

# Atascosa Ag Newsletter

Courtesy of: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office Atascosa County

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Questions? Call us! 830-569-0034

Check out our website at [Atascosa.agrilife.org](http://Atascosa.agrilife.org)

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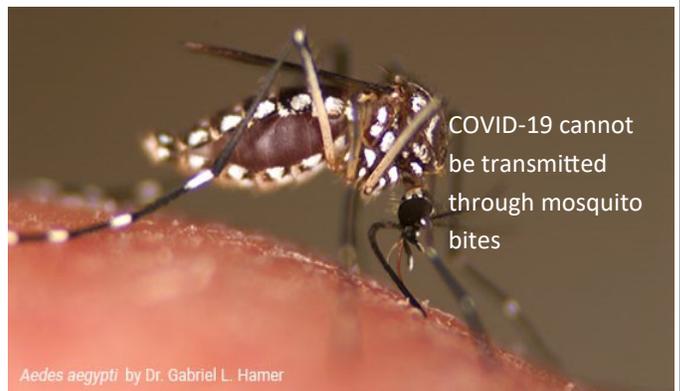
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**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRI LIFE**  
**EXTENSION**

## PREVENT MOSQUITOES FROM RUINING YOUR SUMMER FUN

**D**o you love playing outside in the summer with your kids, grandkids, and family but have to go inside because mosquitoes are ruining the fun? Prevent mosquitoes from overtaking the fun with these preventative measures. The key to controlling mosquitoes is disrupting their life cycle.

The most important step in any mosquito control effort is to find and eliminate the mosquito breeding sites from your backyard. Mosquitoes are not strong fliers, they usually live and bite 200-300 yards from their breeding sites. Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Eliminate standing water sites such as buckets, old tires, kids toys, and clogged gutters. If you cannot dump the water, use an approved larvicide such as *Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis* (Bti), or Methoprene. Temporary solutions are available such as foggers and sprayers. These have an immediate effect but may only last a day or two. Note: overuse of foggers and sprayers can harm beneficial insects such as bees. Always know the active ingredient in any product you use and remember the label is the law. For more in-



*Aedes aegypti* by Dr. Gabriel L. Hamer

COVID-19 cannot be transmitted through mosquito bites

formation contact the Extension Office. (Source Do-It-Yourself Backyard Mosquito Control AgriLife Extension Publication by Mike Merchant, Sonja Swiger, and Steve Presley)

*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 opportunities throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*

## PREPARING YOUR LAWN FOR THE SUMMER

Make your lawn the envy of the neighborhood this summer with these management tips. **#1** Mow properly, Mowing grass too short causes stress, discourages deep root growth, and results in loss of soil moisture. Mow often enough so each mowing removes no more than 1/3 of the grass blade. Ex. If you set your cutting height at 2 inches, cut your grass before it's more than 3 inches. **#2** Don't Let leaves pile up. A thick ground cover of leaves blocks sunlight, which is good for suppressing weed growth in planting beds; but on the lawn, it can suppress the growth of grass. Mow fallen leaves to create good winter mulch for your lawn. **#3** Water efficiently. A properly watered lawn is more resistant to pests and other lawn problems. However, much of the water used to maintain our landscapes is wasted through inefficient watering. Irrigate efficiently, making sure to: water infrequently, yet thoroughly, water in the morning, before 10 a.m., wet the soil to a depth of 4–6 inches, allow the soil to dry out between watering. Note: Always follow local water-use restrictions. **Fertilizing and Cutting Height Recommendations** differ for grass species. St. Augustine 2 to 4 lbs N per 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>/year. Single application rates should range from 0.5 to 1 lb of N/1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> applied during summer growing season. Mower height, 2.5-3.5 inches. Bermudagrass 0.5 to 1 lb N/1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>/month during summer growing season; 2 to 6 total lbs N/1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> per year. Single application rates should range from 0.5 to 1 lb of N/1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Mower height, 1-2 inches. For Zoysia grass 1 to 3 lbs N/1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> per year. Single application rates should range from 0.5 to 1 lb of N/1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> applied during summer growing season. Mower height, 1 to 2 inches.

## COMMON LAWN PROBLEMS

### Take All Patch

- Fungal Disease
- First appears as a yellowing of the grass and a darkening of the grass roots, indicating rotting. This often occurs in irregular shapes.
- Roots can rot so extensively that the grass can be easily pulled up
- Most commonly affects St. Augustine, Zoysia, and Bermuda grasses



### Prevention and Solutions

- Maintain good drainage in your lawn area
- Avoid overfertilization and urea-based fertilizers of turf areas, as excessive nitrogen seems to promote take-all patch
- Raise the mowing height on your mower to reduce stress to your turf
- Avoid the use of broadleaf herbicides, which may weaken your turf

### Brown Patch

- Fungal Disease
- Causes circular patterns of dead grass blades
- in two to three weeks, new leaves may emerge in the center of the circular patch, giving diseased areas a donut-shaped appearance



Brown Patch of St. Augustinegrass.  
Courtesy Joseph Krausz, TAEEX, 1996.

### Preventions and Solutions

- Avoid overfertilization or overwatering of your lawn.
- Aerate your lawn once a year.
- At the first sign of the disease, apply a fungicide to the affected area
- Call the extension office for recommended fungicides

### Shade Stress

- Lack of sunlight causes the grass to thin and disappear, leaving bare patches of soil and/or areas of weeds
- Buffalo and Bermuda grasses do not grow well in shaded areas—these grasses are the most susceptible to shade stress



### Prevention and Solutions

- Thin out tree branches a bit to “brighten” shady areas
- Raise the mowing height on your mower to allow more grass blades to capture sunlight

### Iron Chlorosis

- Iron Chlorosis causes the blades of the grass to develop green and yellow stripes, or to turn completely yellow.
- Occurs in alkaline (high pH) soils with high phosphorus levels, and under cool and wet soil conditions



### Prevention and Solutions

- Do not use fertilizers that are high in phosphorus
- Topdress your turf with 1/4- to 1/3-inch of compost
- Aerate your lawn once a year
- For temporary relief, try adding iron supplements to your lawn

(Sources: AggieTurf, and Take Care of Texas. A guide to Yard Care TCEQ Publication)

For any other questions or supplemental information contact the Extension Office or visit us online under the helpful links tab

## IMPORTANCE OF BODY CONDITION SCORE AND PREGNANCY RATES IN CATTLE

**B**ody condition scores (BCS) are numbers used to suggest the relative fatness or body composition of the cow. Most experts suggest using a range of 1 to 9, with a score of 1 representing very thin body condition and 9 extreme fatness. Keep BCS evaluation of cattle simple. A thin cow looks very sharp, angular and skinny while a fat one looks smooth and boxy with bone structure hidden from sight or feel. All others

fall somewhere in between.

Cows should be in

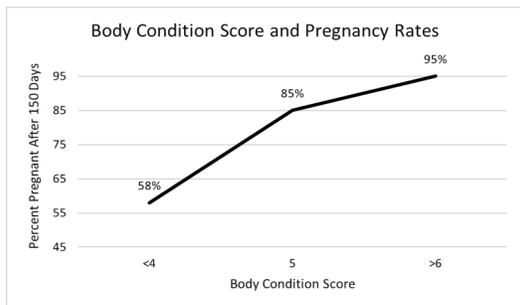
good condition at calving and should maintain good body condition during the breeding period. Improper body condition at breeding can have a detrimental effect on calving interval. Calving interval is defined as the period from the birth of one calf to the next. To have a 12-month calving interval, a cow must rebreed within 80 days after the birth of her calf. Cows that do, produce a pound of weaned calf cheaper than cows that take longer than 80 days to rebreed. Some producers may believe long breeding seasons are necessary to achieve good reproductive performance. Even after five and six



Source: Body Condition, Nutrition and Reproduction of Beef Cows AgriLife Publication

months of breeding, cows scoring less than 5 at calving and during breeding do not conceive at an acceptable level.

Until they have regained some body condition or have had their calf weaned, most thin cows will not rebreed regardless of how long they are exposed to the bulls.



## LIVESTOCK SHADE STRUCTURE BENEFITS ON AVERAGE DAILY GAIN AND PERFORMANCE

**A**s we close in on summer, the unrelenting heat and humidity impacts everything done on and off the farm. We know how serious the heat can affect us, and make the necessary efforts to deal with it, it is also important to ensure our cattle are able to deal with the heat. Each mature cow needs about 40 square feet of shade. Shade moves with the sun and the cows need access to adequate shade all day. Even if there is some shade still available, the amount and distribution of the remaining shade may be an issue. For rotational grazing systems, be sure that all paddocks have adequate shade. In continuous grazing systems, shade needs to be distributed, so that cattle can utilize the entire pasture. (Source: Mark Mauldin IFAS University of Florida Extension)

## TAKE A LOOK AT OUR MOST RECENT DATA ON OUR SMALL GRAINS TRIAL

**A** special thank you to Bill and Brett Slomchinski of Slomchinski Farms for allowing us to hold this trial on their property. Thirteen different small grains were planted behind cotton on October 23rd, 2019 on an irrigated field. Triticale, Barley, and Wheat were planted at 70 lbs to an acre, Rye 20 lbs to an acre, and Oats 64 lbs to an acre. Fertilizer was applied at a rate of 90 lbs of nitrogen/acre on December 18th, 2019. Data collected February 2020.

<b>Sungrazer Rye</b>	2,205.23 lbs per acre
<b>Tam 90 Rye</b>	1,932.98 lbs per acre
<b>Prime Rye</b>	1,442.9 lbs per acre
<b>Nelson Rye</b>	2,596.38 lbs per acre
<b>813 Triticale</b>	2,014.65 lbs per acre
<b>P919 Barley</b>	1,715.18 lbs per acre
<b>Bob Oats</b>	2,123.55 lbs per acre
<b>FL 720</b>	2,014.65 lbs per acre
<b>Tam 606 Oats</b>	2,123.55 lbs per acre
<b>Nora Oats</b>	2,504.70 lbs per acre
<b>Tam 411 oats</b>	2,123.55 lbs per acre
<b>204 Wheat</b>	1,633.50 lbs per acre
<b>All 12 Mixed</b>	1,932.98 lbs per acre

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

During these unprecedented times we are faced with the unique challenge of finding new ways to deliver educational material to our constituents to achieve Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's vision to "Help Texans Better Their Lives." With that, we are offering some distance learning opportunities so you can learn more, but in the safety and comfort of your own home.

### **March 31st, April 21st, and May 19th WILDLIFE DAMAGE**

**MANAGEMENT SERIES** Topics covered at the first session will be "Mice & Rats, Squirrels & Bats." The second session will cover, "Blackbirds, Cowbirds, House Sparrows and More; Managing Nuisance Birds at Your House and on Your Land" with the last session covering "Skunks, Coons, Opossums, and More." Presenters are Dr. Maureen Frank and Dr. John Tomecek, Extension Wildlife Specialists. The series will be conducted online from 12:00-1:00pm. Cost is \$10.00 per session. Checks should be made payable and mailed to Atascosa Wildlife and Fisheries Committee, P.O. Box 379, Leming, Texas 78050. Each session will offer one (1.0) I.P.M. continuing education credit for Private, Commercial and Non-Commercial Applicators. Certificates of completion will be mailed after participant attendance is verified and payment is processed. Please RSVP by the Friday prior to each event by calling 830-569-0034.



**April 14th ADVOCATING FOR AGRICULTURE SYMPOSIUM** Topics include Update on Hemp Production in Texas, New Range and Pasture Herbicides, Cattle, Sheep, or Goats? Fitting the Right Animal to your Situation, Sustainability Movement, Path to the Plate and RanchTV.org, and more. This symposium will be hosted by Extension Specialists Dr. Joe Paschal, Dr. Megan Clayton, Dr. Josh McGinty, Dr. Dan Hale, and Dr. Mark Matocha. It is scheduled to run from 7:50 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. To register visit [agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ag](http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ag). The cost is \$10.00 and 2 general CEU's are available for Private Applicator Licenses. This is to be completed online, so you will need to log on from your personal computer. For any questions contact the Extension Office.

**May 1st PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING** to be held at the Extension Office from 8:00 am to 12:00 p.m. This event is planned to be in person. Please look at our website and Facebook for updates closer to the event.

**May 20th REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP** to be held at the Tom Brothers Ranch located at 770 Co. Rd. 412 Campbellton, TX 78008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Topics include Ins and Outs of Pregnancy Testing, Hands On Anatomy of a Cows Reproductive Tract, Rectal Palpation Demonstration and Exercise, Estrus Synchronization Made Easy, and Reproductive Diseases. We ask that to participate in the workshop attendees are required to bring 3-5 docile cows that have been exposed to a bull over 90 days and possibly one cow that is open. The workshop is to be taught by Dr. Joe Paschal Livestock Specialist. The cost is \$30.00 per producer please RSVP by May 8th by calling the Extension Office. This event is planned to be in person. Please look at our website and Facebook for updates closer to the event.

