



# What's Up, Doc?

**Grayson County Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter**

**Vol 1: Issue 4 (September 2022) by D. Chad Cummings**

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# Grayson County USDA crop report summary

**August 28, 2022**

Most of the county received some rainfall over the last 10 days. Amounts ranged from 1.5 inches total to over 7 inches total depending on the location in the county.

Pasture condition has improved in areas where sequential rainfall events occurred, but most of the northern and southern sides of the county are still in a severe moisture deficit.

Most crops have been harvested for forage or silage instead of a grain crop with the exception of early corn. Just a few cotton fields and soybean fields remain intact and will likely be taken to harvest. Cotton condition overall is not bad given the lack of moisture.

Tree condition and health has continued to decline, although some relief has occurred with the recent rainfall.

Cattle and other livestock inventory continue to decline as more culling events have occurred.

Insect and disease pressure is still minimal in the county.

**Fall armyworm** (*Spodoptera frugiperda*). Host plants include corn, lawn grasses, legumes such as soybeans, small grains, and others. Adult moths are predominantly pale brown to grayish brown wings. The center of each forewing is marked with a single small white spot. It is most common in late summer and early fall. Fall armyworm emergence events are common within 14 days of a wet period following drought or a long dry period. Be on the lookout for this damaging pest over the next few weeks!!



## In the News.....

# Texas cotton takes a hit from drought

Texas Crop and Weather Report – Aug. 30, 2022

*AUGUST 30, 2022*

Texas cotton growers in major production areas experienced widespread crop losses, and more acres are likely to be left unharvested due to poor plant development, according to [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) experts.

The northern and southern High Plains produce the majority of Texas cotton. Generally, around 4.5 million acres of cotton are planted in the two regions. Around 60%, or 2.7 million acres are dryland while the rest have at least some irrigation.



Murilo Maeda, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension cotton specialist, Lubbock, said drought conditions have led to near-total failure of both regions' dryland acres, and drought and extreme heat have put much of the regions' irrigated fields in jeopardy of failure or abandonment, especially where irrigation capacity is limited.

A [U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency](#) report indicates almost 70% of dryland and 35% of irrigated cotton acres in those two regions failed.

**To read more visit** (<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/08/30/texas-cotton-2/>)

# Watering trees during the Texas drought

## Widespread drought stress occurs across state

*AUGUST 9, 2022*

Over 99% of Texas is under drought conditions, creating negative impacts to our landscape – especially to trees. With no end in sight, how do we protect our trees under extreme heat and dry conditions?

The most important thing you can do for your trees is water – which can be a challenge when trying to conserve the necessary resource.

“We are starting to see widespread drought stress in trees across the state,” said Karl Flocke, [Texas A&M Forest Service](#) woodland ecologist. “At this point, we are even seeing some trees starting to die because of stress.”

### **Watering trees to reduce drought stress**

Dying trees are generally in isolated pockets where the soil is dry and not holding much water, or in parts of the state where there has been an extended period without rain.

“Several different species are dying and declining rapidly,” said Flocke. “But generally, we are seeing the most drought-induced mortality on oaks, a few elm trees, hackberry trees and even some junipers.”

**To read more visit** (<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/08/09/watering-trees-during-the-texas-drought/>)

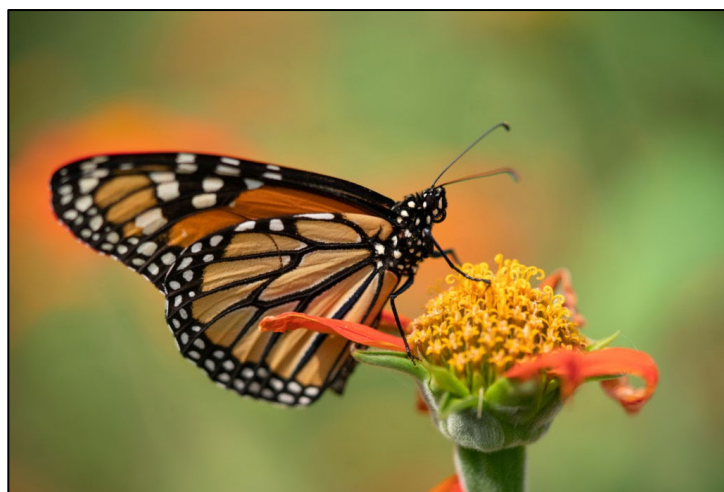


# Monarch butterflies facing battle royal for survival

Pollinators placed on international conservation organization's Red List as endangered

*AUGUST 1, 2022*

Monarch butterflies have long graced the skies of Texas during their annual migration. However, their population has been in steady decline, and recently the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#), IUCN, placed the monarch butterfly on its Red List of threatened species, classifying it as endangered.

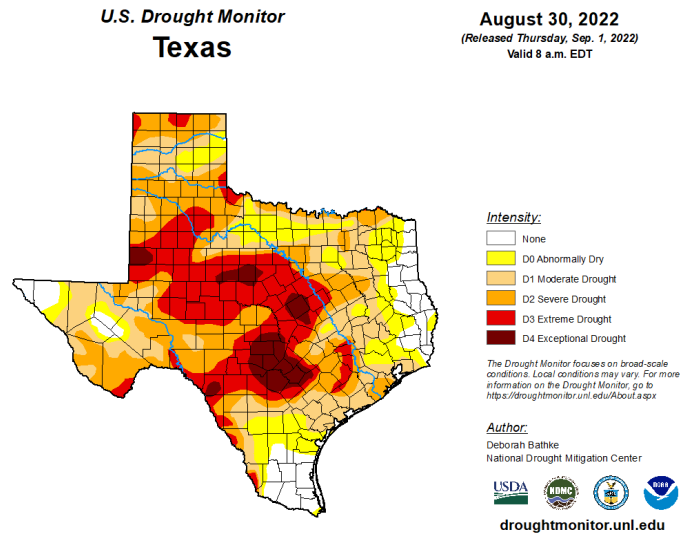
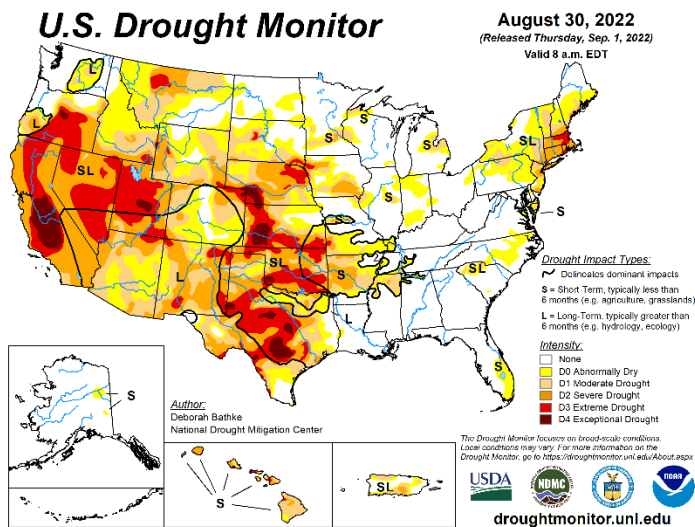


The IUNC's Red List is a comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species. It is a tool for promoting the biodiversity conservation and policy change needed to protect the world's flora and fauna.

[Texas A&M AgriLife](#) entomologists are concerned about the decline in monarch butterfly populations and want Texans and others to understand why these "regal" insects are important to agriculture and the environment.

**To read more visit** (<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/08/01/monarch-butterflies-facing-battle-royal-for-survival/>)

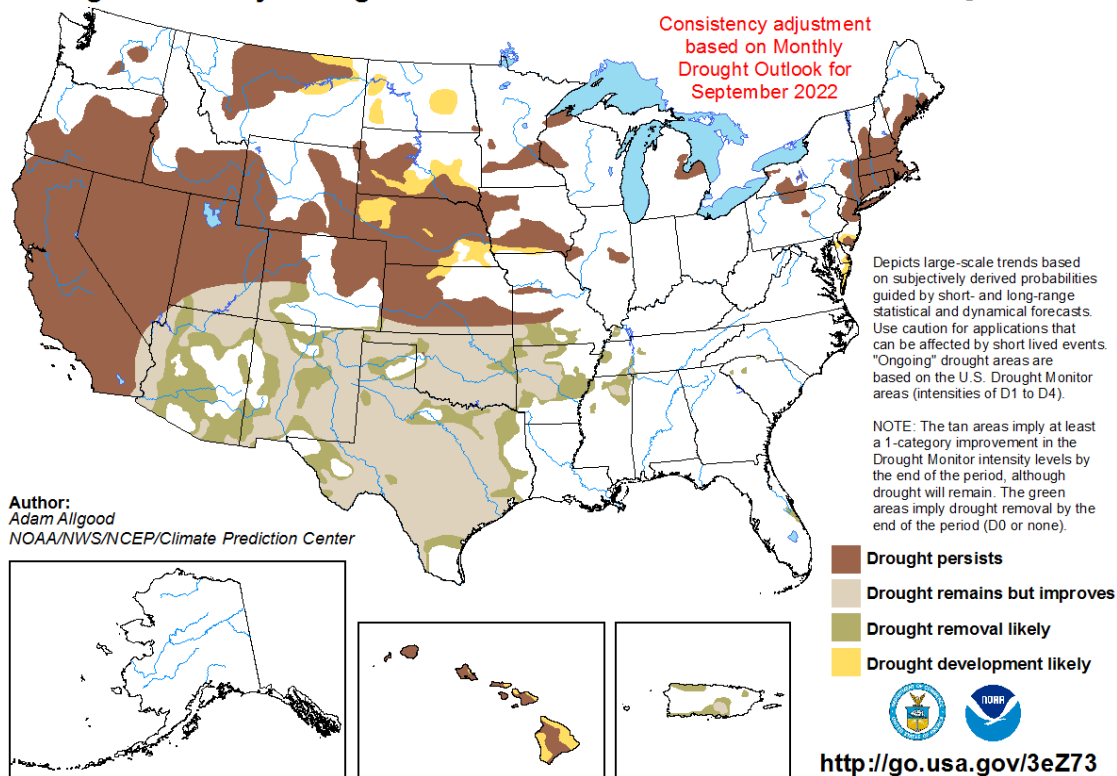
# Current US drought monitor & 3-month climate prediction



## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

### Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 1 - November 30, 2022  
Released August 31, 2022



# Plants, insects, and diseases active now

## Plants

Warm season weeds like crabgrass, foxtail, woolly croton (doveweed), ragweed, johnsongrass, and pigweed are growing rapidly now and maturing due to the season of year. Vegetation in general has perked up, greened up and began growing across most of the county.

## Insects

Web worms and other tree pests are still increasing across the area. Low grasshopper populations are increasing in some areas with the dry weather, but populations are still lower than normal. No armyworm or cutworm issues have been reported area wide, although with the recent rain it is important to scout your lawns and pastures for fall armyworms. Horn fly and stable fly infestation levels are on the rise for humans and livestock.

## Diseases

No real disease issues currently in any crops.

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## Preview of the Fall/Winter Tree Health Clinic

This month we will be hosting a **Fall-Winter Tree Health Clinic** in Sherman, TX (23.Sept.2022; 1:00 to 4:00 pm; Courthouse Annex Assembly Room).

*Lee Brown*, a Master Arborist with Tree Wise Arboricultural Consultants, *Mike Sills*, the District Urban Forester for Texas A&M Forest Service, and *Chad Cummings*, Grayson County Texas A&M AgriLife Ag and Nat Resources Extension Agent will be here to discuss:

- Integrated Pest Management for diseases and insect pests in urban trees and ornamental trees (1 IPM TDA CEU)
- Post-drought considerations for tree health in the fall and winter
- Pesticide Label Interpretations in tree health products (1 Laws and Regs TDA CEU)



The fee will be \$20 per person for the clinic. Register online now (<https://grayson.agrilife.org/treeclinic/>).

# Events Coming Up

**Sept 14**

- Private Pesticide Applicator Training for New TDA License (*Sherman*)

**Sept 17**

- Wildlife Valuations and Management (*Hagerman Wildlife Refuge – Master Naturalists Hosting*)

**Sept 23**

- Fall/Winter Tree Health Clinic - Texas A&M Forest Service and Lee Brown (Tree Wise) (*Sherman*)

**Sep 24**

- Frontier Day (*Pottsboro Park – Master Gardeners participating*)
- *Walk Across Texas* begins in Grayson Co. (For more information visit <https://walkacrosstexas.org/>; Also contact **Joyce White** (903) 813-4203 to be a team captain)

Visit our website at [Welcome to Grayson County - Grayson \(grayson.agrilife.org\)](https://grayson.agrilife.org/) (<https://grayson.agrilife.org/>) to sign up for the events.

