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AGRICULTURE PRODUCER NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2011

STERLING RANGE TOUR

The Sterling County Range and Livestock Committee will sponsor a Range Program and Tour on **THURSDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 9 A.M.** The program will begin at the Sterling County Community Center and conclude with a tour on the Bill Foster Ranch on Highway 87 South.

Dr. Alyson McDonald, Extension Specialist for Rangeland Ecosystems, Ft. Stockton will be the featured speaker. The tour will include a discussion of mesquite control using MAT28 as an IPT leaf spray. MAT28 is a promising new chemical for controlling noxious brush species.

The program will provide two general TDA CEU credits for private pesticide applicator license holders.

The cost of the program is \$10. For more information, contact Chad Coburn at the Extension Office at 378-3181.

WEST TEXAS LIVESTOCK & RANGE CONFERENCE

The West Texas Livestock and Range Conference will be conducted on Thursday, July 14, 2011, at the Glasscock County Senior Citizens Center located in Garden City, Texas. This conference is coordinated by County Extension Agents from Midland, Martin, Howard, Glasscock, Reagan, Upton, Ector, Andrews, and Sterling Counties.

The program will focus on the challenges faced by West Texas Ranchers concerning rangeland health, herd management, the costs of developing infrastructure on their ranch. The conference will begin with a tour of the McDowell Ranch, where pastures will be used as the classroom laboratory. Extension Specialists will discuss the merits of the pasture, its current use, ideas for improvement, proper stocking rates of different livestock, and how wildlife will function in that specific ecosystem.

The West Texas Livestock and Range Conference will have the following Extension Specialists on site for this conference.

- Dr. Alyson McDonald, Extension Specialist for Rangeland Ecosystems, Fort Stockton;
- Dr. Bruce Carpenter, Extension Specialist for Livestock, Fort Stockton;
- Dr. Frank Craddock, Extension Specialist for Sheep and Goats, San Angelo;
- Mr. Ken Cearley, Extension Specialist for Wildlife, Amarillo.

Cost to attend this conference is \$20.00 per person who pre-register before Friday, July 8, 2011. Registration at the door is \$25.00 per person. Registration includes a catered lunch.

Five (5) continuing education units for licensed private pesticide applicators have been approved by the Texas Department of Agriculture for participation in this program.

For any further information, or to receive a pre-registration packet, contact your local Extension Office at the numbers listed below.

- Midland County Extension Office, 432.686.4700
- Martin County Extension Office, 432.756.3316
- Howard County Extension Office, 432.264.2236
- Glasscock County Extension Office, 432.354.2381
- Reagan County Extension Office, 325.884.2335
- Upton County Extension Office, 432.693.2313
- Ector County Extension Office, 432.498.4071
- Andrews County Extension Office, 432.524.1421
- Sterling County Extension Office, 325.378.3181

EQUINE HERPESVIRUS AWARENESS

An outbreak of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) has been traced to horses that attended the National Cutting Horse Association's (NCHA) Western National Championships in Odgen, UT on April 30 - May 8, 2011. Affected horses have been identified in Colorado. Additional states have possible cases pending and/or are looking for animals that attended the event and returned home.

Texas does **not** currently have any confirmed positives. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has identified all horses that attended the show in Utah and are currently working on contacting the equine owners and advising them to isolate exposed horses for at least two weeks, follow good biosecurity practices and watch for possible clinical signs.

EHV-1 Information Equine Herpes Virus is a common virus in equine populations worldwide. There are several strains of the virus, with EHV-1 and EHV-4 being most often involved in clinical disease. EHV-1 can cause respiratory disease, abortion and neurologic disease. The neurologic disease is sometimes referred to as Equine Herpes

Myeloencephalopathy (EHM.) ***Although EHV-1 is highly contagious among horses, it does not pose a threat to human health.***

Transmission EHV is transmitted primarily by aerosol and through direct and indirect contact. Aerosol transmission occurs when infectious droplets are inhaled. The source of infectious droplets is most often respiratory secretions. In the case of abortions, virus may be present in the placenta, fetal membranes and fluid, and aborted fetuses. Direct horse-to-horse contact is a common route of transmission of the virus, but indirect transmission is also important. This occurs when infectious materials (nasal secretions, fluids from abortions, etc.) are carried between infected and non-infected horses by people or fomites (inanimate objects such as buckets, etc).

Signs of EHV-1 Fever is one of the most common clinical signs and often precedes the development of other signs. Respiratory signs include coughing and nasal discharge. Abortions caused by EHV generally occur after 5 months of gestation. Neurologic signs associated with EHM are highly variable, but often the hindquarters are most severely affected. Horses with EHM may appear weak and uncoordinated. Urine dribbling and loss of tail tone may also be seen. Severely affected horses may become unable to rise.

It is important to remember that none of these signs are specific to EHV, and diagnostic testing is required to confirm EHV infection. Also, many horses exposed to EHV never develop clinical signs.

What to do if you suspect your horse has been exposed If you suspect your horse has been exposed to EHV, contact your veterinarian. In general, exposed horses should be isolated and have their temperatures monitored twice daily for 10 days. If an exposed horse develops a fever or other signs consistent with EHV infection, diagnostic testing should be performed. Testing of healthy horses is generally not recommended.

Useful Links/Resources

<http://www.aqha.com/>

<http://www.nchacutting.com/>

http://www.nchacutting.com/ag/shows/pdf/csu_20110515.pdf

http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Equine%20Herpes%20Virus.pdf

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>

Control of Mesquite using MAT28 as a IPT Leaf Spray

2010

Allan McGinty, Prof. & Ext. Range Spec., San Angelo
Scott Anderson, County Extension Agent, Brownwood
Wade Hibler, County Extension Agent, Burnet
Luther Dunlap, County Extension Agent, Coleman
Jason Byrd, County Extension Agent, Lampasas
Jamie Osbourn, County Extension Agent, Llano
Vance Christie, County Extension Agent, Brady
Brent Drennan, County Extension Agent, Mason
Jerry Kidd, County Extension Agent, Menard
Tom Guthrie, County Extension Agent, Goldthwaite
Zach Wilcox, County Extension Agent, Sweetwater
Marty Gibbs, County Extension Agent, Ballinger
Neal Alexander, County Extension Agent, San Saba
Rocky Vinson, County Extension Agent, Albany
Chad Coburn, County Extension Agent, Sterling City
Robert Pritz, County Extension Agent, Abilene

Summary

During the summer of 2009 a liquid formulation of the herbicide MAT28 was applied at various individual plant treatment (IPT) leaf spray rates, alone and in combination with other herbicides, to mesquite at locations within 15 counties in West Central Texas. The data presented in this report represent apparent mortality 1 year following treatment.

Introduction

For many years the most effective herbicide IPT leaf spray treatment in Texas has been a mixture of the herbicides Remedy + Reclaim (1/2 % each). This is the treatment currently recommended by the Texas A&M Brush Busters program and averages approximately 80% root-kill, based on the original control data used developing the Brush Busters program.

Dupont Chemical Company has recently developed new chemistry that has shown a potential to control mesquite when applied as a leaf spray. The active ingredient is aminocyclopyrachlor, which can be formulated as a 50% active dry flowable powder (which is mixed with water before spraying) or a 2 lb/gal a.i. liquid. This herbicide, presently called MAT28, is not labeled for sale at this time and will have a different trade name when it does become available to the general public. As of this date there is little to no data on the efficacy of various rates of MAT28 alone or in combination with other herbicides when applied as an IPT leaf spray to mesquite.

Objectives

Define the rates and efficacy of MAT28 alone and in combination with other herbicides when applied as an IPT leaf spray to mesquite.

Materials/Methods

During the summer of 2009, MAT28 was applied as an IPT leaf spray to mesquite at locations within 15 counties in West Central Texas (Table 1). MAT28 was applied at 3 rates (Rate 1, Rate 2 and Rate 3) as well as at one rate each when mixed with 2 other herbicides (Concept 1 and Concept 2).

Herbicides were mixed with water and each spray mix included the addition of ¼% surfactant (Surfwet) and ¼% dye (Hi-Light Blue Dye). Treatments were applied using a backpack sprayer equipped with a 5500-X8 adjustable conejet nozzle. Individual mesquite trees were sprayed until the leaves were wet but not dripping.

All treatment plots were evaluated for percent apparent mortality during the summer of 2010.

Table 1. County, ranch and date of application.

County	Date Applied	Ranch
Brown	7/8/2009	Grooms
Burnet	8/5/2009	Felps
Coleman	7/10/2009	Greaves
Lampasas	6/25/2009	Spivey
Llano	5/26/2009	Holland
McCulloch	7/6/2009	Phillips
Mason	5/21/2009	Gallagher
Menard	7/15/2009	Jacoby
Mills	7/22/2009	Knight
Nolan	6/4/2009	Sweetwater FFA
Runnels	8/4/2009	Little
San Saba	5/19/2009	Doyal
Shackelford	6/3/2009	Owen
Sterling	6/24/2009	Foster
Taylor	8/6/2009	Parker

Results/Discussion/Economic Impact

Preliminary control data is presented in Table 2 below. The Nolan County herbicide trial was accidentally destroyed and the control data lost. The herbicide treatments in Mason and Shackelford Counties were applied with soil temperatures (12 in. deep) less than 75 degrees.

This data should be considered preliminary. The treatment plots will be re-evaluated in 2011 to document final control.

Table 2. Percent apparent mortality of mesquite 1 year after treatment.

Brown	100	100	100	100	100
Burnet	50	75	77	100	100
Coleman	100	100	100	100	100
Lampasas	100	100	100	100	100
Llano	100	100	100	100	100
McCulloch	100	100	100	100	100
Mason	90	88	100	81	100
Menard	94	94	100	100	90
Mills	100	100	100	100	100
Nolan					
Runnels	100	100	100	100	100
San Saba	100	100	100	100	100
Shackelford	25	86	100	50	39
Sterling	95	100	100	100	100
Taylor	80	95	100	100	100
	88	96	98	95	95

Herbicide IPT Leaf Spray Trials for Woody Plant Control

2010

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Michael Palmer, County Extension Agent, Paint Rock
Chad Coburn, County Extension Agent, Sterling City*

Summary

This project is designed to screen potential herbicide leaf spray options for “hard to kill” rangeland woody plants. Specifically these herbicide trials target agarito, lotebush, and persimmon. During the summer of 2008, the herbicides Surmount, GrazonNext, Milestone + Remedy, Cimarron Max and MAT 28 were applied as leaf sprays to the above species. A total of 13 counties participated in these herbicide trials.

In general, MAT28 was the most effective herbicide treatment on all 3 species 2 years following application, providing an average 83% control of Texas persimmon and 100% control of lotebush and agarito.

Problem/Introduction

There are several species of woody plants on rangeland that are particularly difficult to control with herbicides. Examples include lotebush, agarito and persimmon. Although these three species can be desirable under certain circumstances, they represent a management problem when they become too dense or grow within fence lines.

In the past few years several new herbicides have become labeled for use on Texas rangelands. Little is known concerning the efficacy of these new herbicides when applied as a individual plant leaf spray to most rangeland woody plant species.

Objectives

The objective of these herbicide trials is to evaluate the efficacy of GrazonNext, Surmount, Cimarron Max, Milestone + Remedy, and MAT 28 when applied as an individual plant leaf spray to persimmon, agarito and lotebush.

Materials/Methods

The herbicide trials were established at 13 locations during the summer of 2008 (Table 1). All treatments were applied as an individual plant leaf spray using a Solo backpack sprayer and spray wand tipped with an X-8 adjustable conejet nozzle. Herbicides were mixed with water (Table 2). Surfactant was added at a concentration of ¼%. Hi-Light Blue Dye was added to each treatment at a rate of 1/3 oz/gal of spray mix. Leaves of the target plants were sprayed to wet but not to the point of dripping.

Table 1. Location and date established for each replication.

County	Date	Ranch	Species
Concho	7/18/2008	Ralph Willberg	Agarito
Irion	7/1/2008	Parks	Agarito
Tom Green	8/12/2008	4-H Center	Agarito/Lotebush
McCulloch	6/23/2008	Guy Phillips	Agarito/Lotebush
Brown	7/16/2008	Simpson Dairy	Lotebush
Coke	6/3/2008	Salt Creek	Lotebush
Coleman	7/3/2008	Curtis Skelton	Lotebush
Mills	7/15/2008	Lawson	Lotebush
Runnels	8/4/2008	Doug Little	Lotebush
Sterling	6/19/2008	U Ranch	Lotebush
Burnet	7/22/2008	Ebeling	Persimmon
Llano	7/8/2008	Race Ranch	Persimmon
San Saba	7/9/2008	Tommy Lee Jones	Persimmon

Table 2. Treatments Applied

Herbicide	Rate
Surmount	2%
GrazonNext	2%
Milestone + Remedy Ultra	0.5% + 2%
Cimarron Max	.08 oz/5 gal Cimmaron + 5 oz/5 gal RangeStar
MAT28 (dry flowable)	0.95 oz/gal

Results/Discussion/Economic Impact

In general, MAT28 was the most effective herbicide treatment on all 3 species. Two years following application control averaged 83% for Texas persimmon and 100% for lotebush and agarito (Table 3).

There was visible grass damage under some of the MAT28 sprayed plants 24 months after treatment, although less than was present 12 months following treatment.

Table 3. Apparent mortality 2 years following treatment.

Species	Herbicide(s)	Rate(s)	Concho	Irion	Tom Green				Average
Agarito	Surmount	2%	60	20	35				
	GrazonNext	2%	83	64	45				
	Milestone + Remedy	1/2% + 2%	100	50	70				
	Cimarron + Rangestar	0.016 oz/gal + 1 oz/gal	25	0	0				
	MAT 28	0.95 oz/gal	100	100	100				
Texas Persimmon			San Saba	Llano	Burnet				Average
									60
									58
	Milestone +								26
	Cimarron + Rangestar	0.016 oz/gal + 1							0
									83
Lotebush			Sterling	Coleman	Brown	Mills	Coke	Runnels	Average
									68
									42
	Milestone +								43
	Cimarron + Rangestar	0.016 oz/gal + 1							0
									100

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

The Sterling County Extension Office has compiled a list of producer contact numbers. The list is laminated and can be picked up at the Sterling County Extension Office on the 2nd floor of the Court House. There are a few numbers that are wrong and will be corrected on future copies. **If your information is incorrect, or you would like to be added to the list, contact the Extension Office as soon as possible.**

NORTH AMERICAN HAIR SHEEP ASSOCIATION MEETING AND SALE

The North American Hair Sheep Association Summer Meeting and Private Treaty Sale will be held on **SATURDAY, JULY 9TH AT THE TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION AND RESEARCH CENTER ON HIGHWAY 87 NORTH IN SAN ANGELO.**

The event will include educational speakers, annual meeting and a noon meal.

Contact Randy McCrea at 378-2034 for more information.

