



Integrated Pest Management  
Runnels-Tom Green Counties  
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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The overall wheat crop is continuing to improve with the timely rains that we have received. While most of the crop started off with very poor soil moisture, we have been fortunate to receive some showers when needed. Continuous timely rains will be needed to finish out the crop due to the lack of deep soil moisture.

Attached in this newsletter contains information regarding both auxin and paraquat trainings.

**Runnels County Ag Day will be held on Thursday, April 2-in Rowena!** Some topics include improving soil health, weed resistance, and gene drive technology. The guest keynote speaker will be Mike Conaway. The annual meeting of the Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association will be during Ag Day as well! I will send out the agenda once it is finalized.

## WHEAT

There has been a couple of reports of army cutworms in wheat north of Abilene. While I have not heard or seen cutworm activity in the Concho Valley, I thought I would inform you just to have it on your radar. If any reports in the area come in, I will send out a newsletter.

Army cutworms are brown to black in color and the older larvae can have a shiny or greasy appearance (Figure 1). While they are true cutworms, the army cutworm feeds much like an armyworm. You should be able to see plants that are clipped at the soil surface as an indicator of cutworm presence (Figure 2). Army cutworms are most active at night, while during the day the larvae will hide under crop debris and soil clods. Fields that were planted late or have a thin stand are more vulnerable to army cutworm damage. I have attached the link to the wheat guide [here](#) for more information.



**Figure 1.** Army Cutworm larvae. Photo credit: Pat Porter, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension



**Figure 2.** Army Cutworm damage. Photo credit: Pat Porter, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

Also if you are interested, Dr. Noland wrote an article over wheat vernalization. Click [here](#) for the link to the article.

## AUXIN TRAINING

There have already been multiple auxin trainings held this year, but there are 2 more opportunities coming up. One of them will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Runnels County Ag Day, and the second training date is April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Ballinger Senior Citizen Center.

Remember—the auxin training must be completed in order to apply 2,4-D or Dicamba on the auxin tolerant cotton varieties. Keep in mind that producers who are applying one of the Dicamba formulations (Engenia, Fexapan, Tavium, Xtendimax) must be a licensed pesticide applicator and have their own license. If you are applying 2,4-D (Enlist One or Enlist Duo) you may still apply under the supervision of a licensed applicator. This year's training has been reduced back to a one hour training instead of two.

## PARAQUAT TRAINING

Any person who intends to **mix, load, apply, or handle** paraquat must complete the EPA approved paraquat training. You must be a certified applicator AND complete this training in order to use paraquat. The training must be retaken every three years. Currently the only way to do this training is through an online link. (<https://npsec.us/paraquat>). I have attached at the end of this newsletter information on how to log in/register for the training.

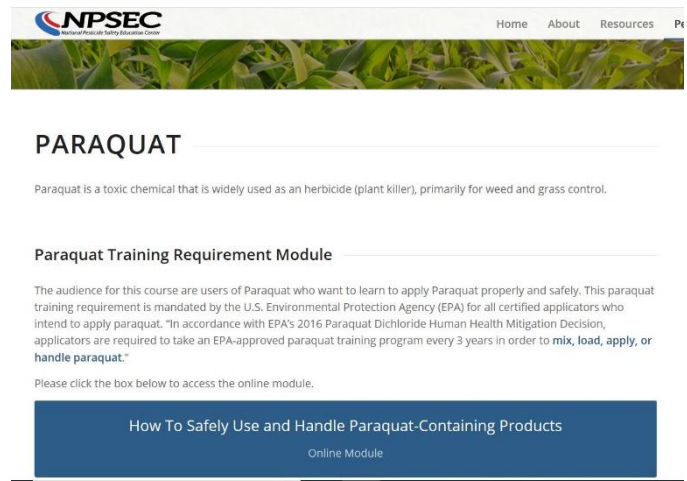
This online training requires about 45 mins to an hour of your time, with a 15-question test at the end of the training. You must score 100% to receive your certificate.

*Trade names of commercial products used in this report is included only for better understanding and clarity. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System is implied.*

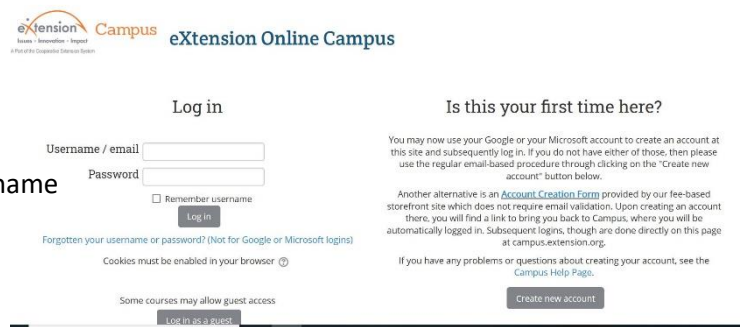
*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.*

# Steps to log-in to the Paraquat Training

1. Click or type: <https://npsec.us/paraquat>
2. Click on the blue box: How to Safely Use and Handle Paraquat-Containing Products



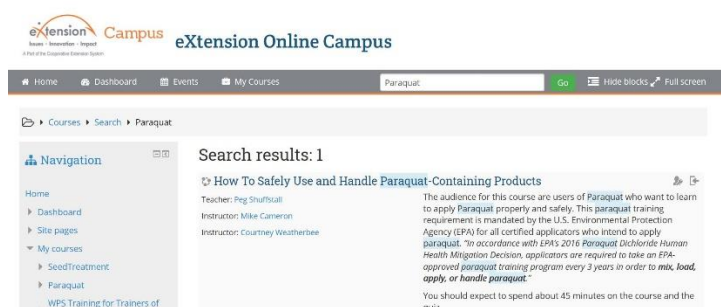
3. You will be directed to the course at [Campus.Extension.Org](https://campus.extension.org)
  - a. If this is your first time here, you need to create an account
  - b. Once you have your account you can log in using your username and password



4. Once you're logged in, you can search for the Paraquat course in the Search Courses box



5. After you click GO on the search page, you will see this page.
  - a. Click on the How To Safely Use and Handle Paraquat-Containing Products title



6. You will be in the course.
  - a. Read through the Welcome and the Introduction and Learning Objectives
7. When you're ready to begin the course, click the link in the "Watch The Course" section. This will take you to a screen where you will click ENTER to begin your training.
8. Once you have finished watching the training, click the blue Dashboard button to be directed back to course space to complete the assessment.
  - a. You must score 100% to receive your certificate of completion.

The screenshot shows the 'extension Campus' interface. The header includes the logo and the course title 'How To Safely Use and Handle Paraquat-Containing P ...'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for Home, Dashboard, Events, and My Courses. A 'Turn editing on' button is visible. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: 'My courses > Paraquat'. Below this, there is a 'Welcome to the How To Safely Use and Handle Paraquat-Containing Products' section. The text explains that successful completion satisfies the EPA's 2016 Paraquat Dichloride Human Health Mitigation Decision, requiring certified applicators to take an EPA-approved paraquat training program every 3 years. A list of instructions follows:

- You should expect to spend about 45 minutes going through this training. It may take longer if you go back and review parts of the training. If you need to leave the training before you are finished, when you return, you should resume from the place you left.
- The course is formatted as a video that plays automatically when you click on it. You can leave the training and get back in and it will pick up where you left off.
- When you finish watching the video, next click on the Take Assessment link to take the quiz, which is 15 questions. You must get 100% to pass, but you can retake