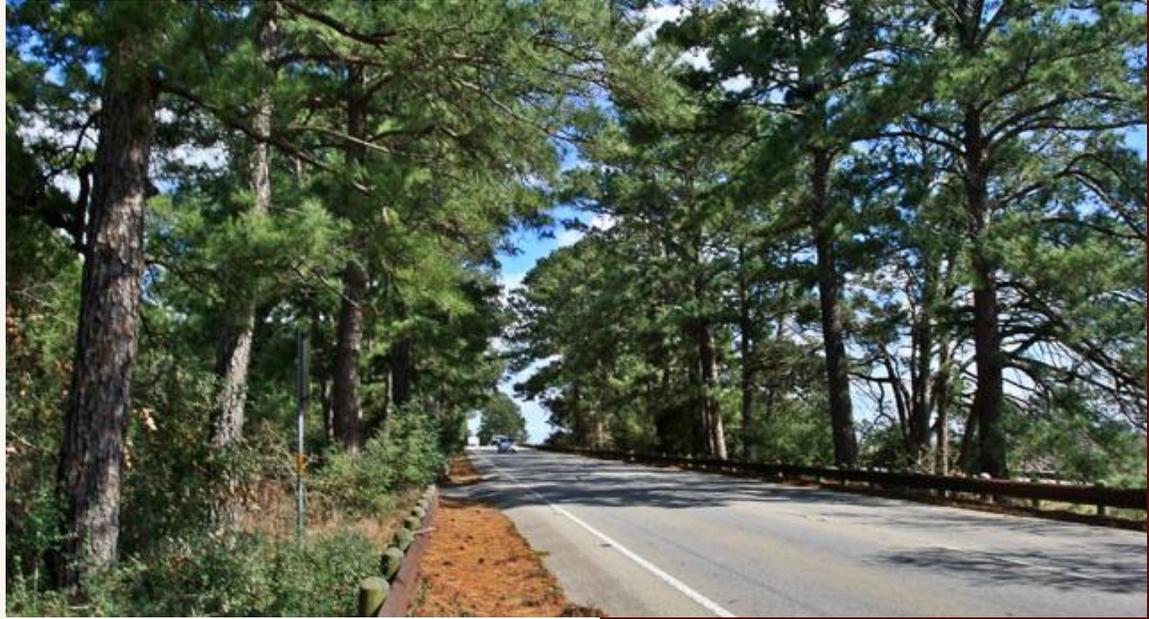


LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



DRY CONDITIONS PERSIST INTO THE FALL

Dakota Kempken

Drought conditions have come back with a vengeance into the fall season along with persistent high temperatures. Fortunately, we may be getting a break from at least the heat come Saturday, but a drop of rain does not appear to be in sight. Forage conditions are also continuing to decline due to dry conditions. If you are in need of hay to supplement your livestock feeding, you can consult the Texas Department of Agriculture's hay hotline at

<https://texasagriculture.gov/Home/Production-Agriculture/Hay-Hotline>

THINGS TO KNOW

NEW WORLD SCREWWORM DETECTED IN NUEVO LEON

On September 21st, Mexico's National Service of Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA) has confirmed a case of New World Screwworm in Sabinas Hidalgo, 70 miles from the Texas/Mexico border. According to the USDA, This is now the northernmost detection of NWS during this outbreak, surpassing the previous detection on July 9th in Veracruz, over 300 miles south.

Currently, all U.S. ports are still closed to imports of cattle, bison, and horses from Mexico. Additionally, the USDA is still coordinating with Mexico and actively monitoring over 8,000 traps across the American Southwest. The USDA has also begun construction on a domestic sterile fly dispersal facility in Edinburg, Texas, which is expected to have the capability of dispersing up to 100 million sterile flies per week. This strategy was accredited for eradication NWS from the U.S. and Mexico in the 1960's and 1970's respectively.

If you suspect your animal to be infected with new world screwworms, contact Texas Animal Health Commission at 512-719-0700 or Texas' USDA Vet Service at 512-202-1181.

BACTERIAL AND FUNGAL INFECTIONS ON THE RISE

Thanks to an unusually wet early July followed by almost two months of little moisture, many trees and plants have suffered a shocked immune system, and consequently, bacterial and fungal infections.



Bacterial leaf scorch on oak leaves

Infection can take on many forms depending on the type of infection, the plant species affected, and stage of infection. For example, signs of infection can range from scorching along the leaf edge or along the central leaf veins, to spots scattered on the surface of the leaf, to white powdery substances. It is important that producers and homeowners are aware of the signs of infection to properly identify and control them. For assistance in identifying possible infections, contact our office at 512-581-7186.

Steps can be taken to mitigate the spread of diseases. Many infections start off localized and removal of an infected limb will oftentimes be enough to control it. Other control methods include sanitizing equipment such as pruners, shredders/mowers, etc. and staying on top of irrigation and fertilization to keep the plant's immune system functioning properly.

STEM SPRAY VS LEAF SPRAY: WHICH IS MORE EFFECTIVE?

AgriLife's Brush Busters mesquite control education offers guidance on both basal stem spray and foliar leaf spray methods, but which method is more effective in controlling juvenile mesquite? To test this, a field trial was set up in southeastern Bastrop County, examining the efficacy of both Brush Busters methods on juvenile mesquite sprayed in late July 2025.

Two one-acre plots of roughly 20 individuals per acre were established in the mostly ungrazed native grass pasture. Pasture one was treated with a mixture of Sendero® (32 oz) mixed with 20 gallons of water. Temperature recorded on the day of spraying was 82°F, 76% humidity, with a 9mph north wind. 5 gallons were applied across the plot via individual plant treatment to the canopy of each individual mesquite. The second plot was treated with 96 oz of Remedy® mixed with 3 gallons of water and 4 cups of Surfac 820®. 1.2 gallons were applied across the plot via individual plant treatment around the bottom 12 inches of each mesquite stem.



Signs of herbicide damage on mesquite leaves, including yellowing, spotted scorching, and partial leaf drop.

Upon an initial inspection in September, the foliar spray treatment resulted in a 95% kill rate. Most individuals exhibited complete plant death with surviving plants showing no signs of spray damage, likely having been missed during application. The basal spray plot, however, exhibited a much lower efficacy of 60%. Most surviving plants exhibited partial plant death or showed herbicide damage in surviving leaves.

In this demonstration, the stem spray method proved far superior given the environmental conditions present at the treatment site. Although plant density was low in both plots, applying

foliar herbicide proved more effective, but used more tank mixture. All plants in the treatment areas were multi-stemmed and the pasture was ungrazed, making basal application difficult. Because of this, the results of the trial were to be expected. Brush Busters foliar and basal mesquite treatment are both trusted and proven control methods for mesquite management, but when deciding which technique to use, the results of this demonstration indicate that foliar treatment may be more beneficial to landowners dealing with multi-stemmed plants or on rangeland.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT HERBICIDE ADJUVANT FOR JUVENILE CHINABERRY

Providing an adjuvant to an herbicide spray mixture is important for increasing the herbicide's effectiveness, especially by increasing its ability to cling to the target plant. Many landowners often select a non-ionic surfactant to mix into the tank, while many others prefer to mix with diesel fuel for the same effect. Is there a benefit to a proper surfactant over diesel? To answer this question, a field trial was established in Cedar Creek to examine the efficacy of both a non-ionic surfactant and diesel fuel mixture used on two plots of juvenile chinaberry trees.

Two separate plots of juvenile chinaberry clusters were selected in the Cedar Creek area. 99% of treated trees had a stem diameter of 3 inches and below. The plots also consisted of 1 – 3 trees with stems thicker than 3 inches diameter. Plot one was treated with 64 oz of Remedy and 2 gallons of water with 80/20 Surfactant. Weather conditions recorded the day of spraying were 79°F temperature, 5mph northwest wind, and 83% humidity. Plot two was treated with a mixture of 64 oz of Remedy and 2 gallons of diesel fuel. Both plots were treated until the tank was emptied.



Plot 1 treated with Remedy mixed with water and 80/20 Surfactant



Plot 2 treated with Remedy mixed with diesel fuel

Both plots achieved very high kill rates, however plot two achieved an initial kill rate of 100%. Plot one received a kill rate of 99%, with surviving trees showing signs of herbicide damage indicating covered treatment, but possibly inadequate herbicide coverage due to groundcover or plant density. More mature trees also survived treatment while showing signs of herbicide damage. Plot two, however, had a 100% kill rate, including two trees with stem diameters over 3 inches.

Both herbicide adjuvants demonstrated highly effective control on chinaberry trees in Bastrop County, leaving the decision up to personal preference. Both plots will continue to be monitored into the next year to evaluate regrowth.

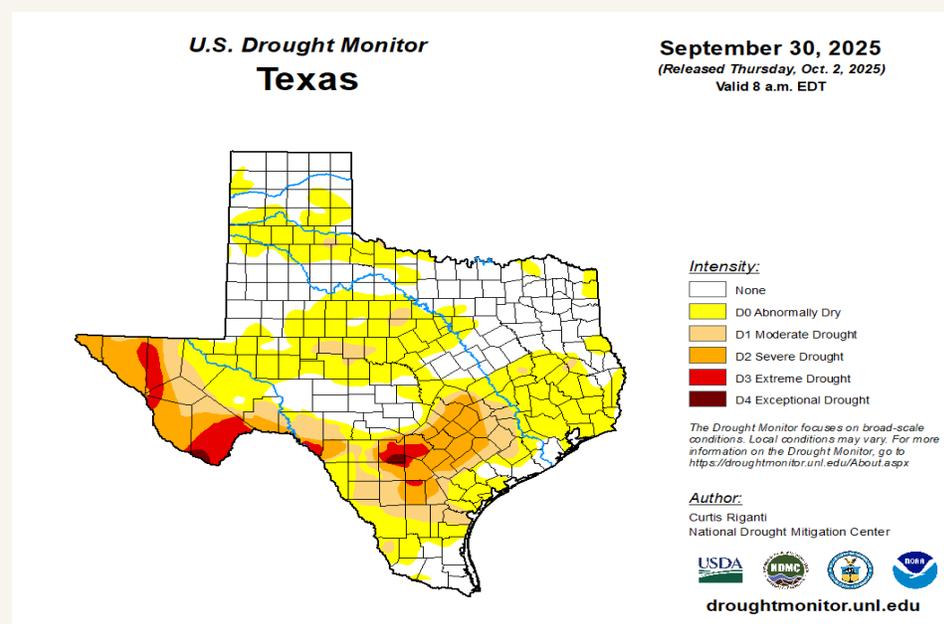
WEED OF THE MONTH: ARROWLEAF CLOVER

Much more often a beneficial companion plant than a nuisance for many landowners. Arrowleaf clover is one of multiple clover species that have been naturalized and to this day are commonly utilized throughout much of Texas. Arrowleaf is an annual cool season legume that mostly grows in the spring and early summer, but frequently sees additional growth in the fall. They are best identified by their grouping of three pointed leaves with a slightly rough texture and a white chevron (Λ) on the bottom half of each leaf. Flowers consist of a white to pink puffball shape consisting of multiple smaller flowers (AKA an inflorescence).



Companion planting clovers anywhere from yards to pastures to rangeland can be greatly beneficial. As a legume, these plants will help restore nitrogen to the ground after the plant dies via its symbiotic relationship with beneficial bacteria. Being vital for initial growth in the growing season, providing plant available nitrogen without the need for fertilizer input. They can also provide ground cover and topsoil stability to exposed areas until warm-season plants can establish themselves. They also serve as choice forage for pollinators like honeybees.

TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE



AUCTION BARN REPORTS

Giddings Livestock Commission – October 6th

Weight	Steers		Heifers	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
150 – 300	\$462	\$560	\$414	\$560
300 – 400	\$420	\$510	\$386	\$485
400 – 500	\$391	\$460	\$362	\$485
500 – 600	\$352	\$445	\$323	\$390
600 – 700	\$326	\$380	\$312	\$380
700 – 800	\$308	\$347.50	\$289	\$330
Packer bulls				
	Top	\$185 – 205		
	Medium	\$170 – 182		
Stocker Females				
	Stocker pairs	\$3,400 – 4,000		
	Bred cows	\$2,150 – 3,800		
Packer Cows				
	Top	\$145 – 168		
	Medium	\$136 – 144		
	Thin	\$100 – 135		

Lockhart Auction – September 18th

Weight	Steers	Heifers
<300	\$360 – 720	\$320 – 695
300 – 400	\$320 – 595	\$300 – 545
400 – 500	\$310 – 495	\$280 – 485
>500	\$240 – 420	\$240 – 415
	Packer Cows	\$107 – 165
	Packer Bulls	\$157 – 197
	Stocker Cows	\$1,350 – 3,350
	Cow/Calf Pairs	\$1,650 – 3,750

Gonzales Livestock Market – October 4th

Weight	Steers	Heifers
150 – 300	\$400 – 750	\$375 – 650
300 – 400	\$355 – 545	\$315 – 435
400 – 500	\$295 – 505	\$280 – 425
500 – 600	\$275 – 360	\$275 – 360
600 – 700	\$270 – 365	\$245 – 315
700 – 800	\$300 – 349	
	Yearling Bulls	\$185 – 305
	Stocker Cows	\$900 – 2,800
	Pairs	\$1,800 – 4,000



WILDLIFE AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Friday, October 24th

- About 1-D-1 Open Space appraisal
- Maintaining your 1-D-1 Open Space valuation:
 - Habitat Management
 - Wildlife Population Management
 - Predator Control
 - Supplemental Water



Bastrop County Community Center
15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx

Doors open at 8:30am. Program starts at 9:00am.
Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 21st!

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Bastrop County AgriLife Extension at 512-581-7186!

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

FERAL HOG BOUNTY HAS STARTED

The annual feral hog bounty has begun and will be in place until funds run out. **New for this year**, Bastrop County will pay out \$5 per **PAIR OF EARS**. This is to synchronize Bastrop County's feral hog bounty with the bounties of surrounding counties and prevent non-Bastrop County residents from submitting bounties for more than one county. **Tails will no longer be accepted for payout.** No more than five pairs of ears per bag will be accepted. Drop off locations to submit your bounty will be at the below locations:

- Paige Tractors Inc.
 - 4409 Hwy 290, Paige
- Smith Supply Co.
 - 764 NW Loop 230, Smithville
- Elgin General Store
 - 1155 Dildy Dr. Elgin

FERAL HOG GATE AVAILABLE FOR RENT



The Bastrop County Agriculture/Horticulture Program Committee has acquired a swinging feral hog gate for rental to Bastrop County landowners struggling with feral hogs. This is a single swinging gate that can be fitted onto an existing corral via T-post or bailing wire. Rental of the gate will cost \$75 per month with a maximum of two months. For more information or to inquire about the gate's availability, please contact the Bastrop County Extension office.

Need soil, forage, or well water tested? AgriLife can help!

- Select forage, soil, and water tests will be offered at a discounted rate*
- October 7th through October 28th
- Contact the Bastrop County AgriLife Extension office for details
 - 512-581-7186



*Only select tests offered at a discount. Tests will be mailed out weekly. Water bacteriology tests must be submitted the same day as collection on certain days. Bacteriology samples accepted by noon on October 14th, 21st, and 28th.

*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*

SOIL, WATER, AND FORAGE TESTING CAMPAIGN BEGINS

The annual Bastrop County Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Campaign has begun again! If you are needing your soil, well water, or hay/forage tested, now is a great opportunity to enjoy discounted prices! Below indicates the tests offered at a discounted rate. Final collection will be on October 28th.

- Soil:
 - Routine (pH, Conductivity, P, K, Ca, Mg, S, Na): \$8
 - Routine + micro (adds Fe, Zn, Cu, and Mn): \$15
- Water: \$25
- Forage:
 - NIR: \$5
 - NIR + Nitrates: \$15

1-D-1 OPEN SPACE WORKSHOP ON OCTOBER 24TH

1-D-1 Open Space appraisal, commonly known as a ag/wildlife exemption, is highly sought after to help ease property tax expenses and benefit Bastrop County wildlife. Unfortunately, the requirements to obtain and maintain the valuation aren't well understood. Come join us at the Bastrop Community Center on Friday, October 24th for a workshop covering 1-D-1 Open Space appraisal, featuring presentations from the Bastrop Central Appraisal District, AgriLife Extension, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This activity is free to attend! Doors open at 8:30am and discussion will start at 9:00am. **Please RSVP by October 21st** to ensure enough handouts can be provided.