

SOMERVELL COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

BUFFALOGRASS

Description: Buffalograss is a warm-season, native turfgrass that spreads laterally by stolons and is best suited as a low-input, low-use turfgrass. It is unique from other turfgrasses in that it has male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers on separate inflorescences. These are usually present on different plants (dioecious) but can also be found on the same plant (monecious).

Strengths: Drought tolerance, cold tolerance, low disease potential, low mowing requirement, and low fertilization requirement.

Weaknesses: Shade tolerance, salinity tolerance, weed encroachment, and traffic tolerance. It also does not do well in east Texas where annual rainfall exceeds 30".

Recommended Mowing Height:

- Home Lawns: 2.5 to 4 inches;
- Golf Courses: 1-2 inches;
- Natural areas: \geq 4 inches or un-mowed.

Recommended Mowing Frequency: Every 7-14 days using a rotary mower

Fertilization Requirements: 0 to 2 lbs of N per 1,000 ft² per year applied during the summer growing season. Single application rates should range from 0.5 to 1 lb of N per 1,000 ft².



WHAT'S INSIDE:

Tri-County Landowner Program

POND & TANK MANAGEMENT

MARCH 22, 2022

Cost: \$20/individual or \$30/couple

Registration: 5:30pm

Program Starts: 6:00pm

Location: 405 W County Rd

714, Burleson, TX 76028

Speaker: Brittney Chesser

MEAL PROVIDED



1 CEU



RSVP TO YOUR COUNTY AGENT

Hood County

London Fair

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Somervell County

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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, 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. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activity are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.

23RD ANNUAL

Beef Cattle Meeting

April 25, 2022

Location:

FUMC Family Center

411 NE Barnard St,

Glen Rose, TX 76043

Registration:

5:30pm

Meal Included...Steak tips!

Cost: \$20/person

Topics:

- Market Update
- Noxious Weeds
- Policy Update



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DISEASE CONTROL

To keep plants strong, fertilize and water them properly. Healthy plants do not get diseases as easily as do weak ones.

It is best to irrigate the garden by running water between the rows or by trickle irrigation. Do not sprinkle water on the leaves; this only encourages more disease problems. If you must sprinkle the plants, do so before 10 a.m.

Avoid planting vegetable varieties in areas where the same vegetable or vegetables from the same plant family have been planted in the past 24 months.

Plants of the same family include:

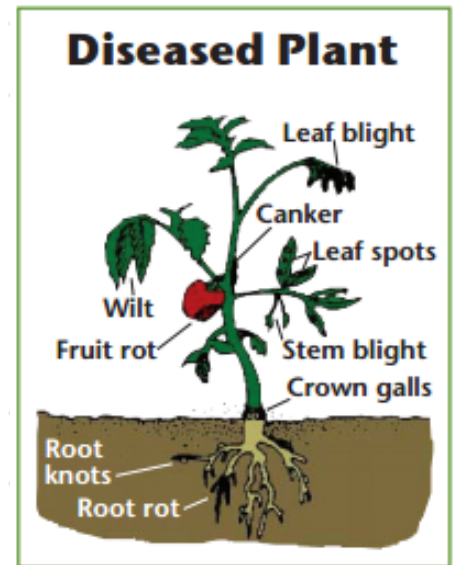
- Tomatoes, eggplant, and potatoes
- Squash, cucumber, pumpkin, and melons
- Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, mustard, turnips, and collards

It is best to plant on a raised bed. This allows excess water to move out of the root area and prevent many root diseases and fruit rots.

When possible, train the vegetables to grow upright on cages or trellises. This keeps the fruit from contacting the ground and reduces fruit rots.

Plant disease-resistant varieties when they are available. Resistant varieties may reduce or eliminate the need for crop care products.

Plant diseases are worst when light rain showers or heavy dews have fallen and when temperatures are mild. During these times, watch the garden closely for signs of disease.



Cause	How They Spread	Control
Virus	To healthy plants by insects or a person's hands	<p>Crop care may be needed. Use only when needed and read label carefully. Some copper-containing products and sulfur are considered organic; however, they are not always effective.</p>
Bacterial	Cells move through water film on leaf surface or in surrounding water by roots-most often by splashing water	
Fungal	By wind, splashing rain and equipment. Most diseases are plant fungi	
Nematodes	Small, wormlike animals living in soil that feed on roots to cause problems	<p>Controlled by a combination of practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant nematode-resistant varieties of vegetables. • Rotate susceptible varieties with plants that are not nematode hosts. • During the summer after the plants have been removed, till the soil to remove soil moisture. • Cover the soil with clear plastic and leave it in place for 6 to 8 weeks during June, July, August, or September. • Plant <u>Elbon</u> rye during the fall and early winter. <p>You can almost never eliminate nematodes. This means that each year you will need to take steps to control this pest.</p> <p>No crop care chemicals are recommended to control nematodes in the home garden.</p>

REPEL GARDEN PESTS WITH PLANTS

Planting these herbs in your garden along side your vegetables can assist in pests without the need of chemical control.



Basil – repels houseflies, mosquitoes, carrot fly, white fly and asparagus beetles



Lemon Balm – repels mosquitoes



Lemon Grass – repels mosquitoes. Citronella is a natural oil made from Lemon Grass



Rosemary – repels mosquitoes



Lemon Thyme – repels mosquitoes. You must bruise the leaves to release its chemicals



Fennel – repels aphids, slugs and snails



Oregano – repels a number of pests and will provide ground cover and humidity for peppers



Parsley – asparagus beetles



Mint – repels mosquitoes. Best grown in pot to control its aggressive spread



Thyme – repels corn earworm, white flies, tomato hornworm, cabbage loopers, cabbage maggots



Catnip – repels ants, weevils, squash bugs, aphids, beetles, cockroaches



Chamomile – repels flying insects



Chives – repels aphids, beetles, carrot fly



Dill – repels squash bugs, spider mites, aphids, tomato hornworm, cabbage loopers



Garlic – repels aphids, beetles, carrot fly, rabbits

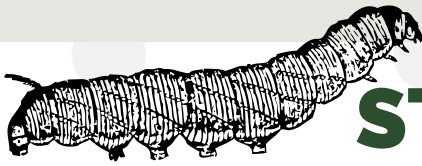


Nasturtium – repels white fly, squash bugs, aphids, beetles, cabbage loopers

If you want to use a spray instead of planting one of the herbs listed above, there are several products on the market which are organic that are safe to use. Neem Oil and Horticultural Soap are two that work very well and do get rid of most all the pesky pest problems.

If you rather make your own spray the recipe is below. In order for any pesticide to work it has to be sprayed directly on the pest.

The best soap to use to pure-castile liquid soap, which is not a detergent like dish soap. The recipe for this spray is: 1 gallon water 2 ½ tablespoons pure-castile liquid soap 1 tablespoon vegetable oil (optional) Fill gallon-size sprayer, add soap and oil. Mix well before using. The oil helps the solution stick around longer after being sprayed. When finished, empty sprayer and clean as oil can go rancid over time. For smaller batches use 1 teaspoon pure-castile liquid soap per each quart water.



STINGING CATERPILLARS

If you are stung, promptly wash the area with soap and water and apply an ice pack to help relieve the pain of the sting. Taking an oral antihistamine may also help relieve itching along with over-the-counter insect sting and bite relief products. Pain should lessen in about an hour.

Rare but possible symptoms after a sting could be nausea, vomiting, headaches, respiratory stress or shock. If you are concerned, seek medical advice or treatment, such as going to the ER immediately. Each person will react differently to a Tussock Moth Caterpillar sting. If by chance you get stung or the venom in your eyes, you must seek medical attention directly.



Buck Moth Caterpillar



Hickory Tussock Moth Caterpillar



Southern Flannel Moth Caterpillar



Lo Moth Caterpillar



Saddleback Caterpillar

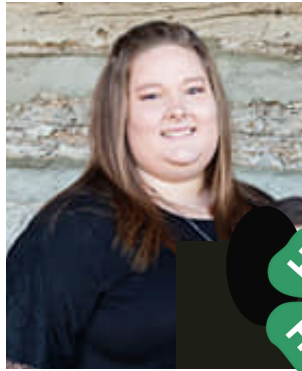


Spiny Oak Slug Caterpillar

Pest Management

First, avoid sitting under trees and wear long sleeves and long pants outdoors although this is not a guarantee of protection. (Yes, I know it is hot out there, but better to be safe than sorry.) If you happen to have large populations of stinging caterpillars and you feel the need to manage them, try *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk). Only thing is this will kill the good caterpillars and other good insects too.

Best solution is to learn what these caterpillars are, what they look like and the importance of not touching them



“Cultivators are the most valuable citizens...they are tied to their country.”
— Thomas Jefferson



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

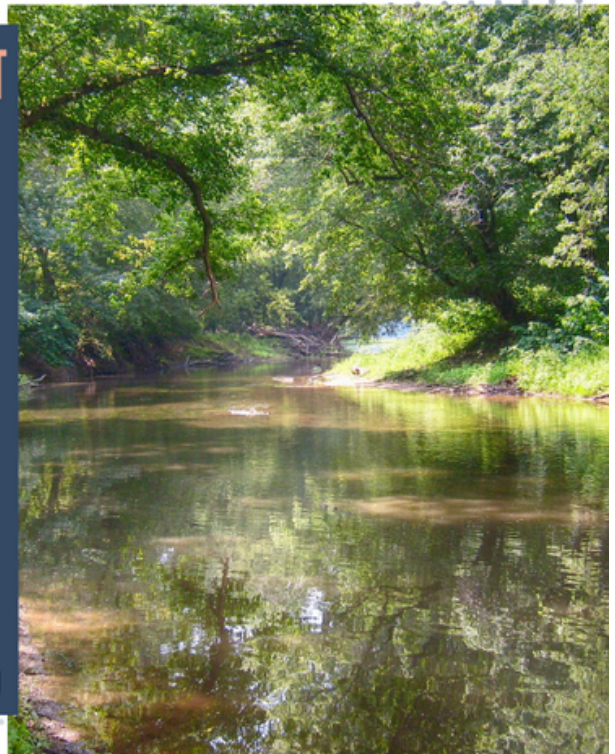
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Tri-County Landowner Program

RIPARIAN TOUR & MANAGEMENT APRIL 26, 2022

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\$30/couple
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