TEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION

ZAVALA COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

July 2023 Newsletter



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2023 ZAVALA COUNTY CROP TOUR

On June 29, 2023, our office in collaboration with Crawford Farms, Tiro Tres Farms, and Helena Agri-Uvalde hosted a crop tour in La Pryor, Tx. This crop tour consisted of a sorghum variety trial, a vegetable and fruit variety trial. We had three speakers from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Dr. Josh Mcginty, Dr. Larry Stein, and Dr. Noel Troxclair. We planted 10 sorghum varieties in the trial. The vegetable and fruit trial was led and organized by Dr. Larry Stein. This trial consisted of cowpeas, corn, squash, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupes, and watermelons. Thank you to the seed companies for making this possible, Dekalb, Pioneer, LG Seeds/Golden Acres, and Dyna-Gro. We appreciate Helena Agri-Uvalde, for sponsoring and preparing the delicious meal. And a huge thank you to Crawford Farms for hosting us and everyone who attended!

ZAVALA COUNTY CROP TOUR





Districts 11 & 12 CEA's Rangeland Monthly Digest June 2023

Root Causes of Brush Encroachment

Brush encroachment into rangeland pastures is caused by factors that can be controlled and cannot be controlled.

Site disturbance, low fertility conditions in improved pastures, and seed spread by livestock are the main root causes of brush encroachment that managers can control. Managers can avoid conditions that allow sunlight to reach the soil such as maintaining good cover of grasses through proper stocking rate and not mechanically disturbing the soil in areas where heavy brush is nearby. Take soil samples in improved bermudagrass pastures to ensure proper fertility. Keep livestock out of pastures when brush species put on seeds so that livestock do not eat & spread seeds. Seeds spread by wildlife and increase in brush following drought conditions are the main root causes of brush encroachment that managers cannot control. Monitoring and treatment plans should always be a part of the rangeland management plan.

Basics of Brush Control

Educational | Presentation Summary



Monitor grazable pastures often and treat earlier, rather than later, to reduce costs.

Recently, I wrote a summary for the 3rd edition of the Specialist Corner about a new research article on the longevity of herbicide treatments recommended in ERM-1466 for honey mesquite control. To compliment that article, I provide a summary on the basics of brush control in this month's digest.

There are three main herbicide application options for controlling brush species. Following are some basic generalities of each. Exceptions exist, so refer to **ERM-**1466 and/or obtain a copy of the Brush Busters article for a particular species on AgriLife Learn before making recommendations.

CUT STUMP: In general, cut stump treatments can be conducted anytime during the year for many brush species, except when water or snow may prevent spraying from the cut to the ground level. Cut the basal stem close to ground level and thoroughly spray the freshly cut surface and the bark from the cut to ground level.

STEM SPRAY: In general, stem spray can be applied anytime during the year for many brush species, but the best results occur when applied during the growing season. This works best on young and older plants with 3 or fewer stems. Remove any vegetation around the base, wait until the basal stem is dry, and spray all the way around the basal stem from the ground up to 12-18 inches.

FOLIAR: Foliar or leaf herbicide applications, whether it is individual plant treatment or by broadcast application, must be timely. The brush species to control must have a good, healthy canopy of mature, green leaves. In general, if new lime or bright green leaves are emerging, it's flowering or producing seeds, or leaves are damaged from weather events or insects- hold off on spraying. Also, wait at least two years after any disturbance or until the brush is about 3-feet tall to treat. Let wet leaves from rain or dew dry before spraying.

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Website: https://ccag.tamu.edu/extension/rangeland-habitatmanagement/ Teams Phone #: 361-360-4533





Distribution Map Credit: USDA Plants Database @ plants.usda.gov

False Ragweed Distribution

False ragweed is often found along roadsides and on ranches throughout much of the central, eastern, and southern parts of Texas.



False Ragweed Look-a-Likes

There are several species that look like false ragweed. Read the descriptions and click on the links for images to learn how to tell

false ragweed apart from a few of its look-a-likes.

 Mariola (*Parthenium incanum*) leaves are not as deeply lobed or double lobed like false ragweed.
Gray's feverfew or Lyreleaf parthenium (*Parthenium confertum*) lobed leaf margins are crenate (rounded teeth).
Western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*) has double lobed leaves with more elongated, pointy tips and flowers are on long stalks.

During the vegetative state (without flowers), false ragweed looks similar to many ragweed (*Ambrosia*) species. The ribbed stem on false ragweed distinguishes it from these other ragweed (*Ambrosia*) species.

Districts 11 & 12 CEA's Rangeland Plant Identification June 2023

False Ragweed

Parthenium hysterophorus



Flowers look like small cauliflower heads. Deeply lobed leaves

Plant Identification Tips

False ragweed is a non-native, annual forb that grows up to 1.5-4' tall, but may reach heights of up to 6' tall. The leaves are deeply lobed, which is sometimes described as double-lobed. The leaves alternate on the stem.

The flowers look like miniature cauliflower heads. On each inflorescence, there are typically five small, white ray flowers that makes the shape of the flower look like a pentagon.



Livestock & Wildlife Value

No livestock or wildlife value found reported for this species.



Risk and Management

May cause allergic reactions in humans and livestock but is also being studied for its potential medicinal uses (**Patel 2011**). False ragweed produces a lot of seed that can be viable for 8-10 years in the soil. Plowing or discing can help control emerged plants, but there is a large seed bank in the soil that will require many years of repeated treatments. Pre-emergent herbicides, such as flumioxazin and oxadiazon, can provide longer-term control with multiple applications. Post-emergent herbicides, such as bentazon and diquat, may also be effective if applied while the plant is small and before it flowers. Some individual plants are resistant to glyphosate. **Click this link** for more details.

Parts of this article were derived from: Richardson & King. 2011. Plants of Deep South Texas. Texas A&M University Press.

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Plants of Texas Rangelands Virtual Herbarium.

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Application of Livestock Manure Emily Lochner 7/1/23

Poultry litter and livestock manure can be lower cost sources of phosphorus and potassium for pastures or hayfields that are low in these nutrients and not excessive in zinc, copper, or other minerals. However, once phosphorus and potassium levels have been built up to target levels, additional applications of poultry litter and livestock manure will likely not be cost effective. Additionally, over application of poultry litter and livestock manure can create mineral imbalances (e.g., an inverse Ca to P ratio in forages) and excessive levels of certain minerals that can reduce animal performance or even contribute to animal mortality.

For more information please visit: https://texasbeefquality.com/

Southwest Texas Prescribed Burn Association

Kinney, Medina, Uvalde, and Zavala Counties



Benefits of Prescribed Burns:

- Lowers risk of more dangerous fires
- Increases water availability through plan removal
- Increases plant diversity
- Helps control invasive/unwanted species
- Reduces tree competition
- Improves wildlife habitat
- Minimizes the spread of pests and diseases

Want to learn more?

Join us at our next meeting September 12, 2023 12 PM @ The First State Bank of Uvalde 200 E Nopal, Uvalde, Tx Contact info: (830) 426-2532 ext 3

A AgriLife pling
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Prices per sample:
1. \$12
2. \$19
3. \$26
4. \$46
5. \$66
6. \$32
7. \$32
8. \$52
9. \$37
10. \$51
11. \$71
12. \$91

Please stop by our office to pick up a soil sample bag and form

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our office, (830) 374-2883 or stop by at 221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX 78839

EXTENSION