

News From Your County Agent
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Goodbye July and hello August. What an exciting and rare July we had this year. We started the month with below normal temperatures, decent rain in most parts of the county, a cold front last week and another round of below average temperatures for this time of year, so who knows what August will be like. Last Thursday morning (July 24th) had to be one of the coolest days in July that I have experienced in this part of the world, reminding me that fall is just around the corner. Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week.

4-H Enrollment Begins August 15, 2019

If you are considering joining a 4-H club in Zavala county you are reminded that you need to enroll beginning Thursday, August 15, 2019. Signup on 4HConnect after you have found a project and club that is right for you! Youth members are required to pay a \$25.00 participation fee if enrolled by October 31st, and a \$30.00 fee from November 1st to the completion of the 4-H year. Adults and youth will need to enroll on 4HConnect and be active to be considered an official member of Texas 4-H in Zavala county. An active enrollment is required in order to register and participate in all 4-H activities and events. Each year on August 15th all membership in Texas 4-H goes to inactive and all youth and adult volunteers must re-enroll.

Major Show Lamb and Goat Tag Orders Will Begin. The time to decide if you will be showing a lamb or a goat project for the upcoming 2020 shows has come. Beginning this week on August 1, 2019 orders for state lamb and goat validation tags will begin. The cost for the tags is \$15.00 per tag. You will need to come by the Zavala County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to place your order and pay the cost for each tag you order. The last day to place your order will be at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. After you order your tags the tags will be shipped to the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Once tags are received individuals that ordered tags will be notified of the date, location and time when the state validation will take place. According to the state lamb and goat validation guidelines all state validations must take place from October 1st through October 31st, NO Exceptions. For more information regarding this process contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

Tip of the Week: Tips for Herbicide Selection For Your Home Lawn It can be difficult for homeowners to differentiate between herbicide products available at popular home and garden distributors. This weeks tip of the week provides an overview of several active ingredients commonly found in widely-available herbicides and simple tips for product selection. Lawn weeds can often be an indication of other underlying issues compromising turfgrass growth and development. Issues may include environmental stresses—such as shade, drought, or heat—or stresses caused by improper management—including inappropriate mowing, fertilization, or irrigation. When tackling a weed problem, it is essential to develop a comprehensive weed management program that optimizes chemical control and reduces the risk of future weeds. Before selecting an herbicide product, consider the following:

1. Preventative Control: Take steps to prevent the introduction of new weeds into your lawn via seeds or vegetative structures. For example, lateral stems such as rhizomes or stolons can root into the soil and establish new plants. Use reliable sources and take care when introducing new seed, sod, sprigs, topsoil, or compost across your lawn. These materials have the potential for contamination. Keep mowers, string trimmers, and similar equipment clean and free of debris to avoid transporting weeds along with the equipment. When weeds are producing seed heads and flowers, bag and remove clippings to prevent weed dispersal.

2. Mechanical Control: Regular mowing and physical removal of weeds by hand-pulling or with hand tools can help reduce weed pressure. Particularly when weeds are more mature, manual removal may be more effective than the use of postemergence herbicides.

3. Cultural Control: Good cultural control involves adopting practices that support healthy, dense turfgrass, which is the best defense against weeds. Proper mowing, irrigation, and fertilization practices are vital in supporting healthy turfgrass growth and reducing overall weed pressure. To learn more about appropriate cultural management, visit the AggieTurf website (<https://aggieturf.tamu.edu>).

To begin making a herbicide selection you need to know the following. Proper weed identification, proper turf identification (What kind of grass do you have) and whether to buy a pre-emergent or post emergent herbicides (which target the weed's life cycle). Pre-emergence herbicides are products designed to prevent seedling emergence and development. They are best applied before seed germination. For this reason, these products are often most effective on annual weeds. In Texas, these products are typically applied to lawns twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall. Postemergence herbicides are generally going to be much more effective when applied earlier in a target weed's life cycle. As weeds mature and grow, product uptake and movement within the weed becomes more limited. It is important to scout judiciously for new weeds during transition periods in the spring, early summer, and fall. In some cases, it may be appropriate to apply pre- and postemergence herbicide products simultaneously for best results.

Before using any lawn care product, read the label in its entirety. Follow the instructions carefully. There are critical parts of the label that you can use to streamline product selection. Many product labels are available on the manufacturer website as PDF documents to be reviewed online rather than on the product packaging. Another useful resource is the Crop Data Management Systems (CDMS) Label Database (<http://www.cdms.net/Label-Database>). In addition to searching for product brand names, the CDMS Label Database also offers an advanced search option to review products labeled for specific crops, sites, and target pests.

Many products available to homeowners for spot treating are formulated and packaged as "Ready-To-Use" or "Ready-To-Spray." Follow label recommendations for appropriate application of the product for best results. Products designed for hose attachments may have different settings to change the concentration of the product being applied. Follow label recommendations for these products as well. In some cases, there may be dozens of unique weed species present in your landscape. Do not feel overwhelmed. Focus on identifying general trends in the types of weeds present. Questions to consider include: Are there mostly broadleaf weeds or grassy weeds? Are the weeds mostly annuals or perennials? Having a general idea of what you are dealing with will

help you select the most effective product for your unique situation. To help you do that we at AgriLife Extension have just completed a brand new A Homeowner's Guide to Herbicide Selection for Warm-Season Turfgrass Lawns complete with color pictures of common lawn weeds and all the information you need to buy the right herbicide for your particular lawn. For a copy of this publication contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-274-2883 and ask for publication #ESC-055. Have a great week. M.V.

July 29-August 2, 2019

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