

# Gillespie County

Horticulture Newsletter  
Spring/Early Summer  
2021



## I'm So Happy It's Warm Again!

Looking back at the last edition, I was thrilled that we had gotten snow twice. After last February, I don't think I've ever been more ready for the return of warmer weather.



It's here, but I'm picky, and I'd rather not have the heat of summer just yet. There is so much to do and plant! I suspect it's the same for most of ya'll.

This edition is full of program announcements and updates. A monthly gardening calendar makes a return.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the Gillespie County Extension Office. We're located at 38 Business Court in Fredericksburg. Our phone is 830-997-3452.

## Preview

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Landscape Plant Update</b>                  | <b>Pg. 2</b>  |
| <b>Gardening Calendar</b>                      | <b>Pg. 3</b>  |
| <b>Pecan Field Program</b>                     | <b>Pg. 4</b>  |
| <b>Yellow Grass in the Summer?</b>             | <b>Pg. 5</b>  |
| <b>Healthy Waters<br/>Healthy Lawns</b>        | <b>Pg. 6</b>  |
| <b>Grow It Cook It</b>                         | <b>Pg. 7</b>  |
| <b>Caterpillar ID</b>                          | <b>Pg. 7</b>  |
| <b>Final Chill Hour Update<br/>Hemp Update</b> | <b>Pg. 8</b>  |
| <b>Local Upcoming Programs</b>                 | <b>Pg. 9</b>  |
| <b>Statewide Programs</b>                      | <b>Pg. 10</b> |
| <b>Upcoming Webinars</b>                       | <b>Pg. 11</b> |

# Landscape Plant Update

The single degree temperatures in February left our plants to respond in three ways....

## The Good

Pecans, bur & Texas red oaks, catalpas, honey mesquite, cedar elm, santolina, iris, abelia, nandina, mealy blue sage, and more.



Santolina



Iris



Dwarf Yaupon



Catalpa

## The Bad

*(Recovering)*

Desert willow, crape myrtle, cast iron plant, Texas sage, autumn sage, liri-ope, Asian jasmine, rosemary, pines, live oaks, and more.



Desert Willow



Autumn Sage



Loropetalum



Asian Jasmine



Crape Myrtle



Cast Iron Plant



Texas Sage

## The Ugly

*(Dead/Top-Killed)*

Arizona ash, chinaberry, loquat, fig, pomegranate, Indian hawthorn, oleander, pittosporum, lacebark elm, some Monterey oaks, olives, and more.



Arizona Ash



Pittosporum



Loquats



Indian Hawthorn

# Gardening & Landscaping Tips by the Month

## May

- Give trees and landscape shrubs until mid-May to recover or start to show recovery from earlier ice damage.
- Transplant perennials and trees up to middle of month only.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after bloom.
- Spray roses for blackspot every 7-14 days as determined by weather conditions.
- Fertilize roses every 4-6 weeks.
- Plant sweet potato slips.

## June

- Raise mower settings slightly higher to allow grass to better survive heat/drought stress.
- Store extra vegetable and flower seeds in the fridge.
- Remove spent flowers from annual and perennial plantings to prolong flowering.
- Prune chrysanthemums back 1/3 to encourage branching and bushier plants.
- Most vegetables should have produced by June.

## July

- Plant determinate tomatoes fresh squash and beans for a fall garden.
- If it's hot, you can more safely prune live oaks and other oak wilt susceptible trees.
- Cease fertilization of perennials and fruit trees.
- Trim (not murder) spent crape myrtle blooms to encourage re-bloom.
- Order all spring bulbs by the first half of this month.
- Sow cool season flowers.

## Results Demonstrations Update

Results demonstrations for 2021 will include the return of the Homeowner Tomato Trial, as well as a turfgrass trial planted outside our office. Please check the next newsletter edition for more updates.



## Simple Solar Sterilization to kill Weeds & Pests

Solar sterilization is a simple method that can be used to kill undesired diseases, weed seeds, insect eggs and nematodes in gardens and flowerbeds. It is an organic gardening method that works by steaming the soil.

1. In the heat of the summer, smooth the area to be treated. Get rid of as much debris as you can. You can leave green plants, though solar sterilization will not be as effective on them. Water the area thoroughly.
2. You may need to put a soaker hose underneath the plastic in order to keep it moist. The moisture is important because it's necessary for making steam.
3. Cover it with CLEAR (not black) plastic. Seal the edges with soil, bricks or pieces of wood. Thicker plastic will resist rips better, but thinner plastic allows more heat transfer.
4. Leave the plastic down for four weeks, and then remove. Or paint the plastic and reuse it as a plastic mulch.

This method will kill both bad and good microorganisms. Eventually these will return on their own, so do not feel the need to use a soil conditioner or mycorrhizae at the location.

## Gillespie County AgriLife Extension **Pecan Field Program**

**Date** April 30th, 2021  
9:00 AM—11:00 AM

**Location** 685 Hodges Ranch  
Road, Stonewall,  
TX

**Cost** \$10 if you need pesti-  
cide applicator CEUS,  
free if not needed.



Come join us for an walking field tour guided by Dr. Larry Stein covering pruning old pecan trees, pecan nut casebearer treatment and other insect issues. One IPM pesticide applicator CEU will be offered. Please bring your own chair.

Contact Beth McMahon at the Gillespie County Extension Office at 830-997-3452 or [Elizabeth.mcmahon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.mcmahon@ag.tamu.edu) for more information.

**Please pre-register to attend! If program does not meet minimum numbers it will be canceled.**

# Yellow Grass in the Summer? Maybe it's Take-All Root Rot

Take all root rot is a common turf issue that can be difficult to identify. Like many disease and insect problems, it can initially appear as patchy spots of yellowed grass. Sometimes the grass recovers by itself at this stage and turns darker green. Sometimes the disease progresses further, until you have patches or large swatches of dead areas.

Short dark roots and runners that are easily pulled up are another common identifying symptom, but this is similar to grubworms. Take-all root rot can appear throughout the growing season, but is supposed to be more common in the spring and fall. To truly identify the disease, the stolons near the nodes (where the leaves come out) need to be checked for black puzzle shaped hyphopodia spots. These are best seen with high magnification.

Stressed turf is more susceptible to take all root rot, and if you're growing St. Augustine, the list of things that will stress your turf is large. Scalping your grass, too much or too little water and fertilizer as well as too much shade can make St. Augustine more susceptible. In addition to St. Augustine, zoysia, Bermuda and buffalograss can get take all turf rot, though it is less common.

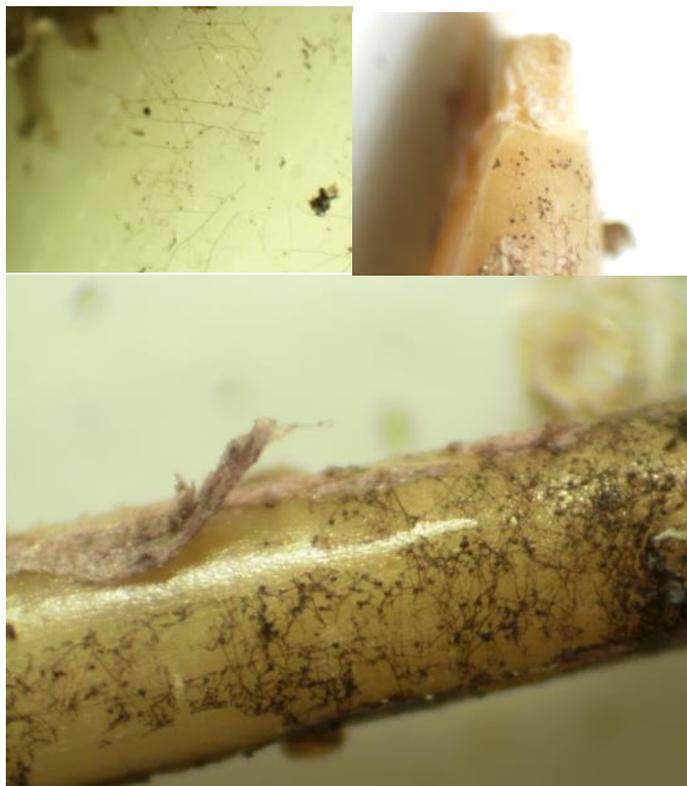
There are a few treatment options available, but keep in mind that these aren't perfect. Because Take-all root rot doesn't like acidic conditions, topdressing of peatmoss in effected dead and yellowed turf areas can decrease occurrence of the disease. Apply one 3.8 cubic foot bale of peat moss on the lawn per 1000 square feet, which is about a 1/3 inch thick layer. Applying the peat moss is best done once a year in either fall or spring.

The peat moss is difficult to apply. To make it easier, break it apart first into a wheel barrow, then dump small piles within a 1,000 square foot radius on your lawn. Use a rake to gently smooth it. It must be moist to work, so apply half an inch of water to activate it.

Several fungicides are labeled for Take-all root rot. These include azoxystrobin, myclobutanil and propiconazole. Propiconazole and myclobutanil aren't very effective, so instead look for a granular fungicide with azoxystrobin in it, such as Heritage or Scott's Disease Ex. These are best applied spring or fall. They are not 100% effective either.

Be careful how you fertilize. Fertilize your lawn only in late spring and late fall, and make a split application of the total amount of fertilizer you will need in a year. Do not use weed and feeds type pesticides.

Lawns that have lost much of their St. Augustine may need replacement, preferably with a different turf grass species or landscape beds.



*Examples of Take-all root rot on various turfgrasses. Pics by Beth McMahon.*



*Take-all root rot in St. Augustine turf. Pics by Beth McMahon.*



# Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters

## Gillespie County Watch Party

### Rainwater Harvesting and Turf Management Watch Party May 11

Gillespie County AgriLife Extension will host a viewing of the Healthy Lawns and Waters Rainwater Harvesting and Turf Management online training on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Gillespie County Extension Office.

This free program will start at 9:30 with a viewing of the Gillespie County Earthkind Turf Results Demonstration plots. Come see which bermudagrass or buffalograss varieties are doing the best and learn about the project. The online part of the program will be hosted at the Gillespie County Extension Office from 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. with a half-hour break for lunch. Lunch is not provided. Topics such as rainwater harvesting, appropriate plant selection, interpreting soil test results, fertilizing and watering lawns and more will be covered.

**Online registration is required, but attendees can watch online or attend an in-person viewing at the Gillespie County Extension Office.**

To RSVP please sign-up below and contact the Gillespie County Extension Office. Please sign-up online to get a copy of the presentations, but call or email the Gillespie County Extension Office if you plan to come in person.

The training is offered in collaboration with the Upper Cibolo Creek Watershed Partnership.

**Attendees can submit a soil test by picking up and dropping their soil sample and soil sample form off to the AgriLife Extension offices in Gillespie, Kendall or Kerr Counties prior to or by one week after the meeting.**

#### RSVP:

<https://hlhw.tamu.edu/workshops/2021/may-11-upper-cibolo-creek-watershed-gillespie-kendall-and-kerr-counties/>

#### Contact:

Please contact Elizabeth McMahon at 830-997-3452 or Elizabeth.mcmahon@ag.tamu.edu for more information.

### Office Closures

We will be closed May 31st and July 4th.

# Grow It Cook It

Come learn not only how to cook the theme vegetable but how to grow it too! Cost is \$15 per program, or \$25 for the series. Programs will be from 12-1 pm at the Gillespie County Extension Office, located at 38 Business Court, Fredericksburg. Pre-registration highly preferred.



<https://gardenspath.com/plants/vegetables/growing-using-bell-peppers/>

**Better Bell Peppers**  
**August 20th, 2021**



<https://www.justbeet.it.com/beet-blog/index/how-to-grow-beets-tips-for-your-beet-garden>

**Beaming Beets**  
**October 1st, 2021**

## Caterpillars! Caterpillars

### Common tree caterpillars found this spring



**Spring Cankerworm**  
Has two pseudo-legs on it's hind end. Hangs down on strings.



**Oak Leaf Roller**  
Normal caterpillar legs, can roll itself up in leaf. Hangs down on strings from trees.



**Forest Tent Caterpillar**

White footprints on back, blueish gray, hairy sides. Common in Harper area.

#### Solutions

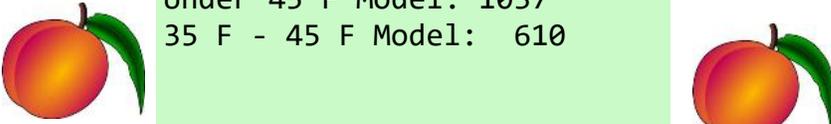
If damage is severe or occurs yearly, spray trees with BT, spinosad or carbar-yl. Caterpillars should be gone by mid May.



## Final Chill Hours

Final Chill Hours 2020-2021

Under 45 F Model: 1037  
35 F - 45 F Model: 610



## Save the Date! Fall Gardening Program August 6th, 2021

Come join us for a morning program on gardening during Texas's second best season, fall. More information regarding this program will be available in a future newsletter.



## Hemp Update Highlights

- If a hemp crop has a THC level above 0.3%, it is considered "hot", and must be destroyed.
- Due to hemp licensing procedures, AgriLife Extension can only conduct hemp trials on Texas A&M University owned properties or TAMU held long-term leases. This is unlikely to change in the short-term.
- The construction of mass drying/processing facilities, as well as large profits that were expected, did not happen.
- Prices are 85% lower (from 4.00/ lbs. to 0.60 / lbs.). Hemp & grain fiber has comparable revenue to cotton or corn.
- National acreage declined by about 50% for CBD production, and is expected to decrease again in 2021.
- Cheap hemp seed = too "hot" hemp plants
- Many hemp varieties are photosensitive, meaning they produce flowers prematurely. This leads to stunted plants for fiber production.
- Seedlings struggled to grow in hot soil temperatures.

# Local Upcoming Programs

## Gillespie County Pecan Field Program

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.

Walking field tour covering pruning old pecan trees, casebearer treatment and other pecan insect issues. One IPM pesticide applicator CEU offered. Bring a chair. Cost is \$10 if you need CEUS. Program will meet at 685 Hodges Ranch Road in Stonewall. Please call the Gillespie County Extension Office at 830-997-3452 to register.

## Gillespie County Private Pesticide Applicator Course

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 8:30-12:00 PM.

A private pesticide applicator license is needed to apply restricted use pesticides. This class is the training session required for taking private pesticide applicator exam. Cost is \$75.

## Seed Share and Plant Swap

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Located in the Fredericksburg ACE Hardware store parking lot. Come share and swap plants and seeds. Contact [txgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:txgardeners@gmail.com) for more information.

## Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters Hybrid Program/ Webinar

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM.

Tired of watching webinars at home? Come watch one at the Gillespie County Extension Office instead. Free soil testing if you sign up for the program. Sign up here [NAME](https://hlhw.tamu.edu/workshops/2021/may-11-upper-cibolo-creek-watershed-gillespie-kendall-and-kerr-counties/) and please let the Gillespie County Extension Office know you are coming.

<https://hlhw.tamu.edu/workshops/2021/may-11-upper-cibolo-creek-watershed-gillespie-kendall-and-kerr-counties/>

## Beef and Range Field Day

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Cost is 15 dollars each. Optional Laws and Regs presentation at 3 pm. Main registration begins at 4 pm. Three pesticide applicator CEUS offered. Topics are range or livestock related. Call the Gillespie County Extension Office to pre-register.

## TEEA Spring Scholarship Luncheon

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 11:00 AM-1:00 PM.

BBQ dinner plates benefiting 4-H scholarships. Cost is \$10 per plate. Purchase dinner tickets from the extension office or from Pilot Knob TEEA members.



*Healthy pecans make a good crop. Picture by Beth McMahan.*



*Zoysiagrass uses less water than St. Augustine, and looks good too! Picture by Beth McMahan.*



*If this is how you are fixing holes in your pasture, maybe you should go to the Beef and Range Field day. Picture by Beth McMahan.....who fixed that hole.*

# Local Upcoming Programs

## Texas Legends: Plant ID & Grazing Workshop

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 10:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Led by Steve Nelle and Bill Carr, two of the most famous plant ID experts in Texas. Program will cover plant ID, pasture and rangeland health, wetland plants, calculating forage production from rangelands, how to set up an electric fence and soil health. Camping onsite is available. Cost is \$25 for the workshop. Dinner is extra, \$15 each. Limited to 50 participants. Register in advance at [https://soilforwater.org/?event=texas-legends-plant-id-grazing-workshop-campout&event\\_date=2021-05-15](https://soilforwater.org/?event=texas-legends-plant-id-grazing-workshop-campout&event_date=2021-05-15)



Learn how to identify native grasses such as this Eastern Gammgrass. Picture by Beth McMahon.

## Gillespie County Fall Gardening Program

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 9:30 AM- 12:00 PM

Program focused on vegetable gardening in the fall. Topics and cost to be determined.

## Grow it Cook It: Bell peppers

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Learn how to grow and cook with bell peppers! Recipe demonstrations, samples and free trial plants included. Cost is \$15, or \$25 for this and the Better Beets Program October 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact the Gillespie County Extension Office to register.



Youth entries in the Gillespie County Agricultural Products show, part of the Gillespie County Fair. Picture by Beth McMahon.

## Gillespie County Fair

August 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Home goods and vegetable exhibits, horse racing, carnival and vendors. Cost varies depending on the day. Enter vegetables in the vegetable show! Please see <https://gillespiefair.com/> for more information.

# State Programs

## Texas Pecan Short Course

June 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Comprehensive in-person program designed to teach people how to establish and maintain a commercial pecan orchard for profit. Blend of classroom instruction and field experiences. Boxed lunches provided each day. Cost is \$300 dollars. Register here: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3290>



Pecans with a good golden color Picture by Beth McMahon.

## Texas State Pecan Conference

July 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Educational programs regarding pecans, as well as discussions regarding the pecan industry. Please see here for more updates: <https://tpga.org/tpga-events/>

# Webinars

I LOVE WEBINARS



## Soil Health and Composting Workshop

May 5th, 2021. 10:00 AM—11:30 AM.

Soil health, building soil health, composting, vermicomposting and how this helps the soil. Q&A session afterwards. Sponsored by NCAT. Free, but see here to register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApfuirrzkrEtLqQPzVAHfX8TenXxuc327C%20%c2%a0>

## Benefits of Bats

May 6th, 2021. 10:00 AM—11:00 AM.

Covers benefits of bats. Given by Houston area Master Gardener Brandi Keller. Free. Register online here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-grown-lecture-series-tickets-143797162183>

## Growing Fabulous Houseplants

May 20th, 2021. 10:00 AM—11:00 AM.

Lecture given by Paul Winski, Harris County Horticulture Extension Agent. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-grown-lecture-series-tickets-143797162183>

## Black Solider Fly- A Quick and Easy Method for Composting

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM. Zoom webinar.

Learn how to identify the black solider fly and how it can speed up your composting. Sponsored by TAMU Department of Entomology. Free. <https://agrilife.zoom.us/j/92309100646?pwd=RTV1TmxSVVVGLzJ5ZW9QNS9TSWNyUT09>

## Aggie Horticulture What's Growing On

Wednesdays & Fridays at 1 pm about 20 minutes each.

Various topics covered by AgriLife horticulture specialists across the state. Have a question during the program? The question wranglers will answer it for you while you watch.

See [https://www.facebook.com/pg/Aggie-Horticulture-26803072143/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Aggie-Horticulture-26803072143/videos/?ref=page_internal)

## Chat with Green Aggies

If you run a landscape or nursery business, or are interested in ornamentals, check out this web chat/ interviews with Texas A&M Horticulture experts. Free, but pre-registration required. See here <https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoce-gpzsqG9c6HCIEZd3FjF0SysEQmXBo>

To register, see here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2546261022306142> for more information.

## Bexar County Live Lunch and Learn Gardening Series

Live from 12- 1 pm. See here for access information: <https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/homehort/> Miss a video? Find it on their youtube page at : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWMk6LqNJuB6ZzZyH1UVGFw/videos>

# Gillespie County Horticulture Newsletter

## Name that Plant!



What is the name of this flower? First person to respond with the correct answer will get their name featured in next quarter's newsletter.

## Last Newsletter's Plant



*This plant was ten petal anemone. Thanks to Kathy Lewis for being the first to reply with the correct answer.*

*Picture policy-Unless specifically cited, all pictures were taken by the author of this newsletter. This newsletter is a publication comes out quarterly, with issues out on February/March (spring), June/July (summer), September/October (fall), November/December (winter). If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, please contact us me at elizabeth.mcmahon@agnet.tamu.edu.*

*For other questions, comments, and concerns, please contact us at:*

*Gillespie County Extension office  
95 Frederick Road  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
830-997-3452*

*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, sexual orientation or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Information compiled by Elizabeth McMahon, Gillespie County Horticulture Agent, except where indicated.*