



**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION - FRIO COUNTY**

**FRIO COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER**

**Dear Agricultural Producers:**

We are pleased to be able to provide you with information contained in this newsletter. The Frio County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter is a Bi-Monthly newsletter beginning August 2022. Best efforts have been made to include Agriculture & Natural Resources information that should be of interest to you and helpful in the management of your agricultural operations. A wide variety of educational publications are available upon request or by accessing the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website at [www.agrilifeextension.tamu.edu](http://www.agrilifeextension.tamu.edu). Our office hours are from 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., (Monday-Friday). It is recommended that office visits be scheduled in advance or by appointment as there will be times that I'm not in the office.

You are encouraged to read this newsletter and keep informed of all on-going agricultural events and activities. Try to do your best to attend Extension educational programs, workshops, etc., throughout the year as they are sponsored by your local Extension committees for your educational benefit. We would like to acknowledge the Extension Agricultural Specialists and cooperators including: The Cattleman, TSCRA, The Peanut Grower, Texas Farm Bureau, Aggie Horticulture, and the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Browsing, who contributed and provided the educational information for this educational newsletter. For any further questions regarding your agricultural operation, please contact the Frio County Extension Office (830) 334-0099, located at 400 S. Pecan St. Pearsall, Texas, or e-mail [brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu). Visit the Frio County AgriLife Extension website at <https://frio.agrilife.org>.



Sincerely,

**Brianna G. Gonzales**  
**County Extension Agent- Agriculture & Natural Resources**  
**Frio County**

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**Helpful Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Websites:**

- [agrilifeextension.tamu.edu](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu)
- [wateruniversity.tamu.edu](http://wateruniversity.tamu.edu)
- [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu)
- [livestockvetento.tamu.edu](http://livestockvetento.tamu.edu)
- [fireant.tamu.edu](http://fireant.tamu.edu)
- [texashelp.tamu.edu](http://texashelp.tamu.edu)
- [SouthTexasRangelands.tamu.edu](http://SouthTexasRangelands.tamu.edu)

# MONTHLY GARDEN CHECKLIST

## ADVICE FROM EXTENSION EXPERTS - AGGIE HORTICULTURE

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

-Don't let the Texas heat get your garden beat! Hot days and little rain are making it a difficult summer. Check out this garden checklist from our Aggie Horticulture experts!

### MOISTURE IS KEY

- Around 80% of the state of Texas is in a drought with 43% listed as extreme drought. Do your part to conserve and not waste water. This will involve the abundant use of mulch and careful selection of plants for survival.
- Be sure to raise your mower height to insure deep rooted grass. In addition, the taller grass will help shade the soil and decrease water evaporation.
- Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture. Summer watering and care for fall fruit and nuts is especially critical to insure quality of fruit in the fall. A thick layer of mulch will be beneficial to maintaining moisture, but also reducing weeds.

### SOW IT FOR THE FALL

- It is not too late to set out another planting of many warm-season annuals, such as marigolds, zinnias, and periwinkle. They will require extra attention for the first few weeks, but should provide you with color during late September, October, and November.
- Sow seeds of snapdragons, dianthus, pansies, calendulas, and other cool-season flowers in flats or in well-prepared areas of the garden, for planting outside during mid-to-late fall.
- Make your selections and place orders for spring flowering bulbs now so that they will arrive in time for planting in October and November.

**Learn more: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>**

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# BQA TIP



## **GETTING READY TO VACCINATE WEANED OR SOON-TO-BE WEANED CALVES?**

- As you administer vaccinations or other shots this summer and fall, it is important to follow BQA principles and label directions. Subcutaneous injections, under the skin, should be given in either the neck or elbow pocket.
- Intramuscular injections should be given in the neck, regardless of the animal or the type of injection. This rule includes estrus synchronization products sometimes used in replacement heifers and cows. Whenever the label allows for either intramuscular or subcutaneous injections, the subcutaneous route should be used. Additionally, leave at least 4 inches between each injection, and do not place one injection under another.

***For more information please visit: <https://tskra.org/>***



# KEEP CATTLE HYDRATED & HEALTHY

**Water quantity and quality are key during heat wave, drought**

**TEXAS A&M VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY**

WITH THE HEAT WAVE PUSHING TEMPERATURES ABOVE 100 ACROSS THE STATE, TEXAS LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS ARE REMINDED TO MAINTAIN THE WATER SUPPLIES AND WATER QUALITY THEIR ANIMALS RELY UPON. WITH MOST OF THE STATE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DROUGHT CONDITIONS, THE TEXAS A&M VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY, TVMDL, IS ENCOURAGING CATTLE PRODUCERS TO BE VIGILANT.

## Water Deprivation

To mitigate cattle losses due to water deprivation, ensure they have access to clean and plentiful water sources. To remain healthy in hot weather, a 1,000-pound heifer may need to drink about 20 gallons daily. The lack of rain may also lead to far less forage growth. In normal years, green forage may provide some of the daily water requirements for a grazing cow.

In drought years, forage becomes much drier and the amount of water available from forage will lessen. To avoid water deprivation, ensure water is readily available to your cattle daily. Check the pumps that draw water from wells. Make sure troughs and tanks contain water. Ensure nipple waterers in barns are working properly. Avoid holding cattle in pens that lack water sources for long periods, and do not work cattle in the heat of the day.

Ensure cattle know where to find water. Cattle are creatures of habit. If their preferred tank or trough dries up, animals may ignore other distant watering points in their pasture. When introducing cattle to new pastures, drive the animals to the troughs or tanks. Make sure weaned calves know where to find water. Watch cattle to ensure they are drinking adequately.

## Water/salt intoxication

When cattle become excessively dehydrated, sodium levels increase in all tissues, including the brain. If dehydrated cattle find water and drink too much too quickly, the liquid will rush to their brains. As pressure builds in the brains, cattle may develop instability or seizures, or may die from what is known as water/salt intoxication.

Salt intoxication does not mean the animal is getting an excessive load of salt, but rather the sodium concentration is increasing in the body because the animal is deprived of adequate water. If cattle become dehydrated, they need to drink water immediately – but only in small amounts. If the trough is empty, put a few inches of water in the bottom. Let all cattle drink at once to create competition for the water. Then repeat several times with 30 minutes between each watering until their thirst is satisfied. Monitor water intake and keep it gradual.

## Poor water quality

Hot summer days take their toll on ponds and tanks. As water sources dwindle during a drought, water may become concentrated with salt and other inorganic materials.

**[Learn more: agrilifetoday.tamu.edu](http://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu)**





# KEEP CATTLE HYDRATED & HEALTHY (part 2)

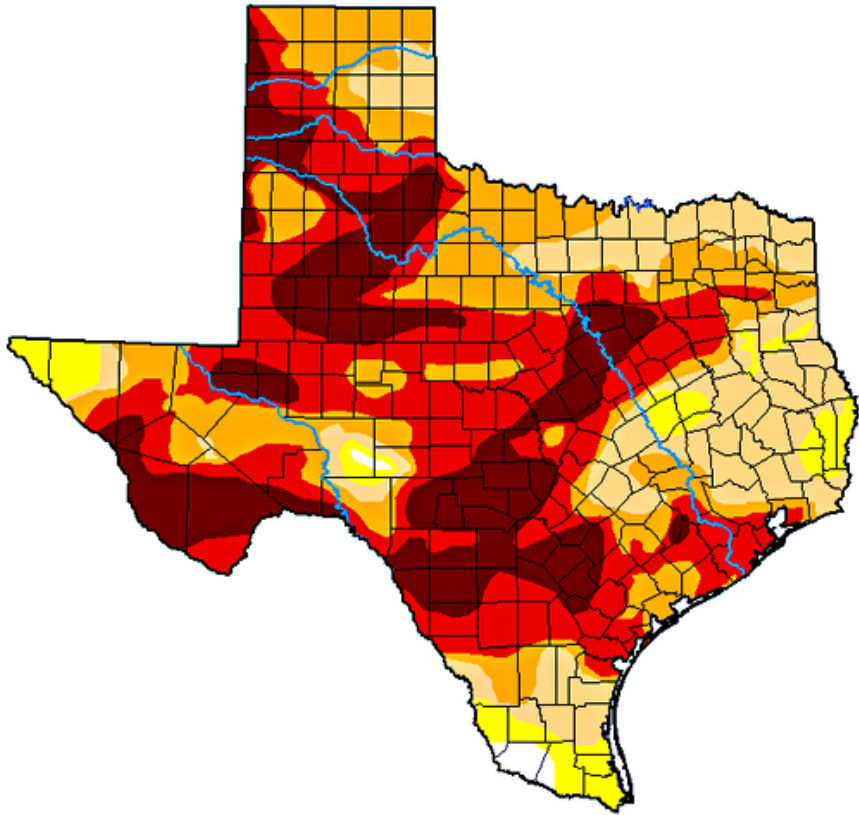
## Water quantity and quality are key during heat wave, drought

**TEXAS A&M VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY**

### Poor water Quality (continued)

- Unpalatable water may cause cattle to avoid troughs or tanks, leading to deprivation and dehydration.
- Test water for high concentrations of sodium, calcium, nitrates, magnesium salts and sulfates. If concentrations are high, new sources of fresh water must be provided.
- Warm, stagnant water may also encourage the growth of blue-green algae, some of which are toxic. The algae often concentrate on the downwind side of a pond.
- Dead rodents, birds or fish along the downwind side of a pond may indicate the presence of blue-green algae that could harm cattle. However, the first indication of blue-green algae could be one or more dead cattle.
- Even during a drought, toxic weeds may thrive along the edges of a water source. Look along the shorelines of tanks and ponds for toxic weeds, such as small-headed sneezeweed or knotweed, and control grazing to avoid toxic weeds.

**To learn more about testing options, visit TVMDL or call the College Station laboratory at 888-646-5623 and schedule a consultation with a veterinary diagnostician.**



### U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

Author:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

# New Varieties From Texas A&M AgriLife

BY: TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
(AS SEEN ON THE PEANUT GROWER MAGAZINE)



**Tamrun OL19 is an early maturing variety with smaller seed size**

The Texas A&M AgriLife Research peanut breeding program has announced the release of two new varieties, Tamrun OL18L and Tamrun OL19, for the West Texas and South Texas production regions. Both varieties are high-yielding, high-oleic, early maturing, runner-type peanuts, says Mark Burow, AgriLife research geneticist, who also has a joint appointment at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

## ***These cultivars meet the need for earlier maturing, high-oleic runner peanuts.***

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The goal was to develop a peanut that allows for earlier harvest than is possible with current cultivars. This will help reduce the potential for off-flavors associated with immaturity at harvest. Additional goals were to improve yield, grade and other agronomic characteristics when compared to Tamrun OL12 and Tamnut OL06.

“They’re early maturing varieties and have a better edible seed quality. They’re also high oleic, which all our Texas A&M AgriLife varieties released for the past 20 years have been,” Burow says. “So, they have a longer shelf life and are better for the coronary health of the consumer.”

Standard runner varieties of peanuts don’t mature very well in West Texas, he says. If they are immature and dry down sitting in the sun on a hot day, they might develop off-flavors – it’s called a fruity fermented flavor and is not a good taste consumers expect in peanut products.

Burow and other researchers have noticed that earlier-maturing peanuts tend to have less trouble with the fruity, fermented flavor.

“Flavor panels found that these two varieties have a good flavor, and we hope these will have less trouble with off flavors, too,” Burow says.

## **Meeting Producers’ Needs**

Development of a variety can take 10 years or more. Burow says during that time, Tamrun OL18L and Tamrun OL19 were tested against other varieties at multiple locations, anywhere from two to five locations per year for a number of years.

“They’ve done very well for yield,” he says. “It is important for a variety to have good yields for growers. One of the concerns was something that matures early may yield less. But these, especially Tamrun OL18L, yielded at the top of the test when compared to other commercial varieties.”

He says tests of Tamrun OL18L were yielding 475 to 830 pounds an acre more than some others, including Georgia 09-B and Tamrun OL11. Tamrun OL19 didn’t yield as high, but it has a smaller seed size that’s a little closer to the industry standard.

“Tamrun OL19 has a somewhat smaller seed that might be preferred by some of the processors. The larger-seeded OL18L might be the disadvantage for processors,” Burow says. “But yields a little bit better, which I think growers will appreciate.”

The varieties were bred in cooperation with other Texas A&M AgriLife peanut breeders, including from College Station, Mike Baring, now retired, and from Stephenville, Charles Simpson, retired but still active, and John Cason.

“The original crosses were made in Lubbock, along with the statistical analysis, but it’s been grown and tested in West, Central and South Texas. It’s a cooperative effort among the Texas A&M AgriLife locations,” Burow says.

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# New Varieties From Texas A&M AgriLife

BY: TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
(AS SEEN ON THE PEANUT GROWER MAGAZINE)



Continued

## A Lifetime Of Peanut Breeding

Burow has almost 30 years of total peanut breeding experience. He has been in the Lubbock region since 2001. Before that, he worked in College Station as a post-doctorate researcher for about five years and at the University of Georgia for two years.

“Because of the length of time it takes to get a new variety developed, we have to anticipate things a little bit,” he says. “We try to address what the growers need now, and certainly that’s important. But we also have to think of what they need five, 10, 15 years in the future. We try to project that and work on developing things based on that.”

Some traits they are working on now include higher yield, which is always important, and tolerance to water deficit — a critical trait because of declining water levels. Other traits include resistance to disease, including sclerotinia blight and leaf spot, and to root-knot nematodes.

All four market classes are grown in Texas, and, therefore, peanut breeders work on all of them.

“You never know when you make a cross if something will be good enough to be released. So, we’re working on all four market classes at the moment,” Burow says.

He expects a Virginia variety to be released later this year.

“After the Virginia, I think a runner variety that grows well under limited amounts of water will be our next release,” Burow says. “Growers still want a peanut that can yield reasonably well with reduced irrigation water.”

**Please visit: <https://peanutgrower.com/>  
for more information**

## A ‘Less Thirsty’ Variety

A general rule of thumb is peanuts require about 20 to 28 inches of water to grow. The hope is that growers can get maybe half of that from rainfall and the rest from irrigation.

To develop the “less thirsty” peanut variety, Burow says varieties are grown with one-third of the normal water or 6 to 10 inches less.

“Our testing gives them about 16 inches during the growing season, which allow us to test the peanuts under a lot of stress to find which ones do best with less water,” Burrow says.

“Water deficit is used from June through August for two reasons,” he says. “One is that’s when it’s hottest and growers are harder pressed to pump enough water. Secondly, studies have shown that the amount of genetic variability in peanuts is greatest during the mid-season, so the thought is that we can make the best gain in that time of year also.”

The new releases will now go to Texas A&M Foundation Seed Service in Vernon for seed increase. PG

### Tamrun OL18L and Tamrun OL19:

- Produced for West Texas and South Texas production regions
- High oleic
- Early maturing
- Runner-type peanuts

# SAVE THE DATES!

## *Fall 2022 Frio County AgriLife Extension Educational Programs*



- **South Texas Annual Peanut Growers Tour:**  
*September 22, 2022*
- **Multi-County Water Screening:**  
*October 12-13, 2022*
- **2022 Frio County AgriLife Extension and Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Range Tour:**  
*To be announced.*
- **Private Pesticide Applicator Training:**  
*To be announced.*

***\*For more information please contact:***  
**Brianna Gonzales-Frio County Extension Agent, at**  
**(830) 334-0099 or [brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu).**

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