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 sandburds (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...
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.

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.
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 AgriLife County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Lubbock County