



What's Up, Doc?

Grayson County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

Vol 3: Issue 4/5 (April/May 2024) by D. Chad Cummings

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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 April (Grayson County)

April 22, 2024

Overall crop condition is in excellent shape. Wheat, oats, and cool season forages are all benefiting from the abundant rainfall this spring in the county. Wheat is pollinating in some fields. Preventative fungicide sprays have been put out across the county. Corn is coming up well and stands look very consistent (some to V3-V4). Side dress applications are going out. Some wet spots have prevented planting, but all other areas are in the ground and emerged. Grain sorghum is planted for the most part, though some fields have been too wet to get into.

Warm season forages are up and expanding coverage (stolon and vegetative growth). Now is the time to harvest or graze off cool-season forages to decrease their impact on the bermudagrass and native grasses. Warm season weeds are just starting to show up, primarily in open niches in the fields or field edges/fence lines. Wildflowers are in full bloom across the county. No crop insects or diseases to note currently. Some small populations of noctuid worms. Grub worms, fire ants, and some crickets have been active with the warmer weather. Livestock condition is good to excellent with the increase in available forages. Nuisance flies - stable flies, house flies are increasing rapidly.

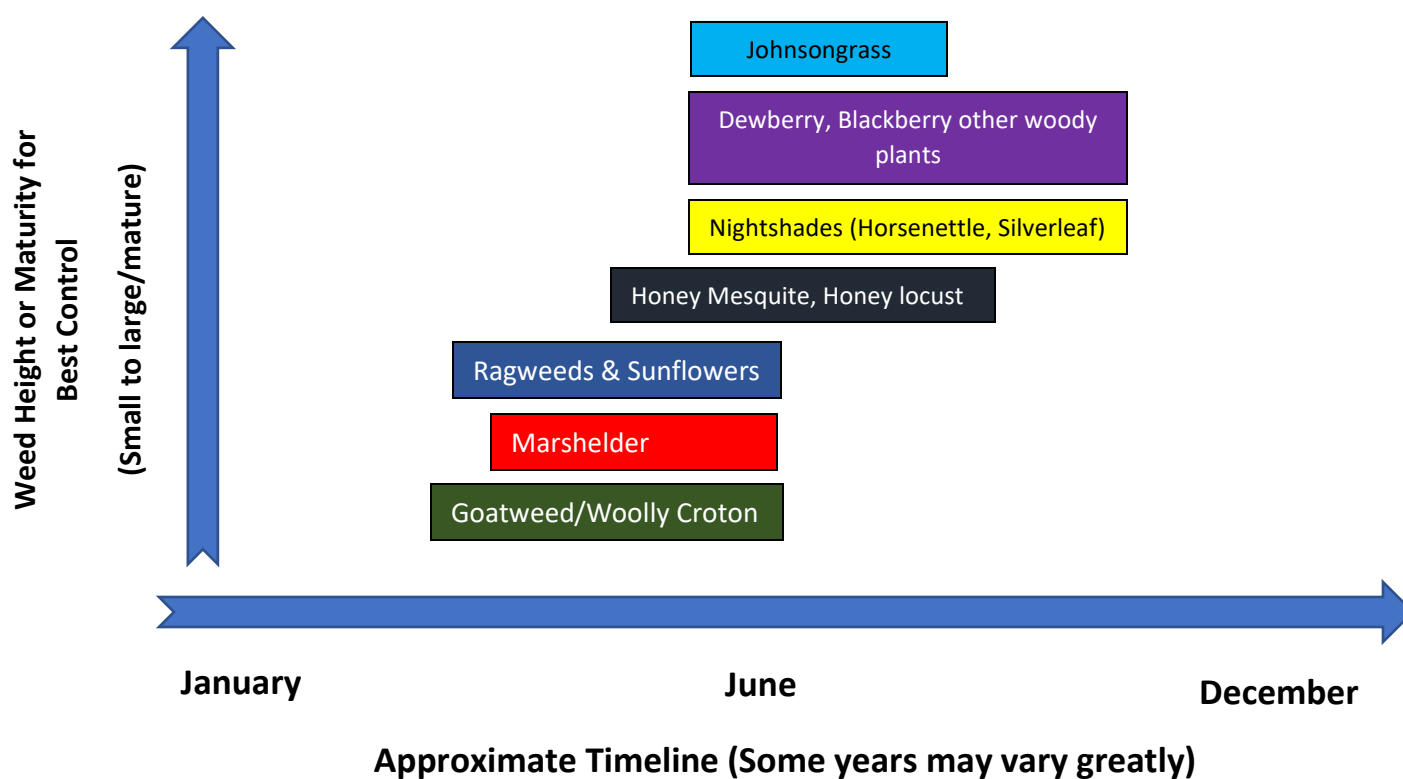
April 29, 2024

No major changes from last week's report. Areas are still very wet with additional rainfall in the forecast. Wheat continues to mature and begin grain fill. Rust is evident in many wheat areas. Ryegrass and other forages are peaking in production. Corn is growing well and stands look very good. Grain sorghum is up and growing well. No insect or disease issues currently. Livestock look good to excellent. Spring calves look very good. Nuisance flies are still high. No major changes in external parasites currently.

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 it's 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*)

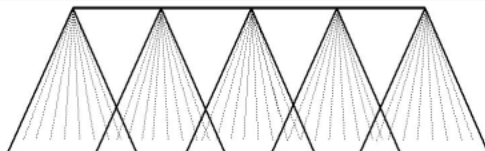
Asteraceae, warm season annual. Fuzzy leaves and serrated leaf edges – typically opposite leaf arrangement. No showy flower on the plants. Control is best before 12 inches of growth and prior to flowering. For most herbicides, specific rates and adjuvants are necessary for control.



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 quickly, especially bermudagrass, St. Augustine, Zoysia, but soil temperatures are consistently near 65F, at 12 inches in soil depth. Warm season weeds including ragweeds, lambsquarters, and some sunflowers have emerged and are growing quickly. Milkweeds have also emerged and are near flowering stages.

Wildflowers were numerous. We have plentiful amounts of Queen Annes lace, Indian paintbrush, several verbenas, showy primrose, skullcap, coreopsis, daisy fleabane, white prairie larkspur, common yarrow, Singletary pea, and vetch in just a short amount of searching. Very diverse little patch of ground there. Later wildflowers like Indian blanket and Texas dandelion are just beginning to flower.

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.

Diseases

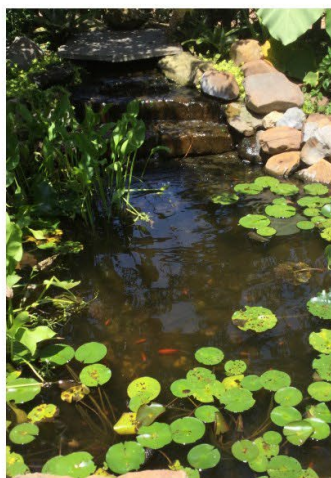
Some leaf rust in wheat has been reported by several wheat growers in the area. Producers are encouraged to spray appropriate fungicides as soon as possible to prevent disease spreading in un-infested fields.

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Sponsored by: *Texoma Pond
Mgmt and Pest Control*

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

POND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Friday, May 3, 2024

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Lunch Provided)

Good Shepherd RV Park

1096 Fox Lane, Gunter, TX 75058

Call 903-813-4202 with questions

FEE OF \$10.00

REGISTER BY MAY 1, 2024, AT

[HTTPS://GRAYSON.AGRILIFE.ORG/PROGRAMS/](https://grayson.agrilife.org/programs/)

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.

Wheat Field Tour Howe, TX
Friday May 10, 2024 10:00 am
Approximate Trial Location:
750 Old Patterson Rd Howe, TX
South of town off of Hwy 5



-Soft and Hard Wheat Variety Trials 10:00 am

-Wheat Fungicide Timing and Application Method Study

-Wheat Profitability/Fungicide Study

1 general pesticide applicator CEU offered

Sponsored Lunch following the field in town

Thanks to Quality Grain, Gaviion Grain, and Attebury Grain

For more information contact Dr. David Drake 903-468-3295 or drdrake@ag.tamu.edu

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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, 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. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Hunt County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance

Northeast Texas Small Acreage and New Landowner CONFERENCE



Friday, May 31
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/Land Trends
- Ag/Wildlife Valuation
- USDA FSA Funding
- Pest Management
- TAHC Livestock Traceability
- Regenerative Grazing Practices
- Earth Kind Soil Mgmt
- Hydroponics/GH Crops
- Infrastructure
- Cottage Food Law
- Animal Health

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

Registration deadline: May 17
Cost: \$40 per person

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



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For more registration
information, contact
the Denton County Extension
Office at 940.349.2882


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June 12th - 14th, 2024

North Central Texas College
Gainesville, Texas



District IV 4-H Horsemanship Camp and Show

4-H Online registration open from
May 1st - 31st (Limited to 30 riders)

4-H Member (Rider) - \$100

No horseless track this year

Adult Chaperone - \$50 *which includes meals*

Parents must register to be on site during camp,
but will not be allowed to stay in the dorms

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations to participate are encouraged to contact the District 4 AgriLife Extension Office for assistance, at least two weeks prior to the marketed education program. 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 3

- Pond Management Workshop
(*Gunter*)

[Pond Management Workshop - Grayson \(agrilife.org\)](https://grayson.agrilife.org)

May 10

- Howe Wheat Field Day (*Howe*)

May 22

- Hay Field Day by ASCO/Case IH
(*Whitesboro – Rob Flowers*)

May 31

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

Jun 7

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

[2024 North Texas Cattleman's Field Day Tickets, Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-north-texas-cattleman-s-field-day-tickets-71234567890)

Jun 12-14

- District IV 4-H Horsemanship Camp
and Show (Gainesville; youth in 4-H)

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