

LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

August 2024



July Rains are a Blessing for late summer

Dakota Kempken

The amount of rain we have received in late July has been very welcome! Pastures have seen a slight green-up and hay meadows were able to get some extra growth for late summer cuttings. On the downside, mold has been high due to the high amounts of rain and fungal infections in plants have been prevalent. Keep watch on your livestock and plants for any signs of illness and be prepared to treat them.

RAINS HELP TEXAS PECAN GROWERS RECOVER FROM DROUGHT

Emmy Powell – Texas Farm Bureau

Texas pecan growers should see improved production this year, thanks to rainfall across much of the state.

“Agriculture is so deeply tied into the weather, but this year all the rain has been beneficial to a lot of areas of Texas. It’s recharged aquifers and reservoirs and all the irrigation water that’s needed,” said Blair Krebs, executive director of the Texas Pecan Growers Association.

Several consecutive years of [drought](#) and lack of available irrigation water led to significant loss of pecan trees.

“We have seen tree loss, significant tree loss, particularly in the northern Central Texas area. We’re thinking maybe even about 10% of some of the trees there,” Krebs told the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network. “We still see some of the state that’s in that kind of drought condition. If you go to the Winter Garden area out near San Antonio, we’re still seeing that kind of tree loss. But for the most part, the rain has been really beneficial for producers. Now, we will need it to continue through the summer, but at the very least, we’re getting irrigation supplies back.”

Although the majority of pecans are grown in the El Paso region, Krebs noted there is a great diversity with the crop.

“Almost every county has some kind of commercial pecan production. The El Paso Valley looks good right now. It’s still very early to know what’s going to happen,” Krebs said. “But the great thing about the diversity of pecan production across the state of Texas is that even if there are weather issues or natural disasters, you will have Texas pecans for our consumers.”

And Krebs is hopeful pecan growers will see an increase in yield for this year’s pecan crop.

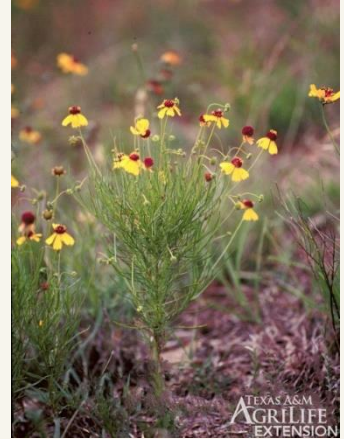
“The last two years have been tough, and we’re hoping with all this rain, this will continue and produce a good crop that is needed for these producers,” she said. “And we hope the market gets a bit stronger.”

WEED OF THE MONTH: BITTER SNEEZEWEED

Bitter sneezeweed is very common in degraded rangeland and pastures. This is a native annual forb that tends to grow very similarly to broomweed, and often gets mistaken for it. What sets sneezeweed apart are their extremely narrow, grass-

blade-like leaves that grow in an alternate pattern along the stems. Bright yellow flowers bloom throughout the summer at the end of each branch. Bitter sneezeweed is known to be poisonous when ingested, but due to its unpalatable taste (hence the name), it is rarely consumed in toxic amounts.

Bitter sneezeweed is a somewhat aggressive colonizer, but can be kept out of pastures with proper forage management, keeping preferred grasses dense and healthy to outcompete seedlings. Should herbicides be needed, many commonly available chemicals are available.



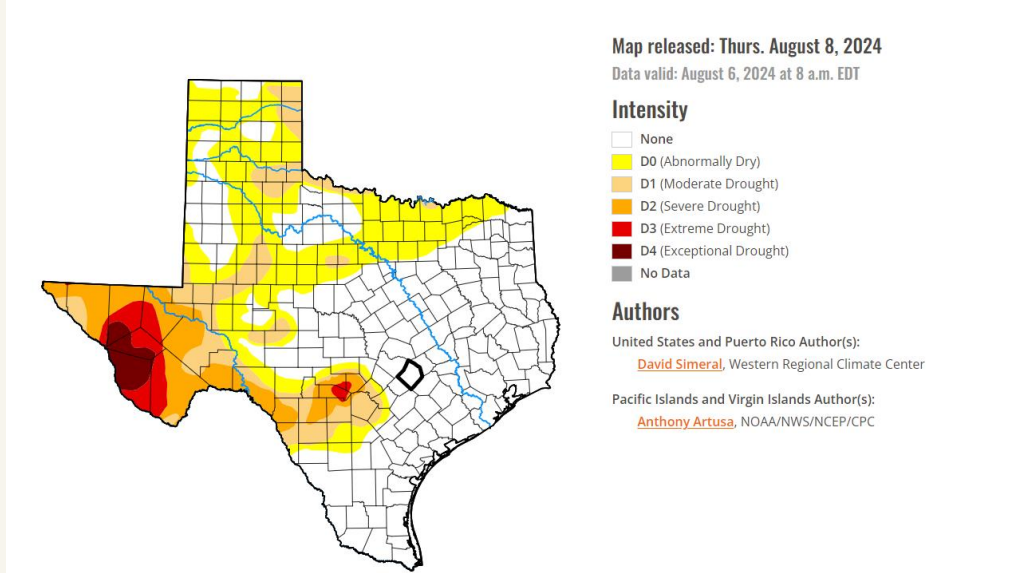
Herbicides listed for bitter sneezeweed:

- Triclopyr + fluroxypyr: PasturGard HL
- 2,4-D: GrazonNext HL, Grazon P+D

TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

Bastrop County, TX

[Home](#) / Bastrop County, TX



AUCTION BARN REPORTS

Giddings Livestock Commission – August 5th

Weight	Steers		Heifers	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
150 – 300	\$326	\$410	\$267	\$405
300 – 400	\$309	\$400	\$274	\$330
400 – 500	\$270	\$340	\$257	\$297.50
500 – 600	\$247	\$270	\$239	\$295
600 – 700	\$232	\$260	\$227	\$280
700 – 800	\$223	\$247	\$208	\$245
Packer bulls				
	Top	\$162 – 180		
	Medium	\$140 – 158		
Stocker Females				
	Stocker pairs	\$1,150 – 2,800		
	Bred cows	\$1,050 – 2,250		
Packer Cows				
	Top	\$138 – 154		
	Medium	\$126 – 137		
	Thin	\$95 – 125		

Lockhart Auction – August 1st

Weight	Steers	Heifers
<300	\$240 – 460	\$230 – 380
300 – 400	\$230 – 445	\$200 – 355
400 – 500	\$200 – 352.50	\$200 – 325
>500	\$160 – 307.50	\$180 – 287.50
	Packer Cows	\$95 – 156
	Packer Bulls	\$125 – 168
	Stocker Cows	\$1,050 – 2,350
	Cow/Calf Pairs	\$1,525 – 3,000

Gonzales Livestock Market – August 3rd

Weight	Steers	Heifers
150 – 300	\$325 – 425	\$315 – 375
300 – 400	\$275 – 400	\$285 – 325
400 – 500	\$255 – 360	\$265 – 305
500 – 600	\$245 – 275	\$215 – 280
600 – 700	\$236 – 265	\$213 – 244
700 – 800	\$215 – 241	---
	Yearling Bulls	\$145 – 200
	Stocker Cows	\$900 – 2,250
	Pairs	\$1,800 – 3,200

FALL PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

September 17th, 2023



- Where: Bastrop County Annex
downstairs conference room
 - 804 Pecan St. Bastrop, Tx 78602
- When: 9:00am - 12:30pm

\$65 registration fee due to the
Bastrop County Extension
Office by Wednesday, August
28th.

For card
payment,
scan the
QR Code



For more information, please contact the
extension office at 512-581-7186 or at
dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING SEPTEMBER 17TH AT BASTROP COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Need to obtain a pesticide license to better maintain your home or property? Bastrop County AgriLife Extension will be holding a Pesticide Applicator Training class on Tuesday, September 17th at the Bastrop County Courthouse meeting room, next to the elections office. This three-hour program will prepare prospective pesticide applicators for the Texas Department of Agriculture licensing exam. This class will cover:

- General pesticide/herbicide modes of action
- Integrated pest management
- Drift minimization
- Pest/disease features
- Calibration

To ensure enough materials can be ordered in time, please submit your payment of \$65 to the Bastrop County Extension office by **Wednesday, August 28th**. Checks can be made out to **Bastrop County Ag/Horticulture Program Committee**. Credit/Debit card payments can be made via Eventbrite using the below link or by scanning the QR code in the attached flyer.

Link to the event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-pesticide-applicator-training-registration-989387934947?aff=oddtcreator>