

LUBBOCK COUNTY SMALL ACREAGE LANDOWNER NEWS

(806)775-1680 (phone) ● (806)775-1658 (FAX)
rj-scott@tamu.edu (e-mail) ● <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> (web)

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916 Main, Suite 201 Lubbock TX 79401; P.O. Box 10536 Lubbock TX 79408

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The purpose of this newsletter is to assist and educate small acreage landowners to make the best decision for their production needs and keep them updated on educational opportunities. If there is a topic you would like me to address please email me at rj-scott@tamu.edu and I will try to address your request. If you would like to be on the newsletter email list let me know and I will be glad to add you to the list. The Lubbock county Extension website is <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/>.

TEXAS BEEF QUALITY PRODUCER PROGRAM



The Texas Beef Quality Producer program has multiple levels of participation and training. We will be offering TBQP certification April 21, 2009.

BQA Level I - Basic Training: Classroom style events covering BQA principles, record keeping, environmental stewardship, industry update and best management practices leading to safe and high quality beef.

BQA Level II - Documentation and Certification Training: Classroom style events where participants learn the necessary steps and paperwork required to become a FULLY CERTIFIED Texas Beef Quality Producer. These same records necessary for certification, can also be used to supply age, source and process verified calves to other segments of the industry.

For more information on Texas Beef Quality Producer program click on **Newsletters** at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/> then click on **2009 Small Acreage Landowner Info**.

CONTROLLING FIELD SANDBUR (GRASSBUR) IN TURFGRASS

James A. McAfee, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist

Field sandbur (grassbur) is a summer annual grassy weed that can be found in home lawns, sports fields, parks and along roadsides. This weed is especially adapted to dry, sandy soils but can be found growing in other types of soils as well. The big problem with this weed is the sharp, spiny burs that are part of the inflorescence. Field sandburs (grassburs) generally start germinating in late spring and will continue to germinate until late summer or early fall months. This weed will continue to grow until the first hard frost or freeze occurs in the fall. Field sandburs (grassburs) are generally not a problem in well maintained turfgrass areas. With proper fertilization, mowing and irrigation, you can produce a turf that is dense enough to prevent sandbur (grassbur)s from becoming a problem. However, if field sandburs (grassburs) do become a problem there are several effective herbicides that can be used to control this particular weed. The most effective and efficient method of control is to use a pre-emergent herbicide. To be effective, pre emergents need to be applied before weed seeds germinate -- generally when the soil temperature (NOT the air temperature) reaches 52 degrees F. In north Texas areas, apply the pre-emergent by April 1. If a post-emergence herbicide such as MSMA or DSMA is used, wait until the day time temperatures are about 75 degrees F. for the products to be most effective. To insure complete control of germinating grass burrs in heavily infested areas, extend the residual of the herbicide barrier in the soil and thus extend the length of control period by making applications of the pre-emergent herbicide EVERY 6 WEEKS through September. In areas with a light infestation of grass burrs, two applications that are 6 weeks apart and after the initial application should control seed germination. As always, the pre-emergent application needs to be watered in thoroughly. Not applying enough water after application of a pre-emergent herbicide is one of the main reason

for failure to effectively obtain control of the annual grassy weeds such as sandburs (grassburs).

For post-emergent field sandbur (grassbur) control, use MSMA or DSMA. These products will do a good job of controlling the field sandbur (grassbur) when it is young. As the sandbur (grassbur) matures, it becomes more difficult to obtain effective control with MSMA or DSMA. A few years ago, I discovered that by mixing some Imazaquin (Image) with the MSMA you could enhance the control of field sandbur (grassbur). The rate for this mixture is 2.0 lbs. active ingredient per acre of MSMA plus .38 lbs. active ingredient per acre of Image. For example, if using Greenlight's MSMA Crabgrass Killer use 2 Tbsp. per gallon of water and add Cyanamide's Image at 6 Tbsp. per gallon of water. The gallon of spray should cover 1,000 square feet. Remember, MSMA cannot be used on St. Augustine or Centipede lawns. For these turfgrass areas, you will have to rely on the use of a pre-emergent herbicide.

For more information on Controlling Field Sandbur click on **Publications** at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/> then click on the **Small Acreage Landowner Info**. Category



Texas Master Naturalist (South Plains Chapter) is seeking individuals who want to become certified members of the South Plains Chapter. Participants will receive fundamental knowledge regarding local natural resources and habitats, and how they can be involved through volunteer service projects. Applicants accepted to attend the Basic Training will learn about our natural resources from local experts in classroom and field studies. Training is provided by educators and specialists from universities, agencies, nature centers, museums, and other organizations who donate their services.

The South Plains Chapter is dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship through outreach, education and volunteer service to benefit the surrounding communities. Our chapter is here to enhance public awareness of local environmental needs and regional natural resources. The knowledge gained provides an understanding of the rapidly growing urban population in Texas, thus increasing the awareness of conservation in the urban environment of the Lubbock area.

2009 Training

The South Plains Chapter is working on the last 9 hours of training for the class of 2008-09. They will continue this year with publicity and volunteer events. They plan to begin a new training class in 2010. If you are interested in becoming a certified Texas Master Naturalist, please come to our next meeting and/or volunteer days. They would love to have your participation before the class actually begins in Jan. 2010.

Project WILD: Advanced Training

On Saturday, March 7, 2009, Vicky Sybert of the TPWD will lead an advanced training in Project Wild at the Lubbock Landmark. We will begin with a short South Plains Chapter meeting of the Texas Master Naturalists and then go right into the training at 9:00 a.m. The training will last 3:00. We will be taking orders for lunch that morning. You may also bring a sack lunch.

Project Wild is an environmental education curriculum that enables students to experience the outdoors and gain a deeper appreciation for wildlife and the need to conserve our natural resources. Project WILD is a supplementary, interdisciplinary, instructional program for educators and naturalist volunteers with children in Kindergarten through High School. This curriculum can be integrated into science, social studies, language arts, math, art, physical education, health, music and other curriculum areas. It can offer a captivating educational experience to be implemented by youth leaders, scout leaders, camp counselors and classroom teachers.

For more information, contact Vicky Sybert at vickisybert@tpwd.state.tx.us Check out the web site at www.projectwild.org

Attitudes Toward Nature

What about Nature in Urban Systems and the Build Environment On Tuesday, March 24, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lubbock Lake Landmark Auditorium, we will be having a presentation on "Attitudes toward Nature in Urban Systems." David A. Driskill, AIA, Associate Dean of the College of Architecture, who special interest is the relationship of urban systems and nature. He and the college have focused their education, community service and research into how to make the build environment sustainable and respectful to the natural world. The presentation will include a historical perspective as well as what is needed for the future. Several of Driskill's graduate students will be able to present a case study of Sweetwater, Texas: A Changing City of Wind Power.

The public is welcome to attend. All Master Naturalists members are encouraged to attend especially the members in Training. For more information, contact Jackie Driskill at jmddriskill@sbcglobal.net or call 806.795.2383.

Mammals of the Llano Estacado

We also have a training scheduled April 14 th at 6:00-9:00 p.m. to learn about mammals of the Llano Estacado from Vicki Sybert. This will be followed up by a Field Trip to the Caprock Canyon State Park on April 18th.

For more information on Texas Master Naturalist click on **Texas Master Naturalist** at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/>

LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY FACTS

Approximate Peak Water Requirements:

Cattle = 7 to 16 gallons/day
Horses = 8 to 12 gallons/day
Sheep and goats = 1 to 4 gallons/day

Approximate Gestation Periods:

Cattle = 283 days
Horses = 336 days
Sheep = 148 days
Goats = 151 days



Approximate Forage Intake Per Day:

Sheep = 3.5 percent x body weight
Goats = 4.0 percent x body weight
Stocker cattle = 3.0 percent x body weight
Dry cow = 2.0 percent x body weight
Lactating cow = 2.5 percent x body weight
Horse = 3.5 percent x body weight

HERBICIDES

How they work and the symptoms they cause

Whether you are producing agricultural crops or tending a lawn or home garden, weed control will be important to your success. Weeds can be controlled mechanically, culturally, biologically and chemically, and all these methods may be important in an integrated weed control program that is economical and friendly to the environment. Chemical control with herbicides has been an important tool for managing weeds in crops and home landscapes for many years. Many of today's herbicides are more effective and selective. These traits make them less harmful to the environment when they are used properly. Although herbicides are widely used, few people understand how they work to control undesirable plants.

Herbicide application

Generally speaking, herbicides are applied either preemergence or postemergence. That means they are applied either before or after weeds emerge from the soil and begin to grow. Preemergence herbicides kill weeds shortly after they germinate or emerge through the soil surface. Postemergence herbicides control weeds that are already growing and easily visible. Some herbicides are applied to the soil and are taken up by seedling plant roots or shoots. They are said to have soil activity. Herbicides that are applied to plant foliage have foliar activity. Some herbicides have both. Herbicides with a high degree of soil activity usually are applied preemergence.

Selectivity

Selectivity is the process by which a herbicide controls or kills certain plants but leaves others unharmed. Selectivity may be as simple as controlling broadleaf plants but not grass plants. Many new herbicides have more sophisticated selectivity that differentiates between several broadleaf and/or several grass plants. Herbicides with no selectivity, such as Roundup Ultra®, are called non-selective. These products kill all types of plants. Selectivity usually depends on the time or placement of the herbicide applied. Most herbicides can be harmful, even to normally tolerant plants, if the dose is too high.

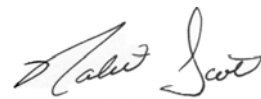
Translocation

Some herbicides move (translocate) within the plant. Systemic herbicides translocate once they are taken up by the leaves, stems or roots. Herbicides that do not move after they enter the plant are called contact herbicides. Some products can be either contact or systemic herbicides, depending on the way they are applied.

Mode-of-action

Mode-of-action refers to the effect a herbicide has on a plant. Herbicides work in many different ways. If we understand a herbicide's mode of action, we will know what symptoms it produces at lethal or sub-lethal doses. Other problems such as disease, nutrient deficiency, and insect damage may mimic the effects of herbicides.

For more information on Herbicides click on **Publications** at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/> then click on the **Small Acreage Landowner Info**. Category.



Robert Scott
Texas ArgiLife County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Lubbock County