

# LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

March 2025



## A DRY START TO THE 2025 GROWING SEASON

Dakota Kempken

Spring planting has begun and the trees are flowering out. Warm season grasses will be breaking dormancy soon and wildflowers will be blooming soon. However, it may be a while before we really start seeing productive growth due to ongoing drought conditions. Once an adequate amount of moisture comes, growers and landowners can expect to see an explosion of new growth and color.

## THINGS TO KNOW

### LIVESTOCK SHOW SEASON CONTINUES

Springtime continues to be a very busy month for the Extension Office as our county 4-H livestock exhibitors travel to Austin and Houston this month. Please wish them good luck with their animal projects and safe travels!

### NATIVE FORAGES CAN BE A DROUGHT TOLERANT ALTERNATIVE TO INTRODUCED GRASS

The persistence of droughts year after year often puts a strain on landowners and livestock producers, reducing the quality of their forage and driving up costs on feed and hay. Because of these growing concerns, many producers and landowners are looking for alternative forage options that can better withstand droughts and require less input. One option growing in popularity is switching to native forages.



Native grasses can be difficult to establish but have multiple benefits to landowners that can make them a worthy investment, including drought resilience, lower fertility requirements, wildlife habitat, and

erosion control. In order for native grasses to be established, introduced and nuisance grasses will need to be controlled in the areas where native seeding is going to take place. This involves herbicide applications during active growth (or late spring/early summer for most warm season grasses) followed by clearing of the plot area to reduce shading and competition. Keep livestock out of the planted area and continue to control weeds and unwanted grasses until the native plants are established.

#### What can be planted for cattle grazing in the warm season:

- Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Switchgrass, Eastern gammagrass, Blue grama, side oats grama, plains bristlegrass

#### What can be planted in the cool season:

- Virginia wildrye, inland sea oats, western wheatgrass

# WEED OF THE MONTH: BRADFORD PEAR

Bradford pear, AKA Callery pear, is an Asia-native invasive tree that was originally introduced to combat Fireblight in agricultural pears, and as an ornamental tree



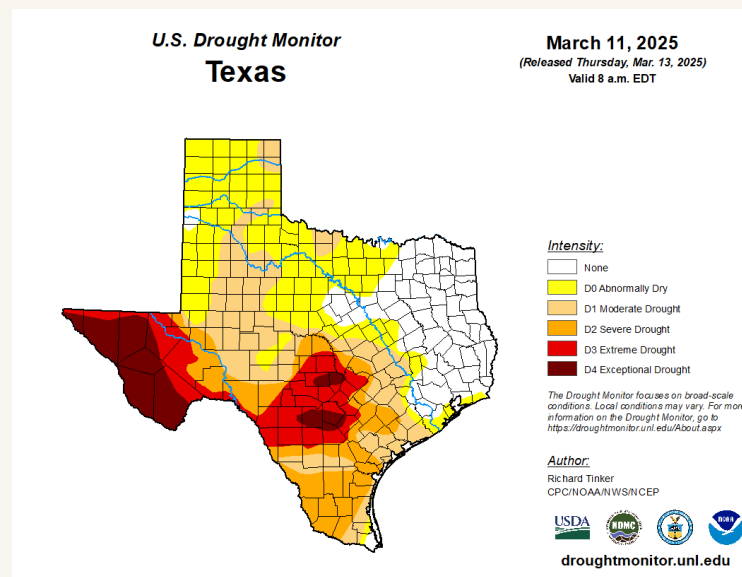
used in landscape design. However much like many ornamental plants, Bradford pear has since become an invasive species throughout much of Texas and the southern US. Bradford pear is a medium-sized tree with broad, rounded leaves with a shiny look and slightly wavy edges. They are best recognized by their small, white flowers that bloom along its branches in early spring. They are also easily recognized by those flowers' pungent, fish-like smell...

Bradford pears spread rapidly via seeds and can resprout from a dormant bud zone, so mechanical treatment will be ineffective unless the bud zone is removed. Much like when dealing with Mesquite, chemical control is going to be the most effective strategy. A basal application along the bottom 18 inches of the trunk with triclopyr or picloram-based herbicides with MSO or diesel fuel can result in effective treatment.

## Herbicides listed for Pradford pear:

- Triclopyr: Remedy Ultra, Pathfinder II, Triclopyr 4E
- Picloram: Tordon 22K, Triumph 22K, Picloram 22K

# TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE



# AUCTION BARN REPORTS

## Giddings Livestock Commission – March 17th

| Weight          | Steers        |                 | Heifers |          |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|----------|
|                 | Avg           | High            | Avg     | High     |
| 150 – 300       | \$458         | \$540           | \$356   | \$475    |
| 300 – 400       | \$407         | \$495           | \$347   | \$390    |
| 400 – 500       | \$350         | \$445           | \$321   | \$390    |
| 500 – 600       | \$325         | \$392.50        | \$296   | \$380    |
| 600 – 700       | \$273         | \$330           | \$266   | \$327.50 |
| 700 – 800       | \$236         | \$285           | \$225   | \$260    |
| Packer bulls    |               |                 |         |          |
|                 | Top           | \$165 – 190     |         |          |
|                 | Medium        | \$145 – 160     |         |          |
| Stocker Females |               |                 |         |          |
|                 | Stocker pairs | \$1,325 – 3,200 |         |          |
|                 | Bred cows     | \$1,000 – 2,750 |         |          |
| Packer Cows     |               |                 |         |          |
|                 | Top           | \$130 – 158     |         |          |
|                 | Medium        | \$115 – 125     |         |          |
|                 | Thin          | \$90 – 110      |         |          |

## Lockhart Auction – March 13th

| Weight    | Steers         | Heifers         |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| <300      | \$280 – 580    | \$260 – 570     |
| 300 – 400 | \$260 – 495    | \$260 – 395     |
| 400 – 500 | \$240 – 445    | \$240 – 365     |
| >500      | \$190 – 390    | \$150 – 175     |
|           | Packer Cows    | \$90 – 154      |
|           | Packer Bulls   | \$150 – 175     |
|           | Stocker Cows   | \$1,100 – 2,600 |
|           | Cow/Calf Pairs | \$1,350 – 2,800 |

## Gonzales Livestock Market – March 15th

| Weight    | Steers         | Heifers         |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| 150 – 300 | \$400 – 525    | \$320 – 415     |
| 300 – 400 | \$325 – 495    | \$325 – 495     |
| 400 – 500 | \$285 – 415    | \$285 – 415     |
| 500 – 600 | \$265 – 390    | \$265 – 390     |
| 600 – 700 | \$255 – 327    | \$245 – 323     |
| 700 – 800 | \$245 – 290    | \$245 – 280     |
|           | Yearling Bulls | \$175 – 215     |
|           | Stocker Cows   | \$900 – 1,950   |
|           | Pairs          | \$1,800 – 3,450 |

# Beginning Backyard Gardening

## Gardening for New Landowners



- Landscape and Garden Irrigation
- Soil Fertility
- Vegetable Plant Selection
- Organic Pest Management
- Product Marketing

Scan the  
QR code  
to pre-  
register!



Friday, April 25th. 9AM - 2PM

Bastrop Community Center

- 15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop,  
Tx 78602

Doors open at 8:30am.

**Pre-Registration: \$35**

**At the Door: \$45**

**Lunch will be provided!**

**Pre-Register by Friday, April  
18th.**

For more information or to pre-register: Contact Bastrop County AgriLife Extension at  
512-581-7186 or email [bastrop-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:bastrop-tx@tamu.edu)

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## Lunch & Learn: Small Livestock 101

Learn the basics of backyard/small acreage livestock production



**Thursday, April 17th**

**Bastrop County  
Community Center**

15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx  
78602

**12:00pm - 2:00pm**

**RSVP by Wednesday, April  
16th.**

**Snacks and drinks provided.**

**Bring your own lunch.**

For more information or to RSVP, please call  
the Bastrop Extension Office at 512-581-7186

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## **BEGINNING BACKYARD GARDENING PROGRAM ON FRIDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>**

Looking to start growing your own produce? Join us on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Bastrop County Extension Office for an in-depth introduction into home gardening. This class will serve as an in-depth beginning for new gardeners and a refresher for established gardeners on how to begin, maintain, and market home-grown produce. Doors will open at 8:30am and lunch will be provided!

A pre-registration fee of \$35 is required, and can be paid by exact change, check, or by credit card by scanning the QR code on page 4 with your smartphone camera and following the link pop-up. Please pre-register or RSVP by Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> to ensure your plate is ordered, and for any questions or to RSVP, please contact us at 512-581-7186 or email [Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu).

## **LUNCH & LEARN: SMALL LIVESTOCK 101 ON THURSDAY, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Livestock production does not stop at beef cattle, and many can easily be raised in your back yard. This Lunch and Learn will go over the identification, care, and management of multiple popular livestock species that can be raised in smaller environments than larger livestock like cattle and horses. The program will be held on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. This program is free to attend, and snacks and drinks will be provided. You are encouraged to bring a lunch with you. To ensure enough materials are provided, please RSVP with the Extension office by Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> by calling 512-581-7186 or sending an email to [Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu).