



TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

February AG/NR NEWLETTER 2022

HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

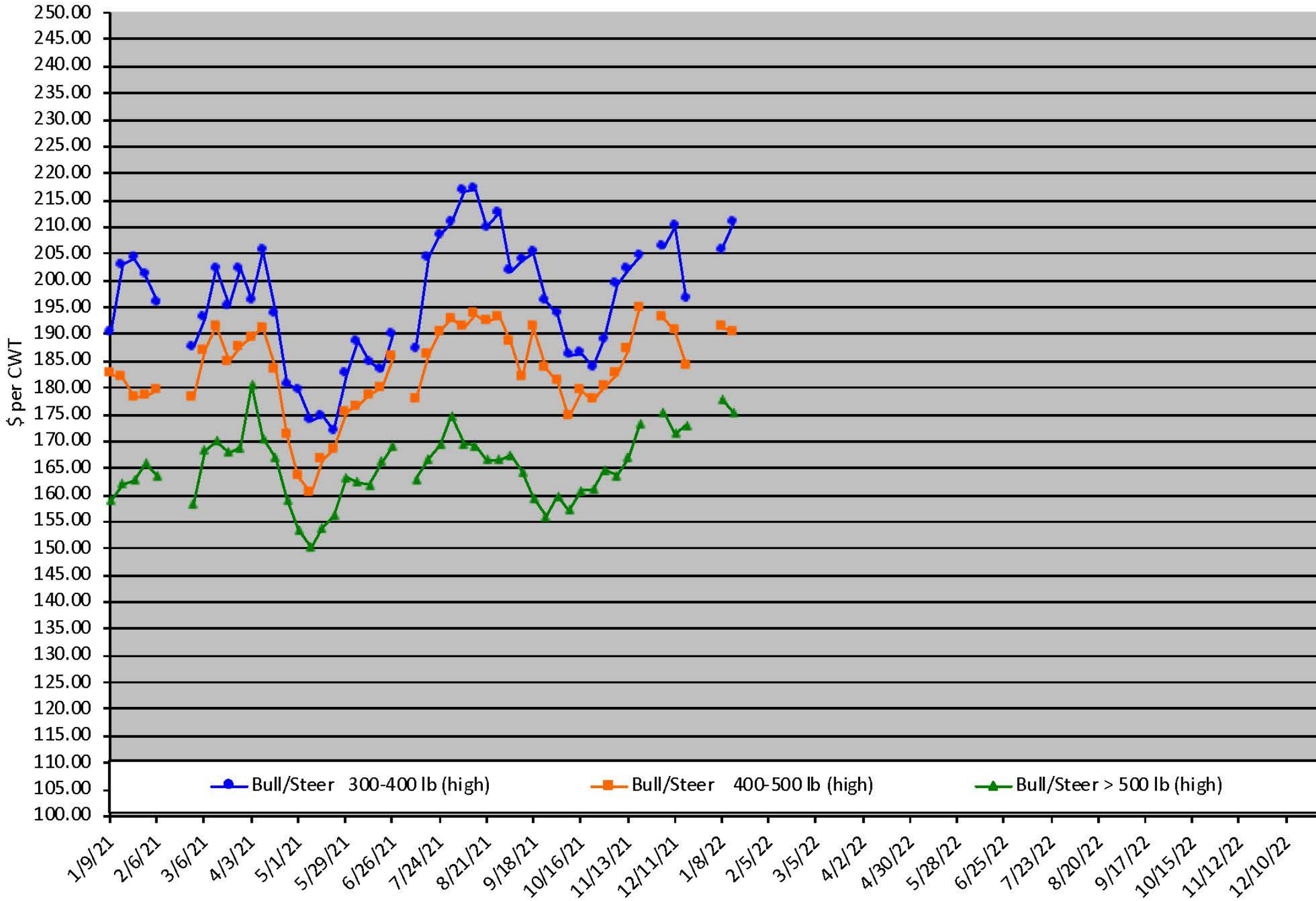
The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Cattle Price Trends

Calf Price Trends

Trend of the Highest Price Reported for Various Weight Calves, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

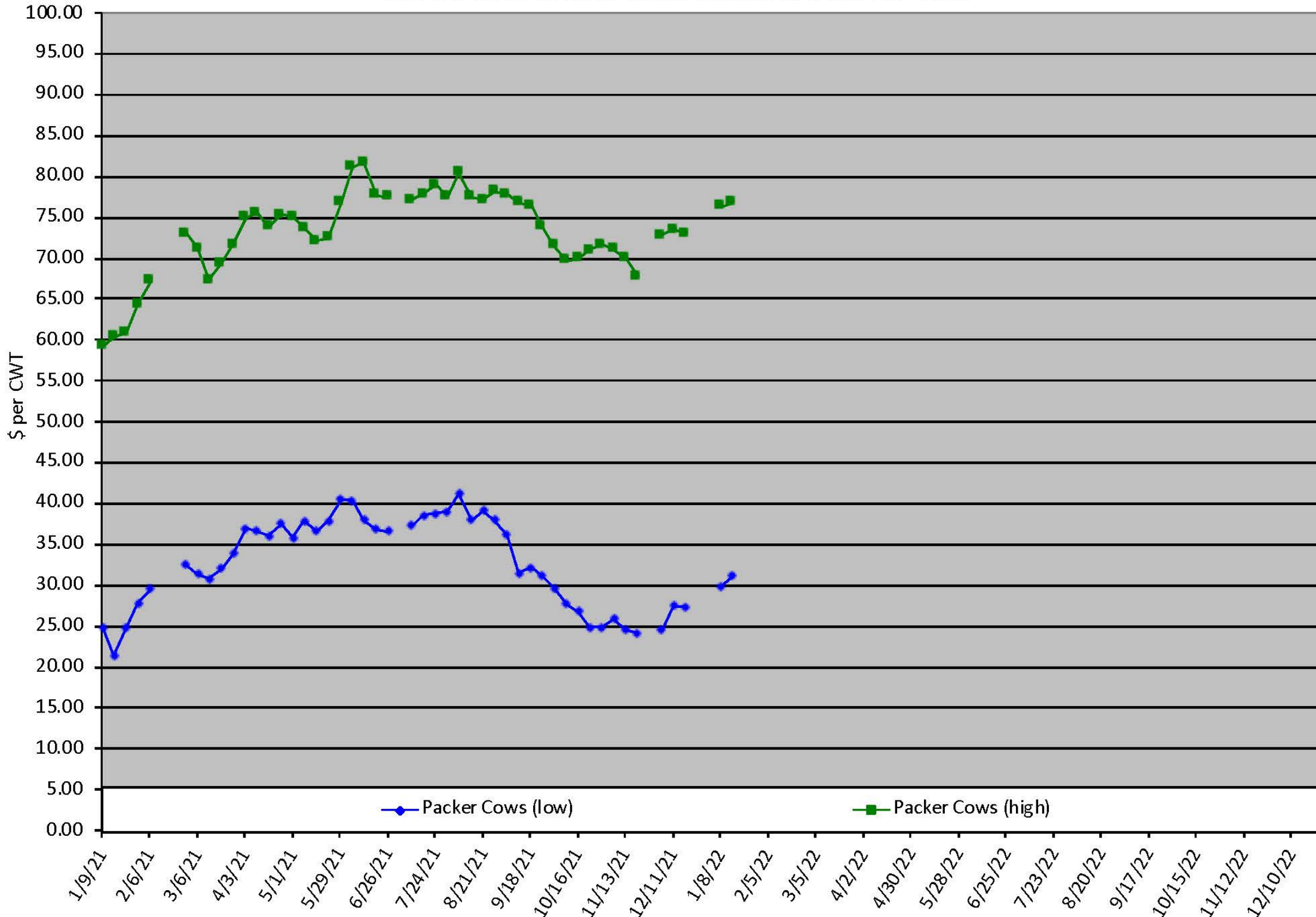
For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



Packer Cow Price Trends

Trend of High and Low Prices Reported for Packer Cows, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



Cattle price trends for the week ending 1/15/22. The graphs show the average of the highest prices reported for 6 livestock auction markets located in East and Central Texas.

East Texas Pasture Management Program

Friday, February 18, 2022
Virtual Program

5 Pesticide CEUs Available
(1 laws, 1 IPM, and 3 general)
Course # 0875283

Morning Session (8:30 - 11:30 am)

- Impact of Grazing Management on Weed Production
- Alternative Nutrient Sources for Bermudagrass
- Pesticide Safety

Afternoon Session (1:00 - 3:00 pm)

- Weed Control Strategies for Pastures and Hay Fields
- Laws and Regulations of Pesticide Use

Speakers include: Dr. Jon Jennings, Shelbie Powell,
Dr. Mark Matocha, Dr. Corriher-Olson, Dr. Banta



Registration Cost: \$35/ person for the program (5 CEUs)

Register online at: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Overton>
or call AgriLife Events @ 979-845-2604

Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 17 at 4:00 pm

Meeting will be conducted with ZOOM

Drs. Corriher-Olson and Banta will send meeting link out Thursday, February 17 to all of those that have registered and paid.

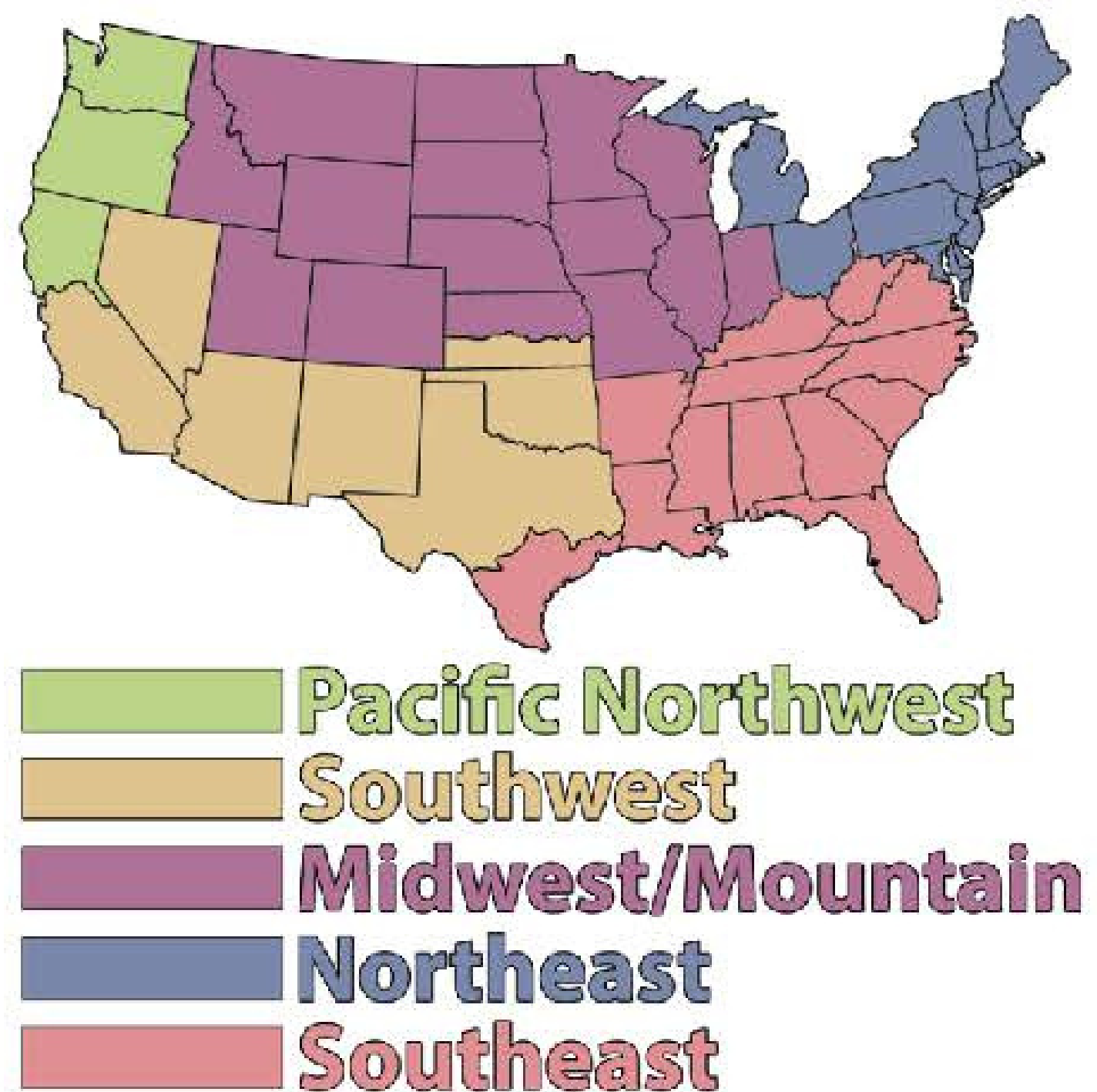
Two practice sessions will be offered on Thursday 17th for those who want to check out the process of connecting and viewing material

For more information on this program please contact Michelle Sensing @ 903-847-0611.

GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

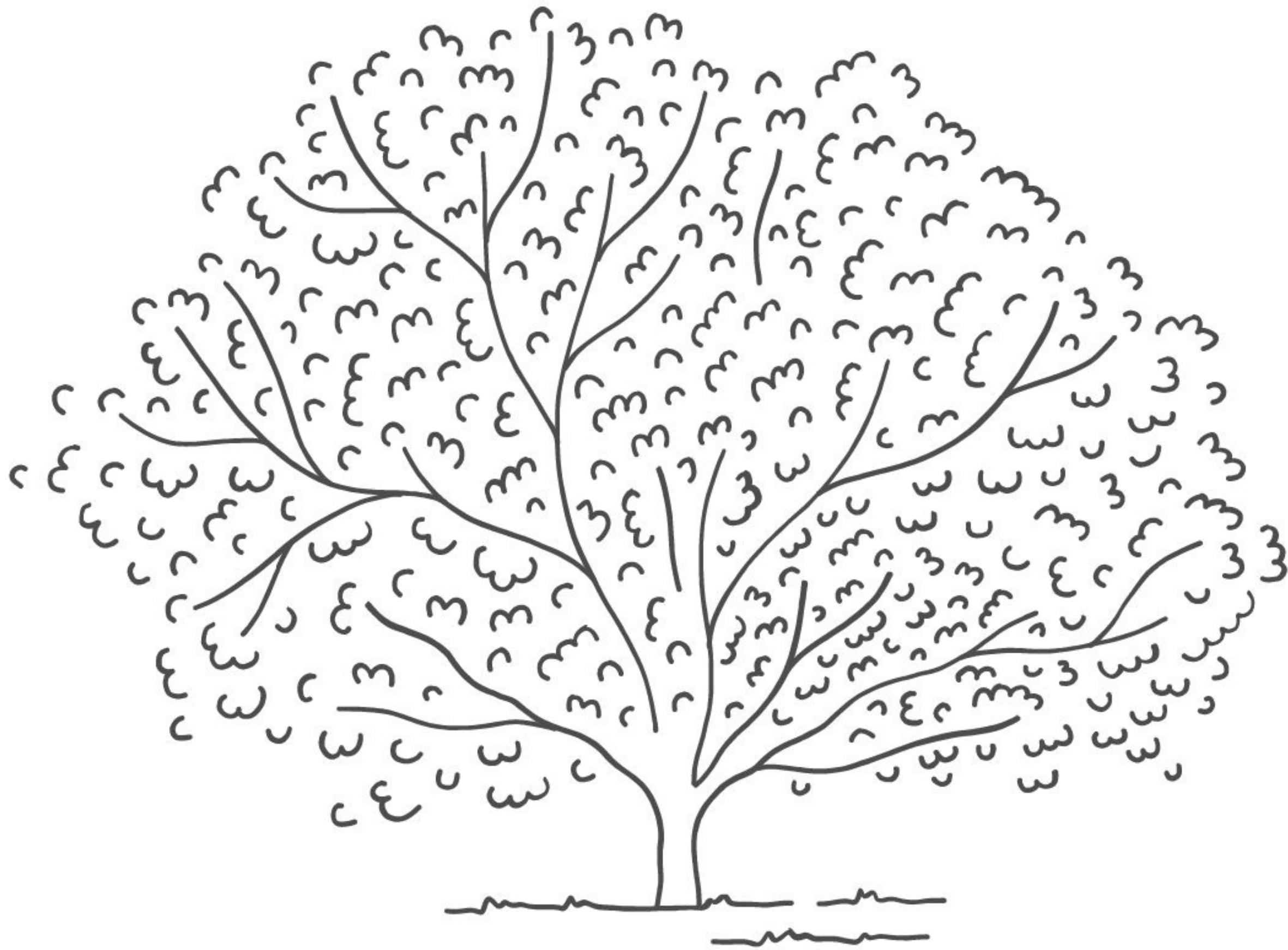
MARSHALL, TEXAS

- Most bare-rooted trees and shrubs as well as bare-rooted deciduous fruit trees can be planted now.
- Do not prune spring-flowering plants until after they bloom. When pruning, never remove more than 1/4 of the total plant.
- Finish pruning your roses. Begin fertilizing.
- You can begin planting perennial garden crops, such as blueberries, blackberries, and grapes.
- Continue to sow cool-season vegetable seeds, such as beets, carrots, cabbage, peas, and potatoes. Continue to transplant artichokes, asparagus, chard, lettuce, and onions.
- Finish pruning fruit trees and grapes this month; fertilize deciduous fruit trees with nitrogen when they leaf out; prune frost-sensitive citrus after spring growth.
- Many insects can be found in the garden during the winter months. To help control them, spray your plants with a dormant horticulture oil.
- Control the weeds in your garden while they are young and tender, or before they sprout. Remove weeds before they seed.
- Water lawns and gardens deeply once to twice a week, depending on the amount of rain. Do not overwater.
- Watch out for frost damage. Protect trees and plants if temperatures drop to the 20s for more than an hour.





HARRISON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS & THE TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE



ANNUAL TREE GIVE-A-WAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2022 @ 9:00AM-UNTIL GONE
HARRISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE SQUARE



PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Friday, February 4, 2022

Cotton Belt Building

1517 W. Front Street, Suite 116A

Tyler, TX 75702

8:30 am to 12:00 pm

An opportunity to obtain the required training for Private Applicators. *Training only, testing will not be offered.* Effective June 1, 2014, the Texas Department of Agriculture no longer offers paper exams. New testing procedures will be explained during the training.

The training is required for all Private Applicators. Study materials are available for purchase for \$40 including the Private Applicator General Manual, the Texas Department of Agriculture's Laws and Regulations Manual, and all the handouts/worksheets needed for this training. These materials should be purchased for review in advance of the training. A \$10 training fee will be charged the day of the training. **Cash or check only** made payable to the Livestock and Forage Committee.

Contact:

*To register for Training and/or to purchase study materials call
(903) 590-2980

Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension program should contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at (903) 590-2980 at least one week prior to the program or event.

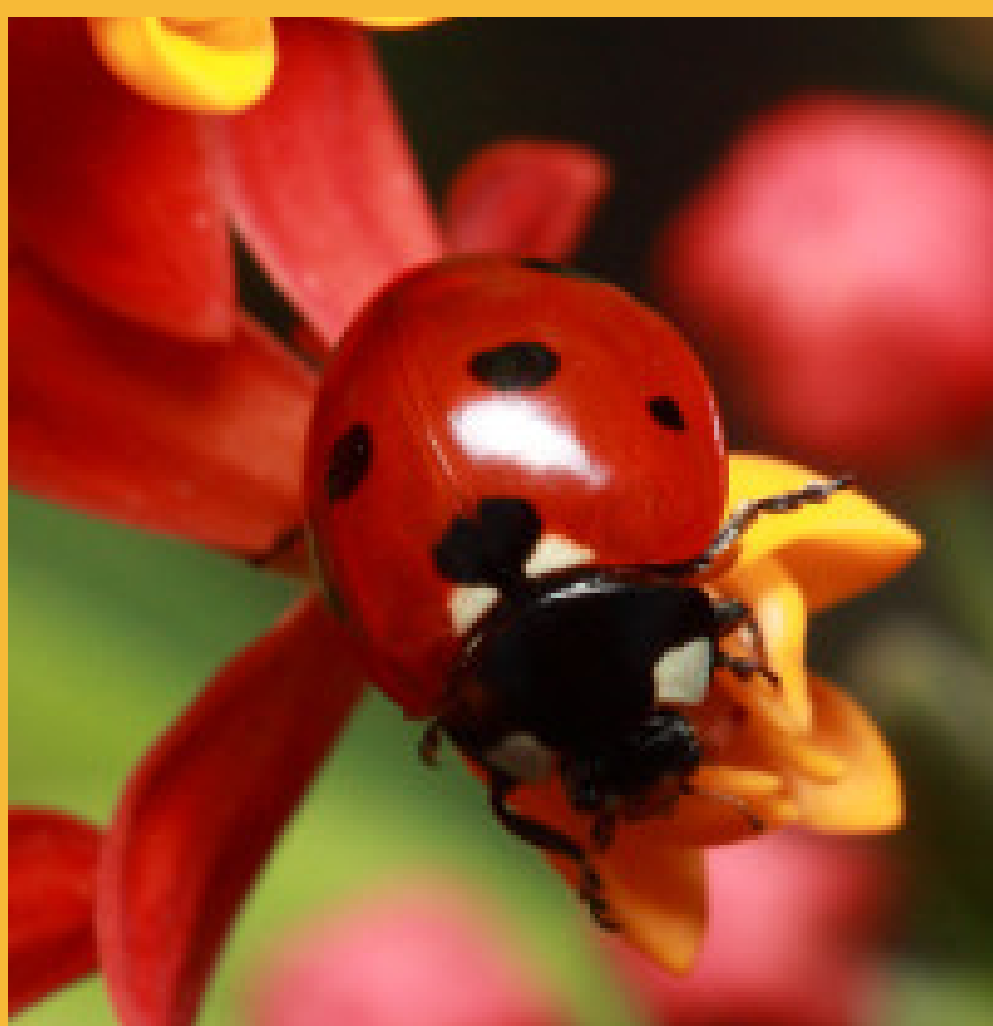
ASIAN LADY BEETLE

It is that time of year when Asian Lady Beetles make an appearance indoors, and usually in large numbers. While they can be a major nuisance, they shouldn't cause panic and some simple exclusion practices can help prevent this issue in the future.

Asian Lady Beetles are not native to Texas – they were introduced from Asia to the United States in 1960s and 1990s as a UDSA project to help reduce agricultural pests in several Southern and Eastern States from Louisiana to Connecticut. They are now found throughout the United States either from natural spread or from further introductions into the United States from Japan on freighters.

Asian Lady Beetles are a true lady beetle, better known as a ladybug. They are wonderful biological control agents of pests such as aphids in nature and during warmer months, help control those pests in our landscape. During colder, winter months, they have a trait that makes them different from other ladybugs – their propensity to find harborage in protected spaces, which often is our warm home. One way to tell the difference between Asian Lady Beetles and other species is that these guys have a marking behind their head that looks like an M.

Asian Lady Beetles found in the window of a home



Asian Lady Beetles tend to be attracted to light or lit surfaces and will congregate in mass numbers on sunny, Southwest sides of buildings. Especially those structure that are lighter in coloration, but really any surface will do as long as it is warmed by the afternoon sun. They will soon find cracks and crevices to squeeze through and often times get into eaves of homes, attics, or directly indoors.

When we have these up and down temperatures in winter, typical of Texas, they will become active on the warmer days and are noticeable inside the home, clustering and flying around windows, door frames or lights. The good news is that Asian Lady Beetles are not harmful to humans or pets. Even when consumed, they are not known to be toxic, although I imagine if a dog ate too many, it would get an upset stomach. But what they will do is leave a yellow stain on walls and surfaces, emit an musty odor, and just be a plain nuisance. You may love ladybugs outside in your garden, but who wants them indoors?

How do you get rid of them? Prevention is key, but it's often times thought of too late. Seal up around cracks and crevices along windows and eaves, use screens on vents and large holes, replace weather stripping that is worn around door frames. For those already inside, vacuum them up! Throw them back outside and let them do their thing in nature.

Pesticide treatments are not always effective. It's best not to focus on the indoors, but outside where they are entering. Where they are applied is key – put the pesticide where the ladybugs are entering... but if you know where that is, seal it up! The entry points are usually vents, eaves, soffits, windows and doors. Apply synthetic pyrethroids, such as bifenthrin, lambda cyhalothrin, delatmethrin, or cyfluthrin. But if the ladybugs are already indoors, it's too late to spray. In that case, pull out the vacuum.

OR – consider your house lucky! Ladybugs are considered a sign of luck after all!





TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE

Fire Information: Overview of Prescribed Burning

Fire has shaped the environment of Texas for thousands of years, and in many cases, wildlife have adapted to habitat conditions created by fire. With the help of Native American Texas Indians, it is estimated that some of the East Texas pine forests used to burn every two to three years. However, it is now often the case that land in East Texas has gone without such fire for decades. Careful introduction and management of fire by way of prescribed burning can benefit the land. It is likely that prescribed burning can help landowners accomplish many of the objectives they have set for their land.

Prescribed burning has the ability to encourage pine and reduce hardwoods and shrubs in East Texas uplands bringing both an individual stand and ecosystem back to historic and pre-historic conditions. This has been shown to benefit many game, non-game and rare animal species. However, the benefit to landowners can be better long-term economic return, increased opportunities for recreation, better aesthetics, and reduced risk from uncontrolled wildfire.



Benefits:

- Controls low quality hardwoods and shrubs that compete with pines.
- Prepares sites for future tree planting or natural regeneration.
- Increases sunlight to forest floor, producing more grass, flowering annuals plants and seeds for wildlife.
- Reduces risks of annosus root rot and brown spot needle disease.
- Improves visibility and access for marking and harvesting timber.
- Most nutrients are returned to the soil in a more readily available form for plants.
- Increases edge effects many species use when seeking travel routes, feeding spots or shelter.
- Improves visibility and access for forest recreation.
- May be used in combination with chemical or mechanical treatments to often enhance the results.

Cost:

Because prescribed fire works in harmony with nature, achieving desired results with prescribed burning is often less expensive and produces less undesirable effects than alternative methods such as chemical treatments or mechanical clearing. However, prescribed fire is a tool that can be used in combination with chemical or mechanical treatments to often enhance the results. Land that has gone without fire for some time may initially require a combination of treatments to prepare the land for periodic burning.

Fire Information: Overview of Prescribed Burning

Considerations:

In understory burning, fire intensity must be carefully controlled. It must be adequate to consume unwanted dead brush and litter, and to either kill or to only renew the understory vegetation, depending upon the objective, while not intense enough to kill or damage the overstory pines. Although southern yellow pines have thick bark with good insulating qualities, the roots and the growing tips of the pines are always vulnerable to hot fire. Low to moderate flame heights and a steady wind within the stand are often desired to keep heat from rising into the crowns. Cooler temperatures also allow more heat to be generated at flame level before killing temperatures are reached in the tree canopy. Generally, needle scorch up to one-third of the crown will cause little damage or loss of growth. Adequate moisture in the uppermost layer of soil is also needed to prevent fire from roasting the fine roots, which feed and support the trees. This moisture is critical in previously unburned stands as the fine roots may have grown up into the above-ground pine litter.

In controlling fire intensity, fuel loading, fuel moisture, temperature, relative humidity, wind, and burning technique must all be considered. Various burning techniques are used to get the fire intensity needed in a particular stand with the weather conditions existing that day.

Dormant season burns every 2-3 years will reduce fuel loading and top-kill woody brush. The basal and root sprouting that will occur from the top-killed woody vegetation will likely produce browse that is more palatable and attainable to wildlife than was present before the burn. Dormant season burns are typically done from December through February.

Growing season (spring) burns will greatly reduce the number of woody stems that regenerate and will promote more native grasses in the understory. Burning during this time can, however, temporarily interrupt nesting and feeding areas for game birds if conducted over a very large area. Growing season burns can be successfully done if the canopy is fairly open, if the fuel load is not heavy, and if the vegetation is not too green or spotty to carry a fire. It is typically necessary to conduct multiple dormant season burns over several years to prepare a site for a growing season burn. Growing season burns may be done in May and early June if the weather conditions are appropriate and if there is not heavy fuel loading. With warmer temperatures and usually drier weather, growing season burning

requires extra precaution. Growing season burns are often done on a three to five year cycle or as needed.



Precautions:

Prescribed burning should always be done by a certified burn vendor. An acceptable burning plan should first be formulated with appropriate documentation prior to conducting the burn. This plan should detail all information regarding the planned prescribed fire and should be followed as closely as possible. Fuel dryness, wind speed and direction, humidity, topography, fuels, and smoke management all play a part in conducting a safe and successful burn. Tree mortality and wildfire escape can occur in cases of high fire intensity.

Before a prescribed burn is conducted, neighbors, the local fire department and the Texas A&M Forest Service should be informed. The Texas A&M Forest Service will need to know the type burn (fuel reduction), location, number of acres, landowner name, person responsible (person conducting the burn), and a telephone number. Weather conditions and fire forecast information may be obtained from Texas A&M Forest Service Dispatch Offices.

PINEYWOODS CEU CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 11TH
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8 AM
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 9 AM



Beaver Control for Landowners

Penny Wilkerson- Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist

Integrated Pest Management for Livestock Operations

Michael Hampton- Central Life Sciences

Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update

Dr. Mark Matocha- Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Aquatic Weed Identification and Chemical Control

Dr. Brittany Chesser- Aquatic Vegetation Management Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Handling and Disposing of Chemicals

Dr. Mark Matocha- Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

MUST RSVP BY 2/4/2022

REGISTRATION- \$ 35
REGISTRATION LIMITED TO 60 PEOPLE
CALL YOUR EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER

PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT
UPSHUR RURAL
1200 W TYLER ST
GILMER, TX
75644



LUNCH PROVIDED BY LEGACY AG CREDIT
5 CEUS AVAILABLE (1 LR, 1 IPM, 3 GEN)

Legacy
Ag Credit, ACA

KEEP IN TOUCH

*Harrison County
Extension Office*

903-935-8413

102 W. HOUSTON
MARSHALL, TEXAS

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION