

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

MAY 2021



**HARRISON  
COUNTY  
AG/NR  
NEWSLETTER**

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

102 W. Houston  
Marshall, TX  
75670

# GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

## MARSHALL, TEXAS

- Summer flowers can now be planted; plant summer bulbs such as cannas, dahlias, and gladiolus.
- Pinch back growth of newly planted annuals and perennials; this will help the plants develop more flowers.
- You can prolong the flowering season for your spring annuals by cutting off the old blossoms.
- Cool-season vegetables will quickly decrease in quality once the weather gets hot. Be sure to harvest these vegetables and then replace them with warm-season vegetables such as okra and sweet potatoes.
- Apply mulch around heat sensitive plants to keep the roots cool and to prevent water evaporation.
- Put shade cloth over tomatoes.
- Be aware of insects. Many bugs appear in May, including lace bugs, aphids, and bagworms.
- Fertilize both cool-season and warm-season lawns.
- Seed Bermuda and warm-season grasses as soon as the soil warms up. Apply 1 inch of water per week.
- Once every 2 or 3 years, dethatch Bermuda lawns during their active growing season (May through August).
- Continue fertilization of your rose bushes; liquid fertilizers can be added every two weeks.
- Take care to keep deciduous fruit trees well-watered this month. Do not prune.
- Cover fruit trees with netting to protect the fruit from bird damage.



GETTING READY TO SPRAY

# Sprayer Calibration



Sprayer Calibration is a critical step for a pesticide applicator in making sure the correct amount of pesticide is applied to the target site. Calibration is the process by which the amount of pesticide being applied per a unit of area is determined. This step is most often skipped because we get in a hurry, we calibrated it once a long time ago (surely nothing has changed) or we forget. By skipping sprayer calibration the applicator may be applying too much pesticide or not enough pesticide. If too little pesticide is applied, the pest may not be controlled. Using more product than label directions recommend is illegal, may not control the pest effectively, may injure non-targets and may be hazardous to the environment.

**REMEMBER**

**THE LABEL IS THE LAW**

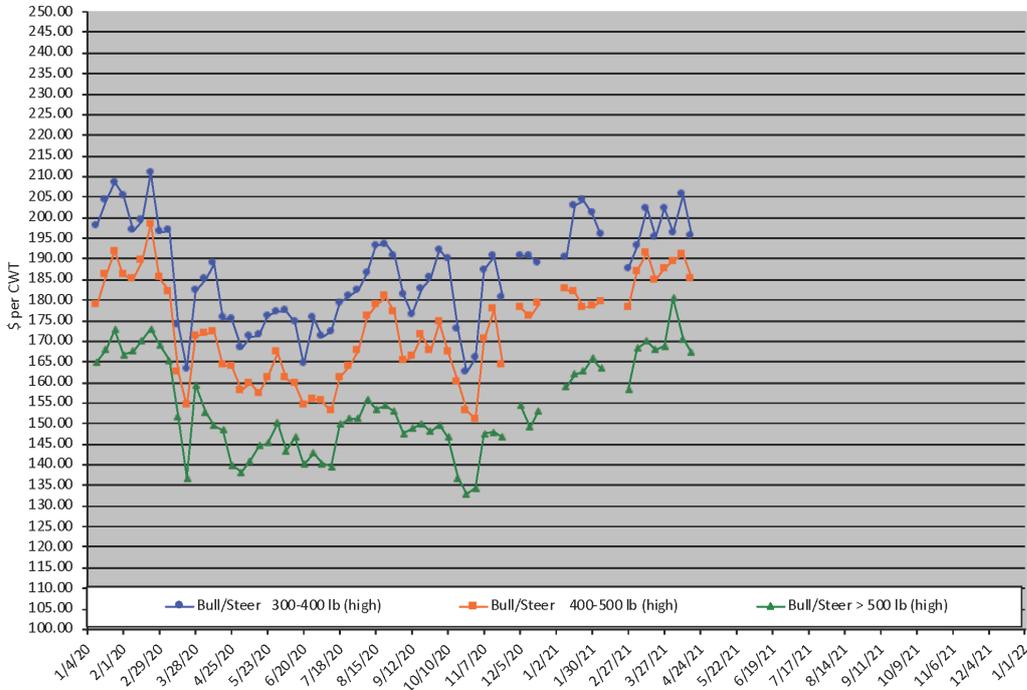
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# CATTLE PRICE TRENDS

## Calf Price Trends

Trend of the Highest Price Reported for Various Weight Calves, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

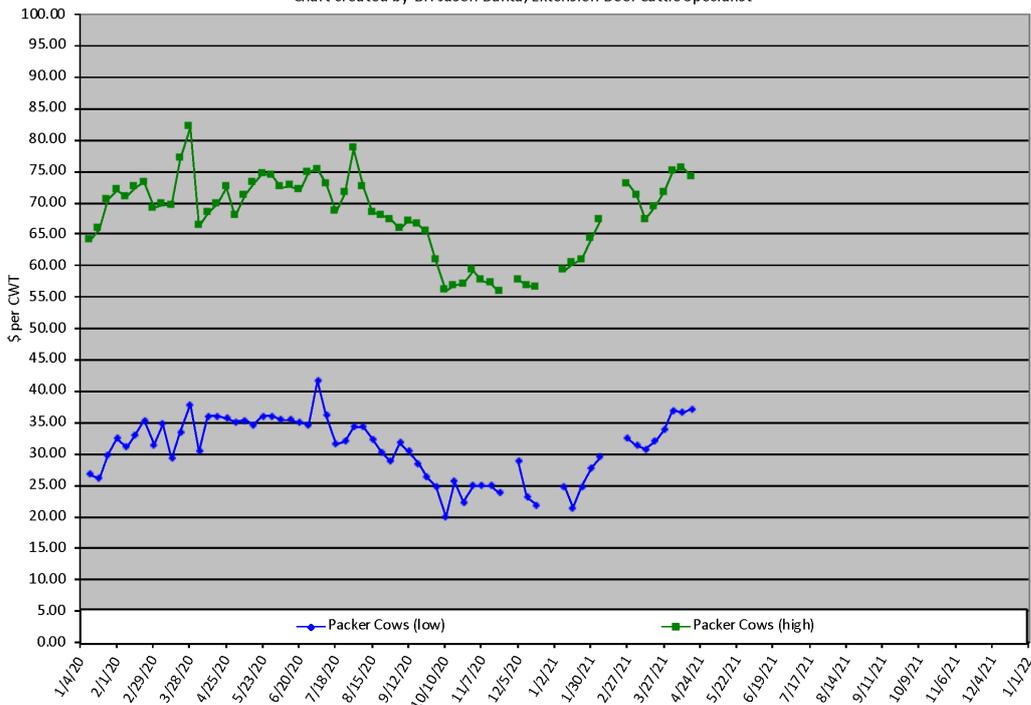
For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent  
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



## Packer Cow Price Trends

Trend of High and Low Prices Reported for Packer Cows, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent  
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



Cattle price trends for the week ending 4/17/21. The graphs show the average of the highest prices reported for 6 livestock auction markets located in East and Central Texas.

Coming  
Soon



We are so excited to announce September 11, 2021 we will hold our first Harrison County Extension Festival. This event will be held downtown and we will spotlight ALL of the amazing clubs and organization that are a part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. If you are interested in being a sponsor or volunteering, please email [kelsie.hopkins@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kelsie.hopkins@ag.tamu.edu)

## WEED CONTROL FOR NEWLY SPRIGGED BERMUDAGRASS

**Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Larry Redmon, and Paul Baumann**  
*Extension Forage Specialist, Overton; Extension Forage Specialist and Extension  
 Weed Specialist, College Station*

One of the many challenges producers face when establishing a new stand of bermudagrass is initial weed pressure. Prior to land preparation for establishment of sprigs, it is important to eradicate any unwanted vegetation. Annual weeds may be controlled by thorough tillage; however, perennial weeds should be sprayed with a non-soil active herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup) several weeks prior to tillage. This will allow re-treatment of any weed escapes prior to establishing bermudagrass. Any soil disturbance by plowing or disking promotes germination of weed seed. The use of a pre-emergence herbicide (applied prior to weed emergence) is one of the best defenses against early season competition with the newly established sprigs. Diuron and 2,4-D + dicamba products are labeled for application immediately after sprigging and can provide effective pre-emergence residual control (Table 1). However, be sure to check the label to ensure your product is labeled for pre-emergent application. Post-emergent herbicide treatments may still be necessary after sprig establishment. Newly established sprigs are more sensitive to herbicides than established stands of bermudagrass, therefore, you should observe treatment timings recommended in Table 2 to avoid injury. Herbicide selection, rate, and growing conditions are critical in preventing injury to sprigs. Always read and follow label instructions for any herbicide/pesticide/insecticide.

**The label is the law.**

**Table 1. Pre-Emergent Herbicides**

<b>Herbicide</b>	<b>Rate/Acre Broadcast</b>
<b>Direx 4L (diuron)</b>	0.8-2.4 quart/acre
<b>Comments:</b> Apply Direx immediately after sprigging and rolling to control annual broadleaves and grasses (up to 4" in height). For control of emerged annual weeds up to 4 inches in height, apply 0.4 to 0.8 quarts per acre. Bermudagrass sprigs should be planted 2-3 inches deep to minimize damage. Emerged bermudagrass at the time of treatment may be temporarily injured. <b>Direx is not labeled for use in established bermudagrass hayfields and pastures.</b>	
<b>Weedmaster (2,4-D &amp; Dicamba)</b>	2 to 4 pints/acre
<b>Comments:</b> Best results will be obtained if Weedmaster is applied 7 to 10 days after planting. Reduced control can be expected if weeds are allowed to reach 1" in height before application.	

**Table 2. Post-Emergent Herbicides**

<b>Herbicide</b>	<b>Rate/Acre Broadcast</b>
<b>Outrider</b> (Sulfosulfuron)	1.33 oz/acre
<b>Comments:</b> Apply Outrider at 1.33 oz/ac to control johnsongrass, yellow and purple nutsedge, and other weeds four weeks after the emergence of the newly established bermudagrass. Addition of non-ionic surfactant at 1-qt/100 gallons is required. A follow-up application of Outrider can be made when sufficient weed regrowth is observed, but no sooner than four weeks after the previous application.	
<b>2,4-D</b> amine/ester	1.0-2.0 quart/acre
<b>Comments:</b> Apply 2,4-D to emerged broadleaf weeds 3-4 inches tall. Use non-volatile amine formulations from late March through September. Do not apply more than 2.0 qt per acre per season. Do not make more than two applications per year. Minimum interval between sequential applications is 30 days.	
<b>PasturAll</b> (2,4-D & Aminopyralid)	1.5- 2 pints/acre
<b>Comments:</b> PasturAll should be applied only after perennial grasses are well established (have developed a good secondary root system and show good vigor).	
<b>Surmount</b> (Picloram & Fluroxypyr)	1.5-6.0 pints/acre
<b>Comments:</b> Apply at 1.5 pt/acre to sprigged bermudagrass once stolons (runners) have reached six inches in length and growing conditions are favorable.	

Produced by the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences  
soilcrop.tamu.edu

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# *Why are my tomato plant leaves turning yellow?*

## **Nutrition, disease, physical disorders may be culprits**

As a tomato plant grows, it is often thought that it is in the plant's nature for the lower leaves to turn yellow and die off. However, that is simply not true according to Joe Masabni, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service vegetable specialist in Dallas.

Yellowing leaves on tomato plants can be caused by multiple issues.

Masabni, an assistant professor in the Department of Horticulture in Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, explains that a healthy plant that is well maintained and not stressed by disease or nutrition should have green leaves from the bottom to the top.

Typically, yellowing leaves are a result of a nutritional imbalance or disease outbreak, but other causes can play a part.

### **Nutrition can be a cause for yellowing leaves on tomato plants**

"Nitrogen is the most common cause, because people generally don't fertilize tomatoes enough," Masabni said. Tomatoes are heavy feeders, meaning the plant requires twice the amount of fertilizer that a cucumber needs, and even four times the amount as beans, he explained.

If you don't fertilize enough with nitrogen, the older leaves will begin turning yellow and, in many cases, may fall off. The older leaves turn yellow because they are providing their nitrogen to the younger leaves to survive.

Yellowing of leaves can also be the result of an iron deficiency in the plant, but this will be most prominent in the youngest leaves. A magnesium deficiency however will produce yellowing that looks more like speckles or spots on the older leaves.

"Those three – nitrogen, iron and magnesium – are the most common nutritional deficiencies growers should pay attention to and fertilize regularly for," Masabni said.

It is good to keep in mind, that with the use of a lot of fertilizer, the plant will also require a lot of water.

"There is no perfect recipe for how much water your tomato may need, but a good rule of thumb is to do a moisture test where you place a finger several inches deep in the soil to test for moisture near the roots," he said.

"If it feels dry, it's time to water, and as the tomato plants get closer to full maturity, they will require more and more water. Better yet, buy a soil moisture meter and use it regularly as a guide on when to water."

### **Diseases may present with yellow leaves**

Texas is a prime location for fungal diseases in tomatoes, simply due to the heat and humidity that are common in the state. Because these conditions are ideal for spreading diseases, Masabni suggests using a fungicide protectant on a regular basis, once every seven to 10 days, and up to 14 days in a dry year.

"Spray on a schedule whether you think you need it or not," he said.

Fungicides are typically used as protective and not as a curative measure for fungus. So, this is a proactive approach that gardeners will want to start before seeing signs of disease to protect the plants from developing one. Once you can see the disease, it is often too late.

Most fungal and bacterial diseases cause some kind of yellowing, he explained.

The most common fungal disease seen in Texas is powdery mildew or early blight, which starts from the bottom of the plant and moves up as the leaves die off.



# *Why are my tomato plant leaves turning yellow?*

Nutrition, disease, physical disorders may be culprits

Continued Page 2

## Physiological disorders can produce yellowing of the leaf

Salt damage – not just table salt or sodium chloride, but any excess mineral – can result in yellowing. If you are growing tomatoes in a container and your water contains a heavy amount of salt, once in a while water the container until it leaches out, so the salt can run through the soil and flush out of the container. This will help in preventing buildup of those salts within the container itself.

## Use caution with herbicides

“Gardeners should avoid Roundup near the vegetable garden because tomatoes are super sensitive to Roundup,” Masabni said.

Roundup injury to tomatoes creates a bleaching effect from the inside to the outside of the leaf and affects the newest growth of the plant such as the youngest leaves and shoots.

## Vegetable problem solver and maintenance

On the Aggie Horticulture website, the vegetable resources link provides a vegetable problem solver where you can look at different common problems you may encounter in Texas.

“The bottom line—any form of yellowing is not good,” he said.

Even if you don’t know the cause, remove any yellow leaf and throw it away in case it is diseased so it will not spread and infect others. Remove that leaf, spray a fungicide and hopefully the problem will be resolved by early diagnosis. When removing leaves, be sure to remove them with a clean hand and properly dispose of the leaf. Wash your hands thoroughly before you continue working on other healthy plants to avoid spreading any disease between plants.

Also, ask yourself if you have been fertilizing regularly. Does the plant look tall enough or is it the same height as a month ago, which may mean you need more fertilizer?

Placing a fertilizer solution on the end of your hose and washing off your plant from top to bottom on occasion will also simulate a rainfall situation, he explained. This will be especially helpful in a dry year, when mites may become a bigger issue. Washing the plant with water will wash off the mites, and clean and cool the plant, all while fertilizing it.

For more information on vegetables and gardening resources, visit the Aggie Horticulture website.

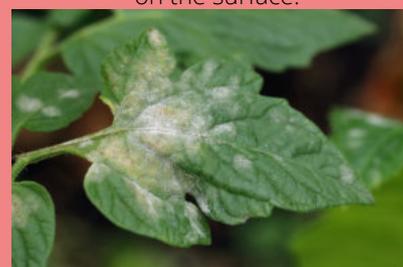


Yellowing leaves on tomato plants can be caused by multiple issues. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)



Leaf symptoms of early blight are large irregular patches of black, necrotic tissue surrounded by larger yellow areas

Powdery mildew is first noticed on older leaves as a yellow spotted appearance, that upon closer inspection has a whitish-gray powder on the surface.



<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/problem-solvers/>

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