



TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

February AG/NR NEWLETTER 2023

HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

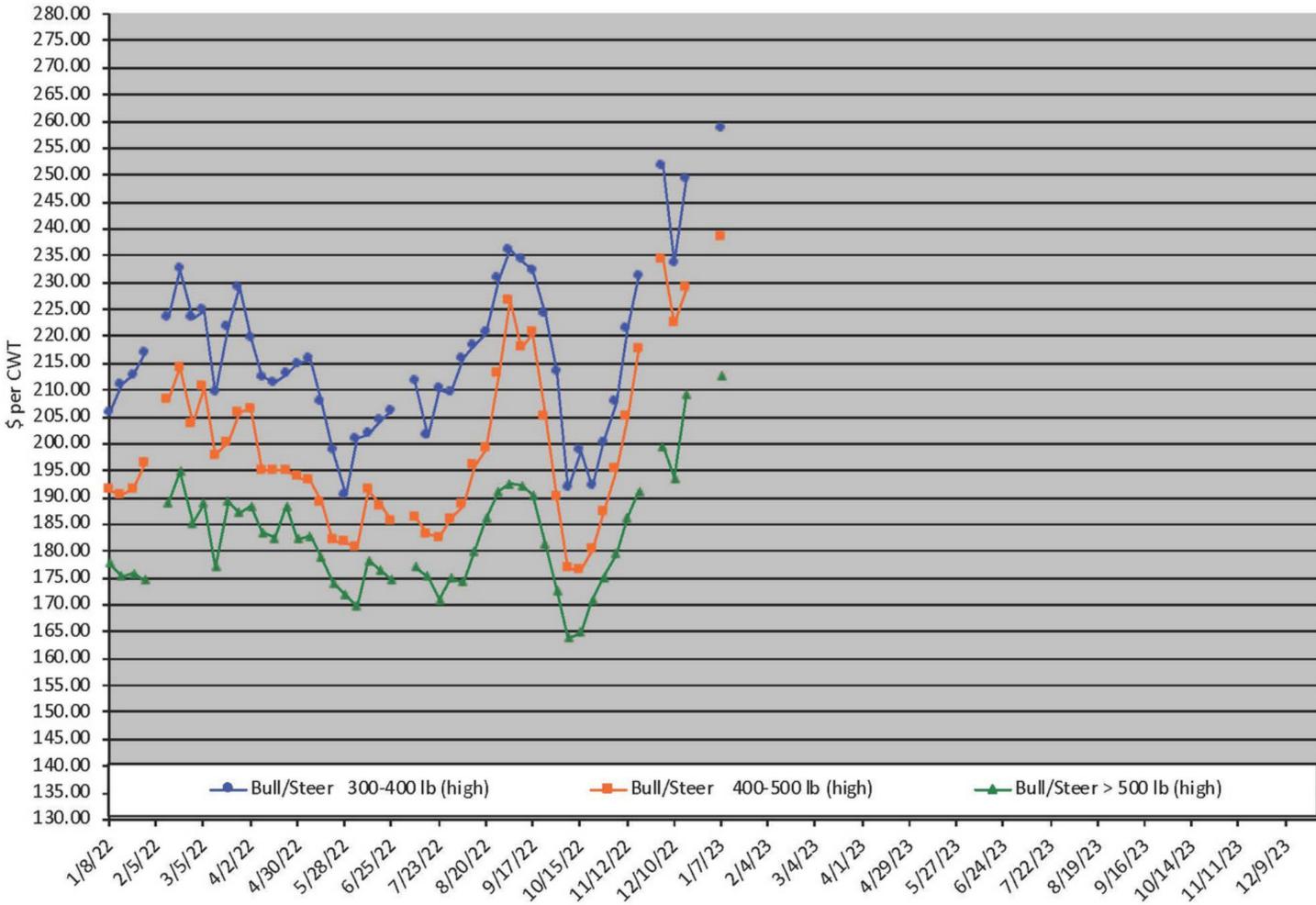
The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification 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

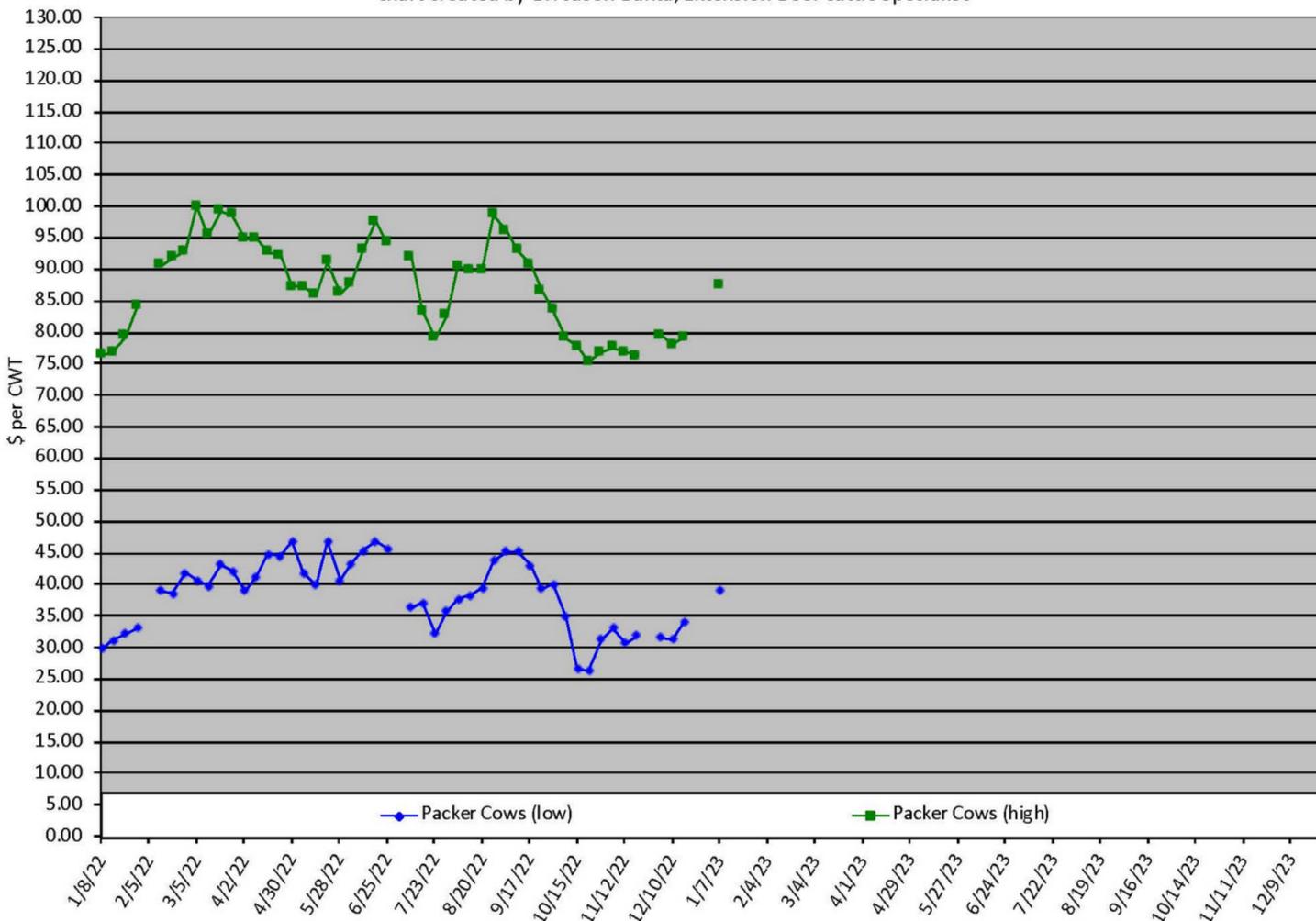
For a weekly email copy of this chart please email amsensing@ag.tamu.edu or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



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 email amsensing@ag.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 1/15/23. The graphs show the average of the highest prices reported for 6 livestock auction markets located in East and Central Texas.



Private Applicator License

Training and Testing

Friday, February 17, 2023 | 8:00am

Davis Park Community House

RSVP by Feb 10 - (903) 693-0300 ext 160 or 161

There will be a private applicator license training and exam starting at 8:00 a.m. on Friday February 17, 2023, at the Davis Park Community House located at 200 Community Drive, Carthage, TX. Panola AgriLife Extension is asking that you please RSVP no later than February 10th by calling the office at (903)693-0300 Ext 160 or 161. As regulated through the Texas Department of Agriculture, a producer must obtain a private applicator license to purchase and use restricted-use herbicides and insecticides. The training will begin at 8:00 a.m. and run through the lunch hour.

This is an opportunity to obtain the required training for producer and or landowners seeking a Private Applicators. Training only, testing will not be offered. It should be stated that affective 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, 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.

It is highly recommended that all study materials be ordered prior to you attending this training. Study materials can be orders by going to the following website.
<https://agrillife.org/aes/files/2021/10/TDA-PA-order-form-revised-10.8.21.pdf>

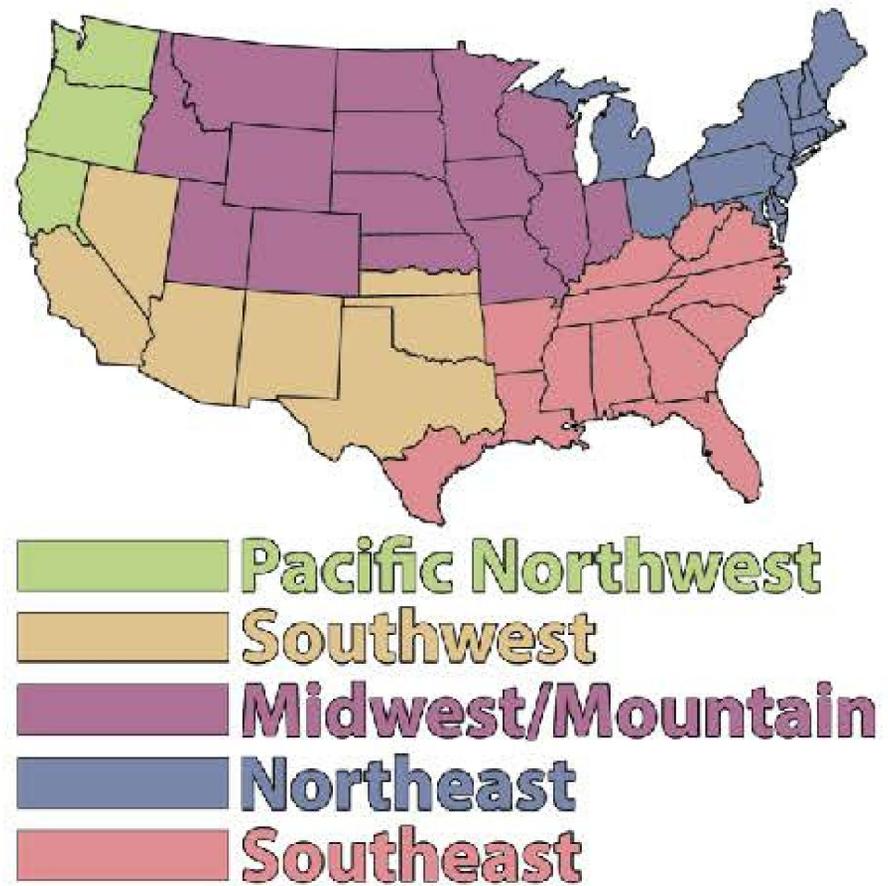
For further information or to reserve a seat for this training contact the Panola County Extension office at 903-693-0300 Ext 160.



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.

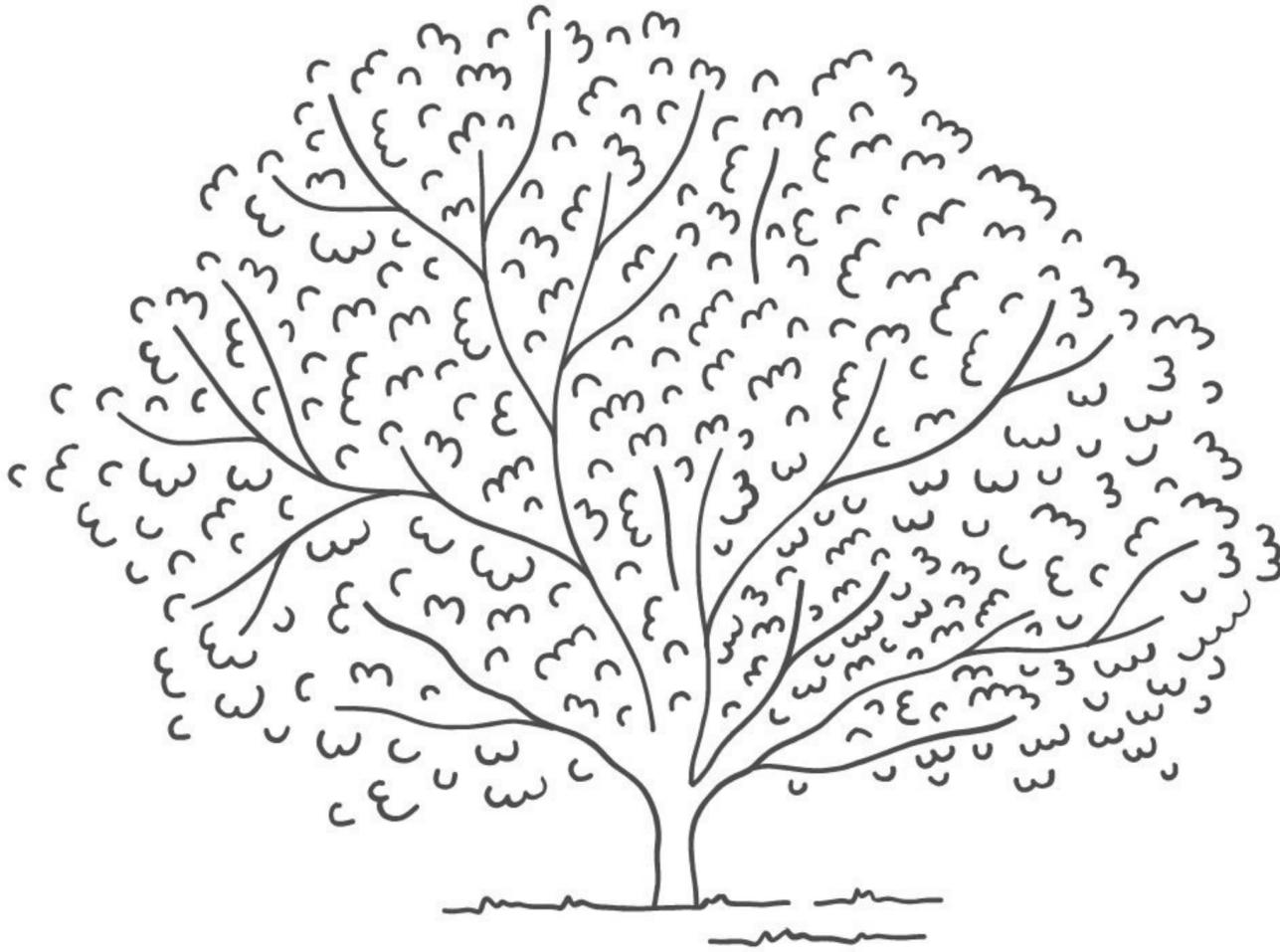




TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



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



ANNUAL TREE GIVE-A-WAY

FEBRUARY 4, 2023 @ 8:00AM-UNTIL GONE
HARRISON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER GREENHOUSE
1309 WARREN DRIVE MARSHALL, TX

East Texas Pasture Management Program

Hosted by Drs. Vanessa Corriher-Olson and Jason Banta



Soil & Crop Science Department
Department of Animal Science

Friday, February 24, 2023

Virtual Program

5 Pesticide CEUs Available
(1 laws, 1 IPM, and 3 general)
Course #00523396

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

- Drones and Other Spraying Considerations
- Laws and Regulations of Pesticide Use
- Weed Control in Pastures and Hay Fields

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

- Chemicals and Hormones: Critical for Life
- Fertilizer Best Management and Products to Good to Be True



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

Register online at: <https://tamu.estore.flywire.com/products/east-texas-pasture-management-program-82333>

Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 23 at 8:00 AM

Meeting will be conducted with ZOOM

Practice sessions will be offered the week of the meeting 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.

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

ANNUAL CORNBREAD & BEAN LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 2023
11AM - 2 PM

HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

~(NEW LOCATION)~
2005 WARREN DRIVE
MARSHALL, TX 75670
\$10.00 DONATION

SPONSORED BY:
HARRISON EXTENSION EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION



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, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office (903) 935-8414 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodation can be made.

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

JANUARY 27, 2023

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8 AM

PROGRAM BEGINS AT 9 AM

MUST RSVP BY 1/20/2022

REGISTRATION- \$35

**CALL THE GREGG COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER
(903) 236-8429**

Gopher Damage and Control

Darren Rozell, Rozell Sprayer
Manufacturing Company

Managing Herbaceous Weeds with Prescribed Fire

Dr. Megan Clayton, Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Range Specialist

**PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT
HARRISON COUNTY GOLD HALL
101 ELM ST
HALLSVILLE, TX
75650**

Pesticide Applicator Record Keeping and Compliance

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

Wild Pig Biology and Control

Derrick Banks, Prarieview A&M Wildlife
Management Specialist

Fall Army Worm Control Options

Kyle McKinely, Rozell Agri-Tech

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





DON'T commit Crapemyrtle murder!!!!

Greg Grant, Tyler Morning Telegraph
January 15, 2023

And so, it begins: Crapemyrtle butchering season. The only pruning crapemyrtles ever need (if at all) is thinning the trunks as they are developing to the desired permanent number, removing suckers as they sprout at the base, and cutting out dead wood and crossing or rubbing branches. That's it. As with all trees in our landscapes, they should never be topped or heavily pruned. Here's why.

1. Pruning crapemyrtles late in the year decreases cold hardiness. Let's not soon forget the freeze damage inflicted on many crapemyrtles in the past.
2. Topping crapemyrtles causes them to sucker more at the base leading to more work to remove the unwanted sprouts. The ultimate goal is to have a permanent number of trunks (odd numbers like 3, 5 or 7 look best) with no suckers and no more topping.
3. Hack jobs on crapemyrtles costs money. Crews don't cut and haul crapemyrtle branches for free and the fuel used for the equipment isn't cheap or environmentally friendly. I suspect crapemyrtle bark scale is spread tree to tree and neighborhood to neighborhood by pruning equipment and trailers as well.
4. Cutting and hauling crapemyrtles is lots of work. I've had shoulder surgery, two neck surgeries, back surgery, and four hip surgeries. I'm certainly not looking for things to bend over and pick up!
5. If your crapemyrtle grows too big for the space you have it in, then you have the wrong cultivar and should remove it entirely instead of chopping on it annually. Some are bushes and some are trees. They range in ultimate heights from 3-30 feet. Plant varieties accordingly.
6. Topping crapemyrtles produces a plethora of new shoots and narrow crotch angles for pesky crapemyrtle bark scale to hide and overwinter in. Crapemyrtle bark scale also likes to feed on new growth and callus tissue induced by pruning.
7. Crapemyrtles have some of the most beautiful trunks and branching structure of any ornamental tree that we grow. A crapemyrtle never pruned will always be prettier than one that is maimed. The standard aesthetic rule of thumb is two-thirds upper branches and one-third lower trunks. Topping produces the opposite.
8. Cutting crapemyrtles back severely produces long sappy growth that flops and droops when they bloom. It also delays the bloom time.
9. Topping crapemyrtles isn't recommended by any expert or gardening publication in the world, with all agreeing that it's bad for the tree and unattractive.
10. If your crapemyrtle has been horribly scarred by "crape murder," cut it to the ground in early spring and watch how fast it grows back. Wait one year then select the number of permanent trunks you want.

Greg Grant is the Smith County horticulturist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. He is the author of Texas Fruit and Vegetable Gardening, Heirloom Gardening in the South, and The Rose Rustlers. You can read his "Greg's Ramblings" blog at arborgate.com, read his "In Greg's Garden" in each issue of Texas Gardener magazine (texasgardener.com), and follow him on Facebook at "Greg Grant Gardens." More science-based lawn and gardening information from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service can be found at aggieturf.tamu.edu and aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu.

Image caption: Topping crapemyrtles ("crape murder") is both unsightly and unhealthy for the trees.

KEEP IN TOUCH

*Harrison County
Extension Office*

903-935-8413

2005 WARREN DRIVE

MARSHALL, TEXAS

TEXAS A&M
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