

**TCAA AWARD
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NEWSLETTER**



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 Monthly newsletter beginning September 2023. 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. 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: TSCRA, Texas Drought Monitor, The Peanut Grower, AgriLife Today, 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) 505-7474, located at 400 S. Pecan St. Pearsall, Texas, or e-mail 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
- texaswater.tamu.edu
- aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
- livestockvetento.tamu.edu
- animalscience.tamu.edu
- texashelp.tamu.edu
- SouthTexasRangelands.tamu.edu

Adequate intake of energy and protein are the most important for cattle performance and health.



- Adequate intake of energy and protein are the most important for cattle performance and health.
- Meeting mineral requirements is also important.
- Providing cattle access to a complete, balanced mineral supplement is a good way to help prevent any mineral deficiencies.
- A complete mineral supplement will contain macro minerals, trace minerals, salt, and some vitamins.
- Loose mineral supplements and tubs are common free choice delivery methods.
- Make sure tubs contain salt otherwise provide a source of white salt along with the tub.
- Salt blocks only contain a few minerals and are not appropriate options in most situations.

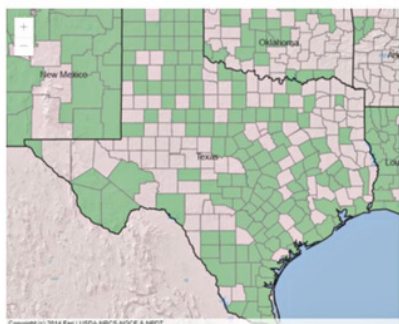
For more information:



Beef Cattle - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

RANGELAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION

By: Stacey Hines Ph. D., Assistant Professor, Rangeland Habitat Management Specialist



Distribution Map Credit: USDA Plants Database @ plants.usda.gov

Western Ragweed

Ambrosia psilostachya



Western Ragweed Distribution

Western ragweed is found throughout most of Texas. It is found in almost every state in the USA and in Southern Canada ([USDA Plants Database](#)).



Western Ragweed Look-a-Likes

Field ragweed looks very similar. To distinguish, field ragweed leaves are alternate all along the stem while western ragweed leaves are opposite at the base and alternate at top.

The seedhead of TX Giant Ragweed looks similar, but the leaves of TX Giant Ragweed are more broad- divided 3-5 times, while the leaves of western ragweed are more narrow and deeply divided or lobed.

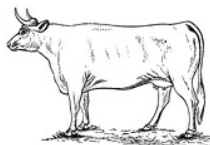
Click on the plant name or link below to learn more about the western ragweed look-a-likes.

- [1. Field ragweed](#)
- [2. TX Giant Ragweed](#)

Plant Identification Tips

Western ragweed is a native, perennial forb. The flowers and seeds are produced on a central stem that can grow up to 2 to 6 inches long. The flowers and seedheads are present from late summer through fall.

The leaves are deeply-lobed, gray-green in color, and hairy. At the base of the plant, the leaves are opposite along them stem. At the top of the plants, the leaves are alternate along the stem.



Livestock & Wildlife Value

Good grazing for wildlife, but poor value for livestock.



Management

Western ragweed can spread through seeds or vegetative tillers. It can be managed the same as many annual weeds. Treat in the spring when the plant is 4-6". For individual plant treatment, use 1% v/v Surmount or 0.63% v/v Grazon P+D. For broadcast, use 1-2 pints per acre of Outlaw or 24 oz per acre of Grazon Next HL (see [ERM-1466](#)).

Parts of this article were derived from:

[ERM-1466](#)

[Plants of TX Rangelands: Western Ragweed](#)

Stacy L. Hines, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Rangeland Habitat Management Specialist

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Time to Create a Cold Protection Plan for Your Garden

AgriLife Extension Gardening Guide Tips and to-dos for November

As the temperatures begin to head downward, Texas gardeners need to start planning and preparing their gardens for seasonal changes.

“Wetter and cooler weather is predicted as we move into the November gardening season,” said Larry Stein, Ph.D., [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) horticulture specialist, Uvalde, and professor in the [Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Horticultural Sciences](#). “Now is the time gardeners need to be thinking about their cold protection plan.”

A protection plan helps gardeners prepare their plants and yards to survive colder weather, whatever month that may arrive in your part of Texas. Easing into a cold season is usually easier for plants when the temperatures steadily drop, but with the erratic weather Texas can have, it can be more of a rollercoaster of temperatures. It pays to be aware of how hardy plants are and if they are suitable for your region before you plant them. Even well-established plants that have done fine in the past may be under additional stress due to dryer and hotter conditions earlier in the year or if they’ve been subjected to the stress of insects or disease.

Enacting your protection plan

A plan for protecting plants from the cold should include mulch, mound trunks and plant covers as appropriate. The ground offers natural insulation, and mulch serves as an extra layer of insulation. Fallen leaves from trees can be mulched up – your lawnmower can do the work – and then used to protect those same trees or other plants in your yard. Leaves can also go into your compost pile. Keep in mind that some insects overwinter in leaf litter. Plants in pots outside can be clustered and covered together as needed. Some container plants may also need to come inside. When the water in the cells of plants freezes, ice crystals form and damage cells. Frost also impacts plants, but it is usually the top or outermost part of the plant that will take the biggest hit – unlike a freeze, which can kill the entire plant. “Now is also the time people should begin to monitor their lawn for late-season fungus issues, which could be exacerbated by receiving too much water or rain,” Stein said.

Beyond plants, protect equipment

A protection plan for your garden tools and lawn equipment is also important.

Drain gasoline from power tools and run the engine until fuel in the carburetor is used up unless you have made the switch to ethanol-free gas. Even with ethanol-free gas, running the gas out of the carburetor is a good idea. Drain and store garden hoses and watering equipment in a readily accessible location. The lawn and plants may need water during a prolonged dry spell, so they shouldn’t be inaccessible.

Continue being water-wise

Even just half-inch-plus rains can benefit landscape plants, especially in the areas of the yard and garden you have been able to continue to water. Despite recent rains, some of Texas remains under water restrictions, and streams continue to dwindle. “Unfortunately, such spotty and scattered rains do not end the water challenges, and we will need to continue to provide as much help as we can to those plants most valuable in our landscape,” Stein said.



November Gardening Tips

AgriLife Extension Gardening Guide Tips and to-dos for November

- **Enjoy eating cold crops**

As the temperatures cool, your cold crops will develop prime eating quality.

- **Don't let an orange persimmon fool you**

The full color of persimmons adds color to landscapes, but just because astringent persimmons turn orange does not mean they are ripe; a light frost seems to expedite this process.

- **An orange doesn't need to be fully orange to enjoy**

Citrus is another pop of color for gardens and yards as the weather turns. Most citrus does not need to be totally orange for prime eating quality.

- **Get your greens**

Now is the time for bi-weekly planting of salad greens, such as leaf lettuce, kale, chard, spinach and the like.

- **Plant containers, wait on bare roots**

Container trees and shrubs can be planted; wait until January to plant bare root stock.

- **Select and plant the appropriate annuals**

If you have not already done so, now is the ideal time to select and plant annuals such as pansies, violas, ornamental cabbages and kale.

- **Think ahead for spring color**

Plan now for your spring flowering season with a mixture of annuals and perennials.

- **Pause on pruning**

Don't get in a hurry to prune woody plants. Late December through February is usually the best time to prune them.

- **Order seeds to keep your options open**

Place orders for seeds this month so you will have them available when you are ready to plant. By ordering early, you will be more certain of getting the varieties you want. In addition to ordering seeds you are already familiar with, try a few new kinds each year to broaden your garden contents.

- **Bring the late-bloomers indoors**

Bring in late-blooming plants such as decorative kalanchoes or Christmas cacti so they may finish flowering in the warmth of the house.

- **Reduce fertilizer as needed**

Reduce the fertilization of indoor plants from late October to mid-March. An exception would be plants in an atrium or a well-lit window.

For more information:
AgriLife Today - Lawn & Garden

Timely rainfall helps cool-season crops establish before winter

Recent rainfall and cooler temperatures allowed producers across the state to plant cool-season crops and get root systems established before winter, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Outlook Brighter Coming Out of Drought

Throughout the last week, different areas across the state other than the Far West and Panhandle regions, received around 2 inches of rain on average, with some areas getting 3 to 5 inches of rain.

William Baule, Ph.D., Texas A&M University Department of Atmospheric Sciences regional climatologist at the Southern Regional Climate Center, said forecasts called for more rain and colder temperatures, which will continue to improve soil moisture conditions.

“Coming out of the second hottest summer for Texas, we have seen warmer-than-average temperatures until now,” Baule said. “But we’re seeing better weather trends for much of the state going into winter.”

Entering the winter season, outlooks are showing an equal chance for above or below normal temperatures, with a higher probability for precipitation entering into the El Niño pattern.

Weather Change Benefits Producers

An extremely dry and hot summer was followed by an abnormally dry fall, said Reagan Noland, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist, San Angelo.

“We usually have rain in late August and throughout September that helps finish our cotton crop and prepare for winter crops,” he said.

This year, though, the lack of rainfall, coupled with heat stress through the late summer months and into the fall, resulted in much of the cotton acreage failing or with extremely low yields.

“Irrigated crop systems in this region usually maintain productivity in dry years,” Noland said. “But coming out of a three-year drought, our irrigation water was depleted and couldn’t keep up with demand.”

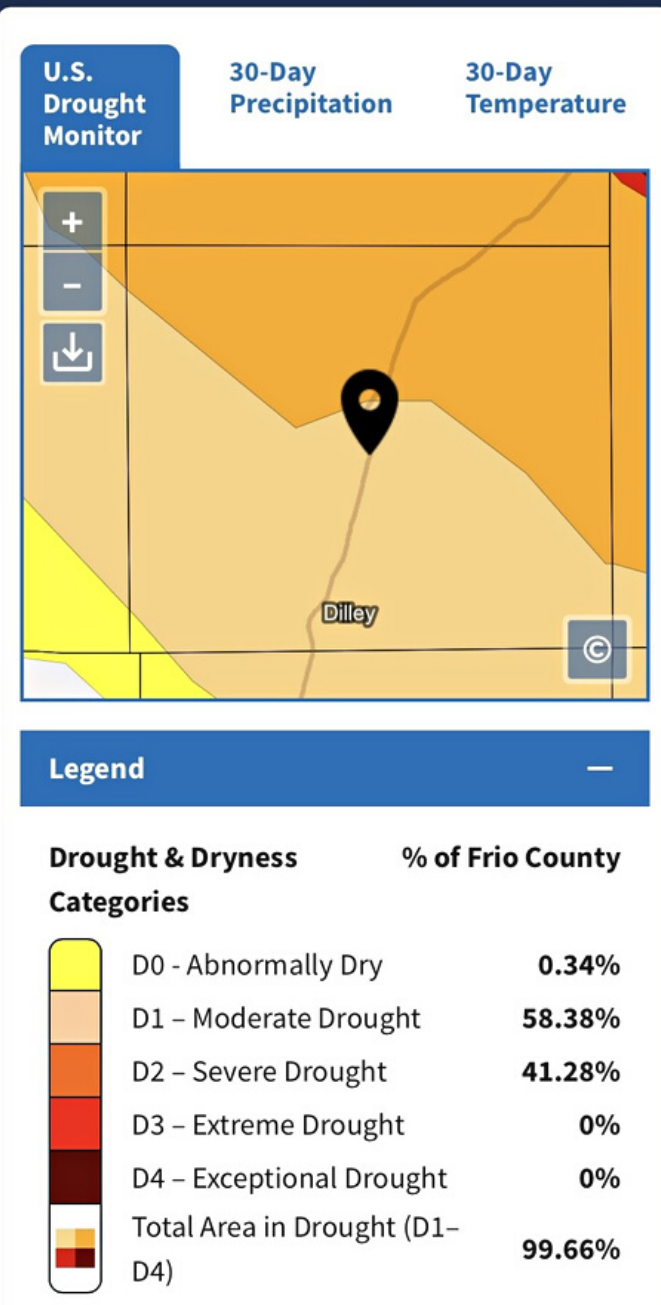
The recent rainfall brought producers some relief and allowed them to plant winter crops like wheat. They hope the El Niño pattern will continue to deliver above-average moisture, Noland said.

“This rainfall is tremendous for our winter crops,” Noland said. “It’s too late for the cotton, and a bit late for fall and winter grazing, but will provide our producers the soil moisture needed to get winter wheat established and off to a good start.”

[FARM & RANCH - agrilifetoday.tamu.edu](http://farm&ranch-agrilifetoday.tamu.edu)

Timely rainfall helps cool-season crops establish before winter

Current Conditions for Frio County



Weekly Crop Report - South Region

Temperatures dropped, and moisture swept across the area. Strawberry planting was in full swing. Harvest of peanuts and fall sorghum began. Citrus and sugarcane crops were being harvested. Cotton harvest was completed. Winter wheat crops were planted with many already emerging. Pastures and rangelands were improving with the rain, but more was needed as they entered their winter dormancy period. Producers slowed culling their herds and continued supplemental feeding. Hay supplies were short, and many were concerned that there would not be enough for the coming winter season. Local beef markets reported above-average volumes with solid prices for all classes of beef cattle. White-tailed deer were moving, sights of wildlife were increasing, and deer and quail hunters were expecting a good season.

FARM & RANCH - agrilifetoday.tamu.edu



2023 Multi-County Private Water Well Screening - Pearsall, TX

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

A Multi-County Private Water Well Screening was hosted on October 11, 2023, at the Frio County Extension Office. A total of 26 samples were screened for fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, salinity, and hydrocarbons. There will be another opportunity to screen your private water well samples on April 17, 2024, as well as attend an educational program focusing on water quality. This event was hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Frio, Zavala, Dimmit, La Salle, McMullen, and Atascosa counties.





LANDOWNER RIGHTS ON THE BORDER

EDUCATIONAL SERIES PRESENTED BY TEXAS & SOUTHWESTERN CATTLE RAISERS ASSOCIATION

Join TSCRA for a one-hour breakfast to discuss how landowners can reclaim their rights amidst the illegal immigration crisis. Attendees receive a free copy of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Landowner Border Law Handbook and will hear from attorneys, elected officials and industry experts. Series free to all, TSCRA member or not.

Pearsall

Wednesday, Dec. 6 | 9:00 AM
Pearsall Livestock Auction
2540 I-35 Business Loop, Pearsall

REGISTER



Kenedy

Thursday, Dec. 7 | 9:00 AM
Karnes County Livestock Exchange
1330 E State Hwy 72, Kenedy

REGISTER



Rio Grande City

Friday, Dec. 8 | 9:00 AM
Triple G Livestock Auction
12 Livestock Rd, Rio Grande City

REGISTER



SOUTHWEST TEXAS SOIL TESTING CAMPAIGN

Hosted By: Dimmit, Frio, Kinney, Medina, Uvalde, & Zavala Counties

Online Soil Education Workshop

Date: November 28, 2023

Time: 6 PM

Zoom Link:

**[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81247566336?
pwd=jQ8vvm7f9XZkmBiOqiJqx866jdadLa.1](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81247566336?pwd=jQ8vvm7f9XZkmBiOqiJqx866jdadLa.1)**

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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

SOUTHWEST TX BEEF CATTLE KICK-OFF

HOSTED BY: FRIO, LA SALLE, MEDINA, ZAVALA, BANDERA, DIMMIT, KERR & UVALDE COUNTIES



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

Frio County Extension Office
400 S. Pecan St.
Pearsall, TX 78061

Registration—8:30 A.M.

Program—9:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Come out and join us for the morning to discuss beef cattle topics that will include nutrition decisions, body condition scores, pasture management, market updates, and more!!

SPONSORED BY:



LUNCH PROVIDED

Topics

- Pasture Management
- Nutrition Decisions
- Increasing Stocking Rates through Brush Control
- Beef Cattle Market Outlook

RSVP Information

- Registration cost will be \$10 (CASH ONLY).
- To RSVP please call 830-505-7474.

2 TDA Pesticide Applicator CEUs

- 2 General CEUs

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*Happy
Thanksgiving*

****For more information please contact:***

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brianna.gonzales@ag.tamu.edu



Frio County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension