



What's Up, Doc?

Grayson County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

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Contents:	Page
USDA Crop Report Summary.....	2
New Landowner 101: What to do in May?.....	3
Calendar for Summer Weed Control.....	3
How to Control Weeds: Timing is Everything.....	4
Summer Weed ID and Management.....	6
Calibration Corner.....	10
Plants, insects, and diseases active now.....	11
Events Coming Up in Ag and Nat Resources.....	14



Woolly croton/Goatweed (*Croton capitata*)

Summer annual, in the Euphorbiaceae (Spurge) family. Best treated when most of the population is emerged and less than 10 inches tall.



USDA Crop Reports for End of April, Early May

(Grayson County)

April 24, 2023

Overall crop conditions for wheat and oats are decent, given the early season struggles. Wheat and fall oats are headed out and heads look good. We have been headed out for over a week, moving into milk stage. Corn and sorghum fields look very good right now, averaging V3 in most fields. No major insect or disease pressure to note currently. Livestock condition is improving overall, and there are spring calves everywhere. Horn flies and stable flies are active in many areas. Most of our livestock pastures are still struggling, although bermudagrass is growing with runners between 6 inches and 2 ft in many fields. Warm season weeds are up including woolly croton/goatweed, common lambsquarters, curly dock, ragweeds, some sunflowers, and nightshades have also emerged. No armyworms currently. Some grasshopper emergence events have occurred in the southern part of the county. Many nymph stage grasshoppers are active (20-30 per 25 sweeps). Mesquite and honeylocust are in early immature leaf growth with pea green leaf color. No late frosts have been recorded since leaf out. Soil temperature in Sherman at 12" is still around 68F. Soil moisture is in really good shape with almost weekly rainfall events through the spring.

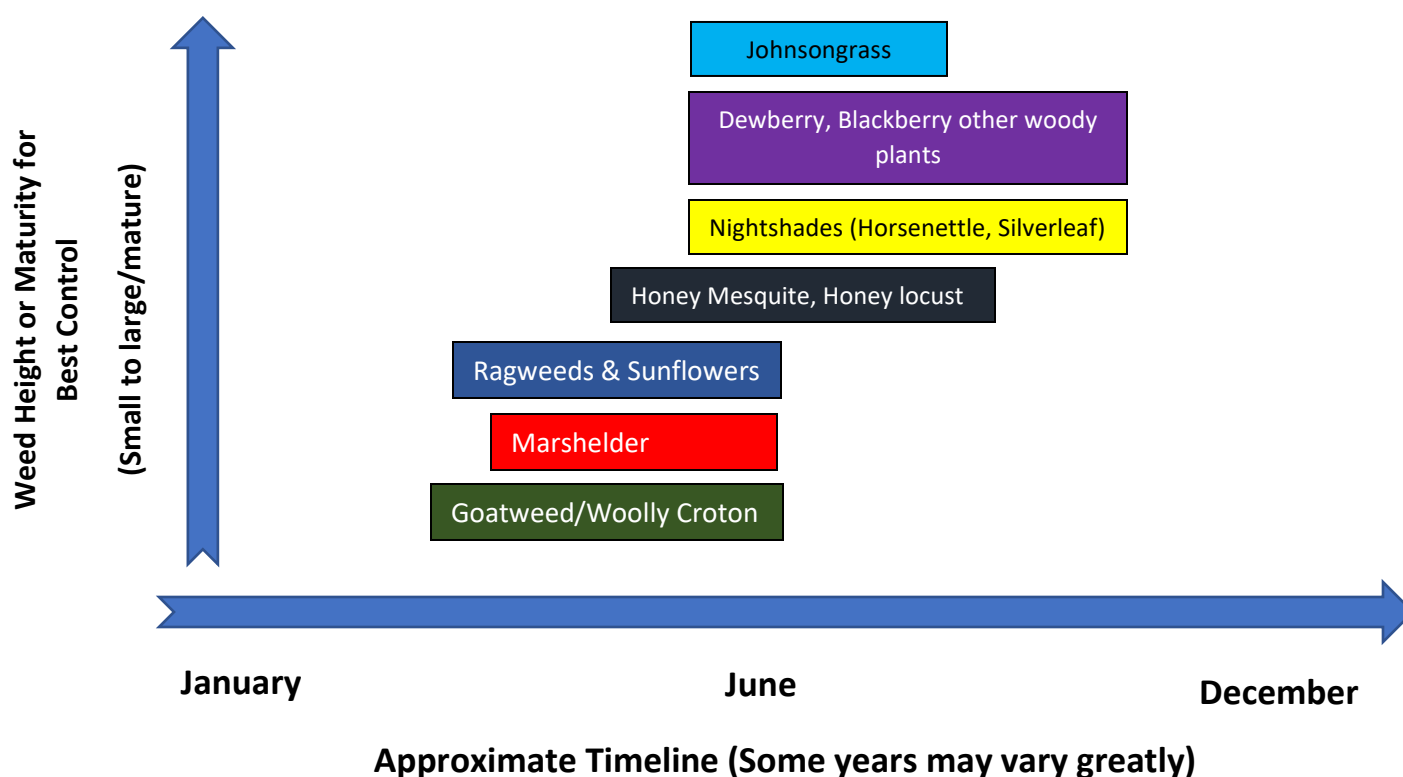
May 01, 2023

Overall wheat crop condition is improving with the moisture and maturity. Stands are headed out and moving through milk stage of seed development. Some leaf rust has been reported in the county last week. Many producers are applying a second round of fungicide for disease prevention in the immature headed wheat. No other disease or insect pressure to report in the crop. Corn and sorghum progress is in good to excellent condition as well. Almost all the corn and sorghum acres have been planted. Cotton has been planted in some locations but not all. Pasture condition is improving somewhat, but there have been many reports and questions about slow warm season forage growth due to cooler nighttime temperatures and cool soil temperatures. Warm season weeds are emerging and starting to flourish, particularly in the bare areas of fields. Livestock condition is good overall. Some horn and stable flies are present, and populations are getting to nuisance levels. Tick and chiggers are still very scarce and not causing major problems. Calves and kids are growing well, and some foals are on the ground, too. No major issues to report.

New Landowner 101: What to Do in May?

1. Soil test in food plots and in pastures, lawns, and gardens.
 - a. <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu>
 - b. Get forms from the website above or at our office (Courthouse, A-G-1)
2. Fertilize crop, pasture, lawns, and gardens per soil analysis recommendations.
3. Drawdown wetlands for production of food plants for waterfowl.
4. Monitor nest boxes for ducks and other avian species.
5. Spray summer weeds in pastures and hay meadows – many warm season weeds are emerging. Spraying post emergent herbicides is best early (between 4 and 10 inches of growth) for summer annual weeds like sunflowers, ragweeds, marshelder, crotons, and broomweed. Summer perennial weeds like nightshades, dock, blackberries/dewberries should be sprayed after flowering is initiated for best control.
6. Collect, identify, and plan appropriate treatments for pond weedy vegetation and algal species.

Calendar for Summer Weed Control in Pastures & Prairies



How to Control Weeds: Timing is Everything

Annual Weeds



- Plants that survive for only one growing season
- Many species of annual weeds.
- The key to successful control is to apply the herbicide to small (4-6 in.), actively growing weeds.
- Residual herbicides help control the flushes later in the season.

Biennial Weeds

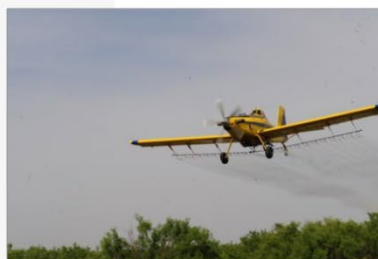


- Plants that take two years to complete its biological lifecycle
- Using the proper rate is essential for biennial weed control.
- Timing is VERY important.

Perennial Weeds



- Plants that live for more than one year - will go dormant through the winter and come back from the root the following spring
- Using the proper rate is essential for perennial weed control
- Timing is VERY important. Many times, post-bloom or fall applications are best for some species



Summer Weed ID and Management

Common lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*)

Chenopodiaceae or Amaranthaceae, depending on the source. Annual, warm season growth. Flowers in late May through the summer. Commonly controlled with most broadleaf weed herbicides.



Marestail (*Conyza canadensis*)

Asteraceae, biennial or annual, cool season growth. Common on roadsides and in pastures. Best controlled in the rosette or early bolting stage prior to flowering.



Green milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*)

Asclepiadaceae (milkweed), perennial cool and warm season growth. Flowers April to June and again in the early fall. Control is best prior to or at flowering with either triclopyr, picloram, or MSM based herbicides.



***** Please note this is an important butterfly and pollinator species and should be left alone unless in a hayfield or grazed pasture where some livestock may be poisoned. It typically goes dormant in the hot summer months. *****

Lady's thumb or smartweed (*Polygonum pensylvanicum*)



Polygonaceae, annual. Warm season growth followed by flowering in April to June.

The species prefers wetter areas of pastures and hay meadows, and along pond/tank banks. A similar species *P. aviculare* (prostrate knotweed pictured in the right of the photo) is common in drier areas of fields and yards. All polygonums (including curly

dock and red sorrel) have a distinctive ochrea (a fleshy membrane covering the stem at the leaf axis). Control can be achieved with most broadleaf herbicides.

Silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum eleagnifolium*)

Solanaceae (nightshade or tomato) family, perennial. Grows in late spring and throughout the summer, and flowers from late April to August. Best control is achieved with residual herbicides at or after flowering.

Some of you may recognize the species epithet. It signifies that the leaves look like olive tree leaves in their silvery color, but this species has thorns and very small stellate hairs on the leaves.

A closely related species – Horsenettle will look very similar, but have broader less toothed leaves and lacks the silvery appearance.



Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Asteraceae, annual or short-lived perennial. Grows in the cool season and flowers in May to July. One of many yellow composite flowers common in the sunflower family. Control is best achieved before flowering begins. Susceptible to most broadleaf weed herbicides.

Wild carrot/Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

Apiaceae, cool season biennial. Grows as a rosette in the winter and produces a flowering stalk (bolt) in May through July. Several similar species including hedge parsley, water hemlock and poison hemlock are found throughout the region. A supplemental carrot family bulletin is also available online or in the Extension office.



Marshelder (*Iva annua*)

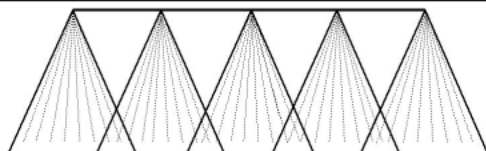
Asteraceae, warm season annual. Fuzzy leaves and serrated leaf edges – typically opposite leaf arrangement. No showy flower on the plants. Control is best before 12 inches of growth and prior to flowering. For most herbicides, specific rates and adjuvants are necessary for control.



Calibration Corner

Boom Sprayer Calibration

Dr. Paul A. Baumann
Professor and Extension Weed Specialist



1. Determine nozzle spacing.
2. Refer to table below for length of calibration course.
3. Mark off calibration course.
4. Record time required to drive calibration course at desired field gear and rpm.
5. Park tractor, maintain rpm used to drive course, turn on sprayer.
6. Catch water from one nozzle for time equal to that required to drive calibration course.
7. Ounces of water = gallons per acre.

Chart for Nozzle Spacing and Length of Calibration Course

Nozzle Spacing (inches)	18	20	30	40
Length of Calibration Course (linear feet)	227	204	136	102

*To determine the calibration course for a nozzle spacing not listed, divide the spacing expressed in feet into 340 (340 sq. ft. = 1/128 of an acre). **Example:** Calibration distance for 19-inch nozzle spacing = $340 \div 19/12 = 215$ feet).

Boomless Sprayer Calibration

Dr. Paul A. Baumann
Professor and Extension Weed Specialist



1. Determine swath width.
2. Refer to table below for length of calibration course.
3. Mark off calibration course.
4. Record time required to drive calibration course at desired field gear and rpm.
5. Park tractor, maintain rpm used to drive course, turn on sprayer.
6. Catch water for time equal to that required to drive calibration course.
7. Pints of water caught = gallons per acre.

Chart for Swath Width and Length of Calibration Course

Effective Swath Width (feet)	25	30	35	40	45	50
Length of Calibration Course* (linear feet)	218	182	156	136	121	109

*To determine the calibration course for a swath width not listed, divide the swath width expressed in feet into 5460 (5460 sq. ft. = 1/8 of an acre). **Example:** Calibration distance for 32-foot swath width = $5460 \div 32 = 171$ feet).

Plants, insects, and diseases active now

Plants

Cool season weeds and grasses have started to senesce and go to seed (henbit, chickweed, ryegrass, wheat, buttercup, curly dock, red sorrel). Warm season plants have started to emerge slowly, especially bermudagrass, St. Augustine, Zoysia, but soil temperatures were consistently near 60F, even 12 inches in soil depth. Warm season weeds including ragweeds, lambsquarters, and some sunflowers have emerged and are growing quickly. Milkweeds have also emerged.

Wildflowers are blooming but beginning to senesce and go dormant.

Insects

June bugs, butterflies, moths, and flies are very active in urban environments. Stable flies and horn flies are active. Mosquitos benefit from wet conditions and standing water. Please be vigilant to clear standing water environments regularly. Grasshoppers have had several emergence events around the county particularly in Van Alstyne, Gunter and Whitewright.

Diseases

Some leaf rust in wheat has been reported by several wheat growers in the area. Producers are encouraged to spray appropriate fungicides as soon as possible to prevent disease spread in un-infested fields.

D. Chad Cummings, PhD

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Northeast Texas Small Acreage and New Landowner CONFERENCE



Friday, June 2
8 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Farmersville Campus
501 S. Collin Parkway, Farmersville, TX 75442

Whether you are a new landowner or a small landowner who wants to discover the latest agriculture techniques, you can find what you are looking for at this conference. Enjoy presentation tracks for beginning landowners and in-depth topics on land management, livestock, and specialty crop management. Join us for an industry trade show and learn from experts on topics including:

- Landowner 101
- Farm/ranch operations
- Crops and livestock
- What to do with your land
- Operations planning
- Soil management
- Ag/wildlife valuation
- Sprayer calibration
- Specialty crops
- Local resources
- Brush busters
- Multi-species grazing

Pesticide Applicator License holders who register and attend the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) sessions can earn up to four CEUs.

Registration deadline: May 26
Cost: \$40 per person or
\$75 for two people

Scan or
[click here](#)
to register.



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For more registration
information, contact
the Hunt County Extension Office
at 903.455.9885.


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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/northeast-texas-small-acreage-and-new-landowner-conference-registration-576442343567>



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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

NTX CATTLEMAN'S FIELD DAY

***** SAVE THE DATE *****

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023

8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

MAXLOCK CATTLE COMPANY, SAVOY, TX

CEUs PENDING APPROVAL

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

For questions call Chad Cummings at (903) 813-4202 or email
chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Events Coming Up in NTX

May 6



- Grayson Master Gardener Plant Sale (all are welcome) (*Sherman*)

- From 11am to 12pm we will have a gardening session in Spanish
- De 11am a 12pm – Sesión de Jardinería en Español

May 19



- Rangeland Analysis Platform and *The Prairie Project* Training (SHS students only) (*Sherman HS*)

Jun 2

- NE TX Small Acreage and New Landowner Conference (*Farmersville* – Sign up with QR code on page 12)

Jun 9

- NTX Cattleman's Field Day (*Savoy*)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/north-texas-cattlemans-field-day-tickets-626125978657>

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.