

Please remember to play YOUR part in water



Potter County Horizon

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Fall Greetings!!

The hot summer months have come to an end and we are now on to winter weather protection of plants, animals, and homes. We are thankful for wet winter projections for winter wheat as well as home landscapes.

Perennial vegetation in your home landscape needs a drink in the winter as well. Although perennial plants do not need much water in the winter, if we do not see the predicted snowfall this winter, it may be necessary to give plants a drink. Watch our Facebook page over the winter months for tips on winter watering for Amarillo.

I hope you find information that will assist you with decision making for your operation and/or home. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Megan Eikner

CEA—Ag./Natural Resources

Fall/Winter private applicator training dates:

December 5, 2018

January 17, 2019

Location: Texas A&M AgriLife Potter County Office—

3301 E 10th from 8:30 AM to 12 PM. The training cost is \$60 which covers materials and refreshments.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas!!



Be sure your livestock and pets have adequate shelter for each species, a continuous thawed water supply, and plenty of nutritional food throughout the winter months. This is critical for reproductive success as well as overall health of your animals.

Northern Amarillo - currently seeing an increase in gopher activity. Gophers can be extremely destructive. Tools and tips for remediation below:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts know gophers can be a nuisance to hay and livestock producers, and springtime is a good time to address them. Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson says gopher burrowing can cause damage to equipment and livestock injuries. The rodents also can damage crops by covering available forage and by consuming plant roots and vegetation.

Gophers spend mostly solitary lives below ground. A single gopher can burrow a tunnel system that extends as long as 800 feet, covers an acre and ranges in depth from a few inches to several feet, according to AgriLife Extension. Corriher-Olson believes most producers view them as pests and choose eradication measures to control them. Control operations should be conducted during the spring and fall when gophers are most active near the surface. The strategies to address gophers in hay pastures differs slightly to control methods around a home because of the size and scale of the area to cover.

Homeowners can deploy a variety of methods including trapping and pesticide. Pesticide is the most effective method when it comes to treating pastures effectively. "Most producers will use a Diphacinone-based product. Products are usually treated grain or sorghum." says Corriher-Olson.



There are various methods to apply the pesticide. No Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide applicator license is required to utilize products used on gophers, but users should be mindful to keep the product away from other wildlife and grazing livestock. The product needs to be placed in the tunnel system for effectiveness and to prevent birds, pets and other animals from consuming the product. Bait injection equipment, such as a burrow builder, can mechanically apply the product. Some pesticide retailers have equipment available to rent. Manual injection equipment can also place bait in tunnels.

According to AgriLife Extension professionals, applicators should find the newest mound or series of mounds in the burrow. Locate the main runway by probing the soil with a bluntly pointed probe, such as a piece of rebar or dowel rod, six to eight inches from the mound on the side where a horseshoe-like depression is found.

After locating the main runway, remove the probe and insert the recommended doses of bait. Close the opening with grass or paper and cover with dirt to keep out light and air, and to avoid covering the bait with soil. Place the bait near each end of the main runway and at one or more locations in the central part of the tunnel system.

Burrow builders create artificial burrows and dispense bait underground. It can be pulled back and forth across a field to make a series of parallel burrows. Gophers will explore the artificial burrow and find the bait. The soil must have adequate moisture for plowing and to effectively construct burrows.

"Dealing with gophers can be tricky," Corriher-Olson said. "They rarely are seen, but mounds and tunnels are a good indication of their presence. They are a pest that could take some persistence and multiple applications in different locations to be controlled successfully."

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Upcoming Conference:

Ornamental and Turf Conference (OAT)

January 22, 2019

**Location: Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center
6500 Amarillo Blvd. W. Amarillo, TX 79106**

This conference is designed to meet the Continuing Education needs of Private Applicators as well as landscape and horticulture educational needs of the general public. Topics of this year's conference are still being lined out, but will be similar. Past topics include:

- Disease management in landscape
- Management of trees in an urban landscape
- Turfgrass management methods
- Insect management in landscape
- TDA laws and regulations update
- Management of weed pests in turfgrass
- Lawn & garden management methods

Contact the Potter County Office for additional information or watch our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AgriLifePotter/?ref=bookmarks>) for updates. Please RVSP by calling 806-373-0713



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Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

**It is time to winterize
your drip and sprinkler
systems.**

**Be sure to thoroughly
drain excess water in the
lines and blow them out
with forced air.**

Fall Planting

Fall is a great time to plant a tree

If you choose to plant a tree this fall, here are some tips for success:

1. Be sure to cover the entire root ball with good soil, being sure there are no large clumps in the backfill soil. Large clumps of soil do not compact well around the roots of the tree, can cause air gaps and eventually decrease tree health. At times this can also cause death of the tree.
2. Be sure to water slowly and deep even in the winter. While winter watering is not needed as regularly as summer months, moist soil around tree roots acts as an insulating factor for your new tree.

