

**News From Your County Agent**  
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**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**  
**Zavala County**

Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week. We are moving right along with the month of August which has started off hot and dry so far. Next week at least for a short period of time it will be cool as we will have shade as a result of the solar eclipse that will take place on Monday August 21, 2017. The total solar eclipse will be visible along a narrow "path of totality" that runs from Oregon to South Carolina. Here in Zavala County we will still have a view of the partial solar eclipse where the sun will be covered between 60 to 70% at approximately 1:05 p.m. central daylight time. Remember don't ruin your eyes. When it comes to solar-eclipse glasses and other solar viewers, it's important to ensure that the product you're using is safe and effective at blocking harmful radiation from the sun. Just because something looks like suitable eye protection doesn't mean it's safe to use. Even if a product is advertised as a solar viewer, it's important to look for a label that says ISO, which stands for the International Organization for Standardization. The ISO is an independent organization that writes safety and quality standards for all kinds of things, including eyewear. Check with your local optical store such as Wal-Mart Vision and Glasses, Galo eye care and others to buy ISO approved eyewear, if you plan to view the partial eclipse in our area. **DO NOT LOOK AT THE SUN DIRECTLY AND BE SURE TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON YOUNGSTERS BECAUSE THEIR CURIOSITY WILL NO DOUBT TEMP THEM TO LOOK WITHOUT PROTECTION.**

**Mosquito Surveillance Program Supplies Are In**

The Zavala County Extension office has received the supplies for the Zavala County mosquito surveillance program to help identify and track *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. These two species of mosquitoes are the known vectors of Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya diseases.

This program will help educate the citizens of Zavala County on mosquitoes, mosquito management and vector-borne diseases.

The project will take about 4 weeks to complete, sometimes longer. This year since we are starting in August the project can be conducted every week. The mosquitoes should be active from now until October, giving us plenty of time to find them. The project consists of setting 5 traps at 5 different sites (a total of 25 traps) WEEKLY. The traps are placed out beginning on Monday August 21<sup>st</sup> and picked up on Thursday evening/Friday morning and then mailed to the Extension Center in Stephenville. We will use cups (which serve as the traps), seed paper for the traps, Ziploc bags, binder clips, prepaid envelopes and submission sheets.

This effort is of great interest to Department of State Health Services(DSHS), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas A&M University Health Science Center and a benefit to the citizens of Zavala county by providing information on the presence of mosquitoes that could transmit Zika. I will be seeking assistance from local citizens in Batesville, Crystal City and La Pryor as well as 4H members and anyone that would like to help. These volunteers can help set the traps or give a location for them to be set. If you would like to help or want additional information about this program please

feel free to contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

### **Lamb and Goat Validation Will Take Place Next Month**

If you are a 4-H family and have children who are planning to show a market goat or a market lamb in the 2018 Zavala County Junior Fair in January the deadline to get these animals is quickly approaching. All lamb and goat projects for the local show will take place on Saturday September 23, 2017 at the ZAE stockshow grounds in Crystal City from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for lambs and breeding ewes and from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon for meat goats and breeding doe's. For more information about the local validation process or for assistance in locating a lamb or goat project contact the Zavala County Office of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, by calling 830-374-2883 or go to the Zavala County AgriLife Extension Service Website at <https://zavala.agrilife.org/>. This information will also be available on Facebook and twitter.

### **Tip of The Week: Pullout Your Tomatoes and Other Plants-It's Time For Fall Gardening**

Perhaps the hardest thing to do before you start your fall garden is to pull out some of those plants that have been nurtured from "babies" in the spring to monsters now. This takes courage and faith! It is recommend that all plants, weeds included, be removed except okra, cherry tomatoes and pole beans if the foliage is healthy. Large-fruited tomatoes may have some small ones still hanging on, but unless you have at least 20-25 good-sized fruit, pull them out--make green tomato relish or a good batch of fried green tomatoes. If you recall, the largest, best tomatoes you had this spring were the first ones produced. The tomato plant has gotten old, diseased, and damaged by insects; it will never produce an abundance again. Besides, it is too large to be manageable as far as insect and disease populations are concerned. Pull the old plants up and discard them. Give them to the garbage man. Don't try to compost insect and disease-ridden plants--spider mites don't compost!

Remember the sun patterns will change as we go into the fall and winter part of the year. The areas where you had full sun may be shade in late fall. All vegetables require some sunlight; the most popular vegetables require full sun. "Full" sun means at least 8 hours of intense, direct exposure. If such exposure is not received by crops such as tomatoes, peppers and squash (vegetables that contain seed), the plants grow spindly, they have weak stems, drop blooms and are generally nonproductive. Shade in the afternoon (after 3 p.m.) is wonderful; shade in the morning is acceptable.

Timing is critical if you want to be successful with your fall garden. Know how many days the vegies you plan to grow need before the first frost takes place and bring their existence to an end. The average first frost day for Zavala County is December 2<sup>nd</sup> so plan accordingly. With these dates in mind, a gardener can decide which frost-susceptible vegetables to plant, when to plant and whether to use transplants or seeds.

Fall vegetable crops are categorized as long-term and short- term crops. Duration of these crops is dependent upon when the first killing frost occurs and the cold tolerance of the vegetables. Plant long-term, frost-tolerant vegetables together. Frost- tolerant vegetables include beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, collards, garlic, kale, lettuce, mustard,

onions, parsley, spinach and turnips.

Plant short-term, frost-susceptible vegetables together so that they can be removed after being killed by frost. Frost protection and the planting of a cereal rye cover crop are facilitated if such a grouping system is used. Frost-susceptible vegetables include beans, cantaloupes, corn, cucumbers, eggplants, okra, peas, peppers, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, tomatoes and watermelons. Keep in mind the frost sensitivity of various garden vegetables with **FS meaning frost-susceptible** crops which will be killed or injured by temperatures below 32 degrees F. and **FT meaning frost-tolerant** crops which can withstand temperatures below 32 degrees F.

The quick (30-60 days) maturing vegetables are: beets-**FT**; bush beans-**FS**; leaf lettuce-**FT**; mustard-**FT**; radishes-**FT**; spinach-**FT**; summer squash-**FS**; turnips-**FT**; and turnip greens-**FT**.

The moderate (60-80 days) maturing vegetables are: broccoli-**FT**; Chinese cabbage-**FT**; carrots-**FT**; cucumbers-**FS**; corn-**FS**; green onions-**FT**; kohlrabi-**FT**; lima bush beans-**FS**; okra-**FS**; parsley-**FT**; peppers-**FS**; and cherry tomatoes-**FS**.

The slow (80 days or more) maturing vegetables are: Brussels sprouts-**FT**; bulb onions-**FT**; cabbage-**FT**; cantaloupes-**FS**; cauliflower-**FT**; eggplant-**FS**; garlic-**FT**; Irish potatoes-**FS**; pumpkins-**FS**; sweet potatoes- **FS**; tomatoes-**FS**; watermelon-**FS**; and winter squash-**FS**. To see a list of vegetable varieties for Zavala county please go to [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg\\_variety/search.php?county=Zavala&co=Search+by+County](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/search.php?county=Zavala&co=Search+by+County) or go to [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg\\_variety/](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/) and then select the county you live in to get a list of vegetable varieties for your specific county. Again I cannot emphasize enough that proper timing is probably the most important factor in successful fall gardening. Regardless of variety selected or cultural practices used, if a gardener does not do the right thing at the right time, any chances of success are diminished. Have a great week.

August 14-18, 2017.