance.



NARCISSUS PSEUDONARCISSUS (EARLY VIRGINIA DAFFODIL/ "LENT LILY")



Small, creamy-yellow or bi-colored) trumpets usually in February. Little to no fragrance. One flower per stem. Foliage wide and blue gray. Multiplies best in acid, sandyloam soils. Wild species from Spain and France. Sets viable seed so will slowly naturalize from seed on good sites.

NARCISSUS PSEUDONARCISSUS TELEMONIUS PLENUS 'VAN SION' (DOUBLE DAFFODIL/ "SCRAMBLED EGGS")

Mostly a froth of green and yellow (sometimes blasted with brown) petals from fat, turbinate buds in February. Once in a blue moon, the cup will be double only. Little to no fragrance. One flower per stem. Foliage wide and blue gray like most daffodils. Sterile so multiplies by division only.



NARCISSUS X INCOMPARABILIS (NONESUCH DAFFODIL)



Delicate pale yellow "starry" petals with small cups. Little to no fragrance. One flower per stem. Foliage wide and blue gray like a daffodil. An old natural hybrid between *N. pseudonarcissus* (daffodil) and *N. poeticus* (poet's narcissus). Sterile, so multiplies by division only.

NARCISSUS X INCOMPARABILIS AURANTIUS PLENUS (BUTTER AND EGGS DAFFODIL)

Fully double flowers with combination of pale yellow and golden yellow from fat turbinate buds generally in late February. Little to no fragrance. One flower per stem, sometimes a bit floppy. Foliage medium-wide and blue gray. Sterile so only multiplies by division. Often more foliage than flowers if not divided every decade or so.



NARCISSUS PAPYRACEUS (PAPERWHITE NARCISSUS)



Clusters of pure white, obnoxiously fragrant (like poo and perfume) flowers during warm spells between December and February. Very small, pure white cups. Foliage medium-wide, blue gray, and often burned by freeze damage. Adapted to clay, loam, or sand. Native to the Mediterranean. Sterile so only multiplies by division. Generally, the first Narcissus to bloom but most dependable annual performance is I-10 and South.

NARCISSUS X ITALICUS (ITALIAN NARCISSUS)

Clusters of starry, creamy white flowers with very small, yellow cups, generally in mid-January. Very fragrant. Foliage wide and dark green but often stunted or nipped by winter freezes. Adapted to clay, loam, or sand; acid or alkaline. An old sterile, natural hybrid between *N. papyraceus* (paperwhite narcissus) and *N. tazetta* (polyanthus narcissus). Sterile so only multiplies by division.



NARCISSUS TAZETTA 'GRAND PRIMO' (GRAND PRIMO NARCISSUS)

Clusters of creamy-white (ivory petals and pale-yellow cups), intoxicatingly fragrant blooms usually in late February. Wide dark green foliage. Several hundred-year-old cultivar and the most common narcissus in East Texas. Adapted to clay, loam, or sand; acid or alkaline. Sterile so only propagates by division. Purported hybrid between *N. papyraceus* (paperwhite narcissus) and *N. tazetta* (polyanthus narcissus).



Turfgrass 101 for East Texas: Greg Grant (2023)

A. Types of grass available:

- 1. St. Augustine (Coarse texture, shade or sun (most shade tolerant), vegetative only, prone to chinch bugs, brown patch, take-all-root-rot, and grubs, medium fertility, high mowing height)
- 2. Bermudagrass (Fine texture, sun only, vegetative or seed (improved types-sod only), high fertility, low mowing height)
- 3. Centipede grass (Medium texture, sun or part shade, vegetative or difficult seed, low fertility, medium mowing height)
- 4. Zoysia (Fine texture, sun or part shade, vegetative only, medium fertility, medium mowing height with a sharp mower, slower growing, more expensive)
- 5. Perennial ryegrass (Fine texture, sun or part shade, seed only, low mowing height, cool season annual for winter overseeding only, expensive)
- Annual ryegrass (Coarse texture, sun or part shade, seed only, high mowing height, cool season annual for crude/mow often winter overseeding or erosion control, much cheaper but inferior)
- B. Mow frequently, never removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade. Mow often enough so clippings disappear. Do not remove clippings as they add nutrients and organic matter.
- C. Use 3:1:2 ratio fertilizer, such as 15-5-10, 18-6-12, or 28-3-12 (premium lawn fertilizers are better but more expensive as they contain slow-release forms of nitrogen). Do not use "weed and feed" fertilizers as they aren't effective and are expensive.

D. Fertilizer applications: Centipede (fertilize once per year in spring)

St. Augustine and zoysia (fertilize twice per year in spring and fall)

Bermuda (fertilize three times per year in spring, summer, and fall)

Fertilizer is very expensive now and a perfectly acceptable "Earth-Kind" lawn can be grown without fertilizer.

E. Mowing heights:

Bermuda (low, 1 inch for hybrid, 2 inches for common) Centipede and zoysia (medium, 2-3 inches) St. Augustine (high, 3-4 inches)

F. Irrigation:

Most lawns are watered too frequently leading to increased diseases like brown patch, dollar spot, and gray leaf spot. Sprinkler systems are best kept on manual and run once each week (1 inch at a time, less rainfall) during the months of June, July, and August. That's only 12 times a year total. Sprinklers should not run during the fall, winter, or spring and are best kept on *manual* not *automatic*.

G. Shade Tolerance:

- 1. St. Augustine (most)
- 2. Centipede
- 3. Zoysia
- 4. Bermuda (least)

-All lawn grasses grow best in full (all day) sun and not even St. Augustine will tolerate dense shade. Better options for heavy shade are groundcovers like Asian jasmine, English ivy, liriope, mondo grass, or hardscape.

H: Herbicides

1. Pre-emergent herbicides prevent annual weed seeds from germinating and MUST be applied before the weeds come up (usually around March 2-Texas Independence Day) for summer weeds and around Labor Day for winter weeds). Even coverage is a must and they must be watered in.

2. Post-emergent herbicides are used to kill existing and perennial weeds and work best when the weeds are young, vigorous, and not going to seed (spring and fall). Broadleaf weeds (non grasses) are the easiest to kill. A typical "broad leaf weed killer" (Weed-B-Gon, Trimec) contains 2,4-D, Dicamba, and Mecoprop. These herbicide drift easily and can easily damage nearby vegetables, flowers, and even trees and shrubs. *Do to safety and health concerns for people, pets, and pollinators I don't use any herbicides on my "Earth-Kind" lawn and actually encourage low growing native flowers and clovers when can be easily tidied up with mowing only. We need to learn to tolerate and encourage all legumes for pollinators and grassland birds*

I: Resources

1. Aggie Turf (aggietur.tamu.edu): Publications and information on all aspects of lawn care in Texas.

2. Neil Sperry's E-Gardens Newsletter (e-

gardens@sperrygardens.com): Products, and timing for preemergent weed control and much more lawn and landscape care information.

3. Rozell Sprayer Manufacturing and Red River Specialties (both on Hwy 64 West in Tyler) care every fertilizer, herbicide, insecticide, fungicide, and rodenticide known to man. These are where lawn care professionals, farmers, and ranchers shop. *Try to be dependent on care not chemicals when it comes to lawns*.

Basic Fertilizer Recommendations for Home Lawns (Greg Grant, 2023)

- 1. Almost all soil tests will show low in N, low to medium in P, and low to medium in K, depending on how much they've fertilized in the past. The longer their history of fertilizing, the higher the P and K will be.
- The standard application rate for 3:1:2 lawn fertilizers is 7 pounds per thousand square feet.
- Fertilizing: Use a 3:1:2 ratio lawn fertilizer (not "weed and feed") such as 15-5-10, 21-7-14, etc. Premium/professional lawn fertilizers (such as Rozell Sprayers 18-6-12 and 28-3-12) are even better as they have both slow release and quick release nitrogen for a more even and longer lasting feeding.
 - Centipede: Fertilize once a year in spring (mid-April)
 - St. Augustine and zoysia: Fertilize twice a year, in spring and fall (October)
 - Bermuda: Fertilize three times a year, in spring, summer, and fall.
- 4. **Liming:** Basic rule of thumb...if pH is between 5-6 apply 25 pounds of pelletized lime per thousand square feet. If it's below 5.0 apply 50 pounds per thousand square feet. Otherwise, don't lime.
- 5. These are very basic recommendations that can be applied to all soil test and lawn fertilizer questions. For exact recommendations have them put their numbers into the fertilizer calculator at soiltesting.tamu.edu and always provide them a copy of Lawn Fertilization for Warm Season Grasses from aggieturf.com
- 6. The one exception to this rule is someone that has fertilized so much in the past that both P and K or high. In that case they'd just use 21-0-0 and apply 5 pounds per thousand square feet.
- 7. ALL fertilizers should be watered in after applying or applied before a rain event.
- 8. It is perfectly acceptable to grow a lawn without fertilizing or to use compost only or an organic fertilizer low in N.

THINGS TO DO IN

MARCH

PLANT CARE:

- Divide summer and fall-blooming perennials.
- Plant summer-blooming bulbs and tubers, such as crinums, cannas, daylilies, montbretia, hymenocallis, and lilies.
- Control weeds and refresh mulch in beds to retain moisture, moderate temperatures, and preventweeds.
- After the danger of frost, set out tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants and seed summer vegetables such as corn, beans, cucumbers, and squash. Rotate the planting position of the vegetable species from previous seasons to decrease disease likelihood.
- Begin planting summer bedding plants and perennial salvias after last frost (do not plant periwinkles until after Memorial Day).
- Allow spring and fall bulb foliage to die naturally in order to feed the bulb for next year. Don't cut off till after Mother's Day or yellow.
- Cut back frozen perennials, tropicals, and any freeze damage on shrubs.

FERTILIZE:

- Apply 3:1:2 lawn fertilizer (15-5-10, 18-6-12 etc.) to annual bedding plants and vegetables.
- Do not fertilize lawns until mid-April when nights are warm and you've mowed the grass (not the weeds) several times.

PESTS:

- Treat pests as they arise. Consider using proven organic or least toxic remedies for the health of your family and our earth, especially in the vegetable garden. Remember insects can be cured but diseases can only be prevented.
- Check crapemyrtles for bark scale and treat with a systemic insecticide when they first leaf out, but no later so as not to kill bees and pollinators.

ODDS & ENDS:

- • Canes of climbers should be secured.
- Water gardens should be drained, cleaned, and replanted as needed.
- Butterfly bushes (buddleia) should be cut back by ³/₄.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide ASAP for crabgrass, grassburs, and other annual summer weeds if they haven't already germinated.
- Carefully apply broadleaf herbicide to weeds in lawn (weed and feed fertilizers are not very effective and not recommended).



Helpful Resources

Horticulture

East Texas Gardening with Keith Hansen: easttexasgardening.com Facebook Page: facebook.com/easttexasgardening Greg Grant 's Blog: arborgate.com/greg-ramblings Facebook Page: facebook.com/ggrantgardens Neil Sperry's Web Site: neilsperry.com Facebook Page: facebook.com/NeilSperryTexas Plant Answers: plantanswers.com Texas Gardener Magazine: texasgardener.com Facebook Page: facebook.com/texasgardenermagazine Agriculture



Ranch TV: https//ranchtv.org Facebook Page: facebook.com/ranchtv/ Texas A&M Wildlife and Fisheries Extension: https://wfsc.tamu.edu Videos: https://www.youtube.com/user/WFSCAgriLife Facebook Page: facebook.com/wfscextension/ Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute: https//nri.tamu.edu Facebook Page: facebook.com/tamuNRI/ Wild Pig Resources and Videos:http://feralhogs.tamu.edu University Based

Texas A&M Aggie Horticulture: aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu Facebook Page: facebook.com/aggiehorticulture Integrated Pest Management: ipm.tamu.edu Insect Answers and Information: citybugs.tamu.edu Disease Diagnostic Laboratory: plantclinic.tamu.edu Turf and Grass Care: aggieturf.tamu.edu Texas A&M Forestry Service: tfsweb@tamu.edu Soil Testing Information: Soiltesting.tamu.edu

Gardens

SFA Garden in Nocogdoches: *sfagardens.sfasu.edu* The Garden at Texas A&M: *gardens.tamu.edu*





	Vegetable
for the Tyler A	Garden
lrea	Planting
	Guide

_												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	NUL	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	VOV	DEC
ASPARAGUS (Crowns)												
BASIL *												
BEANS, BUSH & POLE												
BEETS												
BROCCOLI *												
BRUSSEL SPROUTS *												
CABBAGE *												
CANTALOUPE (Muskmelon)												
CARROTS												
CAULIFLOWER *												
CHARD, SWISS												
CILANTRO												
COLLARDS/KALE *												
CORN, SWEET												
CUCUMBER												
DILL												
EGGPLANT *												
GARLIC (Cloves)												
LETTUCE (leaf)												
MUSTARD												
OKRA												
ONION (sets)												
PARSLEY *												
PEAS, ENGLISH/SNOW												
PEAS, SOUTHERN												
PEPPERS *												
POTATO, IRISH (Tubers)												
POTATO, SWEET (slips)												
PUMPKIN												
RADISH												
ROSEMARY*												
SPINACH												
SQUASH, SUMMER												
SQUASH, WINTER												
TOMATOES *												
TURNIPS												
WATERMELON												
		2					,		1	•		

* = TRANSPLANTS

By: Greg Grant, Smith County Extension Agent- August 2021

Plant seed unless otherwise noted



PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Friday, May 10, 2024 First United Methodist Church <u>204 W State Hwy 31W</u> Chandler, TX 75758 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

An opportunity to obtain the required training for Private Applicators. *Training only, testing will not be offered during this training.* The Texas Department of Agriculture no longer offers paper exams. *Testing procedures will be explained during the training.*

Training is required for all Private Applicators. Study materials are available for purchase for \$50 including the Private Applicator General Manual, the Texas Department of Agriculture's Laws and Regulations Manual, and all the handouts/worksheets needed for this training. These materials can be purchased ahead of the class for review or the day of the training. A \$10 Registration fee will be charged for a total of \$60.00 for this training course. **Cash, Credit Card, or check** made payable to the Livestock and Forage Committee.

Contact:

*To register for Training and/or to purchase study materials call (903) 590-2980

Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension program should contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at (903) 590-2980 at least one week prior to the program or event.

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TEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION

UPPER NECHES PESTICIDE CONFERENCE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 204 HWY 31 WEST CHANDLER, TEXAS 75758 FRIDAY MAY 10, 2024

1 LAW & REGS 8:00 am ` Registration 8:45 am Welcome - Spencer Sims, CEA - AG/NR, Henderson County \$30.00 Herbicide Updates - Mr. Darren Rozell, Rozell Sprayer & 8:50 am Manufacturing - Tyler per Break 9:50 am Fire Ants in Pasture and Control Methods Using IPM Strategiespersor 10:00 am Ms. Janet Hurley, Extension Program Specialist- IPM, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Pest & Predator Control in Pastures & Hay Fields Using IPM 11:00 am Please RSVP to Strategies - Mr. Lee Dudley, CEA -AG, Panola County Henderson County 12:00 pm Lunch office at (903) 675- 6130 **Review of Herbicide Research Trials for Pasture & Hay Fields-**1:00 pm Mr. Clint Perkins, CEA- AG, Smith County by 5/08/2024 to Reading & Understanding the Pesticide Label guarantee lunch 2:00 pm Mrs. Shaniqua Davis, CEA - AG, Gregg County 3:00 pm Adjourn

PENDING TDA APPROVAL

5 CEU'S

2 IPM

2 GENERAL

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this activity are encouraged to contact the Henderson County Extension office at 903-675-6130 for assistance by May 6, 2024. Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Forestry Management & Production Workshop

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

REGISTRATION AT 8:30 AM PROGRAM STARTS AT 9:00 AM

Cotton Belt Building 1517 W Front St, Ste 116A, Tyler,Texas 75702 PROGRAM IS FREE Coffee and Donuts !

DR. ELLIOTT WASHINGTON, EXTENSION PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

- Sustainable Forestry Land Retention Program
- Best Tree Management Practices
- Understanding and applying for carbon credits
- Current Timber Market Update

ERIC WANNLUND, STAFF FORESTER TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

- Texas Climate Smart Initiative (new financial incentive program)
- Understanding the 1-D-1 Timber Valuation Form
- Requirements, Maintaining and Applying for a Forest Management Plan
- Whats the difference between a Forestry plan, Forest Stewardship plan and Conservation plan



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Overton Center Beef & Forage Field Day

Thursday, April 11th 1710 FM 3053 Overton, TX 75684

Come learn more about the research that is being done at the Texas A&M Research & Extension Center at Overton. Hear from Research Leaders & Extension Specialists.

8:00 AM	Registration
8:30 AM	Introductions- Current soil, forage, and beef research being conducted
9:30 AM	Break
10:00 AM Dr. \	Weed control in Forages (1 IPM CEU) /anessa Corriher-Olson, Forage Extension Specialist
11:00 AM	Environmental Benefits of Grazing Managemen Strategies (1 GEN CEU)
Dr. Jacquelyn	Prestegaard, Extension Livestock Sustainability Speciali

Noon Lunch- Will Be Provided

1-2 & 2:30-3:30

Concurrent Field Sessions

Beef Research Field Session Production Efficiencies in Cow-Calf Operations with current technologies (Pregnancy check methods, testing for diseases and parasites)

Forage Research Field Session Winter Pasture Options for East Texas Forage Management Strategies for Year-Long Stocking Systems

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2 CEU Credits (1 IPM & 1 General)









TMCA SPRING WORKSHOP April 9-10, 2024 Tyler, Texas

Register for meeting at www.TexasMosquito.org



The workshop is scheduled to take place at the **Hilton Garden Inn** 220 East Grande Blvd Tyler, TX 75703.

Free CEU Course Available to TMCA Members Non-members will be charged a fee of \$100.

Group Room Rates \$119/night

Please make room reservations DIRECTLY with hotel by calling 903-509-1166 or using Hilton Group Reservation Link https://group.hiltongardeninn.com/7m5185 by March 19, 2024 Reference group name: TEXAS MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Valid Overnight Dates for group rate are 4/9-10.



Extension

Sustainable Agriculture Program 14th Annual CEP Bi-States Hybrid Horticulture Conference & Seed Swap Thursday, March 28, 2024

Time: 9:00 am - 4:55 pm

Location: Southwest Center 3222 West 7th Street Texarkana, TX 75501 Topics Zoom Link Click Here

- Climate Global Weather Change Pattern Affect
 Farm
- Food Safety on the Farm
- NRCS Tunnel Hoop House
 Cost-Share Program
- Bee Keeping & Pollinator Garden
- Timber Management
- Estate Planning (Heir Property)
- Heirloom Herbs

JSD/

NRCS



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONPhone: 903-628-6702 or email: brhawkins@pvam uCONTACT.edu or: CEP Ms. Kandi Williams, -Agent (AGNr) UAPB, Mr. Brandon Hawkins. Small Farm Program, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Phone: 870-571-9428 or email: williamska@uapb.edu.

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BRANDON HAWKINS

Prairie View AGNR Extension Agent, Bowie County

Email:

brhawkins@pvamu.edu



University of Arkansas Pine Bluff Small Farm Program

Email: williamska@uapb.edu



2024 Library Lecture Series

Sponsored by the Smith County Master Gardeners Association

A series of five programs designed to educate the community in all things gardening. The lectures are held the third Friday of each month, January through May, beginning at noon in the Taylor Auditorium of the Tyler Public Library.

> <u>Growing the Longview Arboretum: The Good, The Bad & The Muddy</u> Steve Chamblee, Executive Director, Longview Arboretum, brings a fast-paced behind-the scenes look at the development of the Arboretum from a pipe dream to a beautiful garden.

Things I Wish I Had Learned Sooner

Baxter Williams, Master Rosarian, American Rose Society, gives a light-hearted look at both the right information about rose horticulture against the historical lore that has been passed down.

Texas Superstar

1/19

3/15

4/19

Lynette Sewell, Master Gardener, will discuss the Texas Superstar program in which every effort is made to ensure that highlighted plants will perform well for Texas consumers.

<u>Tried & True, New & Different, Plants to Try to Find and Use in</u> <u>Your Garden</u>, Keith Hansen, former Extension Horticulture Agent in Smith County, will help us discover plants that may not be familiar to us, or , maybe they are.

<u>Bloom Where you are Planted - Make Your Garden Fit Your Life</u> David Gary, Master Gardener, gives an inspiring presentation that serious gardening is possible despite physical limitations.





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FRUIT GRAFTING & BUDDING WORKSHOP



Friday, April 5, 2024 * 9AM to 3PM

Gold Hall * 101 Elm Street * Hallsville TX 75650

REGISTRATION FEE: \$50 - Lunch Included!

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS!

Register via QR Code

This hands-on workshop will provide a thorough understanding of the art & science behind several propagation techniques. Training will include detailed demonstrations & hands-on practice.

Propagation Techniques: Cleft & Bark Graft, T-Bud, Chip-Bud, Four-Flap Graft & More!

ATTENDEES WILL TAKE HOME GRAFTED FRUIT TREES!

Questions? Gregg County AgriLife Extension (903) 236-8429 Harrison County AgriLife Extension (903) 935-8413

Dr. Tim Hartmann Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service





PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING THEIR OWN PRUNERS & GRAFTING KNIFES.



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ATEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

BACKYARD CHICKEN SEMINAR SERIES

Weekly Virtual Seminar on Topics Related to BackYard Poutlry

STARTS MARCH 18TH THEN DAILY <u>11AM-12NOON</u> EGG GRADER TRAINING CERTIFICATION SEPARATE AND STARTS 4/16 11AM-12NOON



Register for Backyard Workshop <u>a https://tinyurl.com/2s28hew2</u> Register for Egg Grader Training <u>a https://tinyurl.com/3vxbukxs</u>



Contact Gregory.Archer@ag.tamu.edu with questions

CHICKEN BASICS

3/18 INTRO, HOUSING, LIGHTING

3/19 BREEDS AND NUTRITION

3/20 SELLING EGGS AND POULTRY AND FOOD SAFETY

3/21 HEALTH AND DISEASE

3/22 CHICKENS, YOUR GARDEN, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

EGG GRADER TRAINING

4/16 EGG COMPOSITION AND BIOLOGY

4/17 EGG MICROBIOLOGY AND FOOD SAFETY

4/18 INTERIOR EGG QUALITY AND DEFECTS

4/19 USDA GRADING STANDARDS

Wood County Master Gardeners present their **Spring Conference**

20



Back to the Basics

Saturday, March 23, 2024 8 AM - 1 PM

Free to the Public **Quitman High School** 1101 E Goode St - Quitman, Texas

Holly Ross

Guest Speaker

"Homesteading: A Fierce Battle and a Delicate Balance"

W Breakout Sessions

- Grow Anywhere (Containers)
- Benefits of Edible Herbs
- Lavender Pillows & Other Uses
- Seed Saving & Storing
- Preserving Food Safely at Home
- Starting from Scratch (Veggies)

Vegetable & Herb Plant Sale

- Auditorium Full of Vendors
- Door Prizes



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Smith County Master Gardener Association

2024 Home Garden Tour



Join us for our 2024 tour featuring



five unique and inspirational gardens all located within the City of Tyler

Saturday, May 18th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Rain or Shine Tour tickets are \$15* per person in advance online \$20* per person day of the tour and may be purchased at any garden location

Not all gardens are wheelchair accessible

Under 12 free, sorry no strollers, pets or unsupervised children in the gardens









txmg.org/smith/event/ 2024-home-garden-tour



*Proceeds benefit Smith County Master Gardener Association Scholorships and Educational Projects Smith County Master Gardeners are volunteer educators certified and coordinated by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service