

Agriculture Newsletter

COLORADO COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2024

Weed of the Month: Texas Groundsel

Texas groundsel or Texas squaw-weed (*Senecio ampullaceus*) is a cool-season annual broad-leaf plant that grows to 12 to 30 inches tall. The plants are often whitish with hair, but can be nearly hairless. The unlobed, clasping leaves gradually reduce in size toward the top of the plant. Showy yellow flowers are produced in the spring. Texas groundsel is found in the eastern half of the state and is abundant on sandy soils.

Members of the genus *Senecio* can be toxic to livestock, but the toxic agent of these plants has not been established. Cattle consuming Texas groundsel have developed clinical signs that appeared several months after it was ingested and the plants had been dead for quite a while. Dead animals had classical liver cirrhosis identical to that produced by pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Tests on many normal-appearing herd mates of the dead animals showed that they also had liver damage. Llamas pastured with the plant for months at a time have also succumbed to terminal liver cirrhosis.

As with many cool-season annual weeds, control is less expensive and more likely if plants are treated while still in the rosette stage. Once the plant begins stem elongation (bolts), more herbicide is required.

Article featured in Forage Fax by Dr. Vanessa Corriher –Olson 1.19.2024.



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office of Colorado County will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents Day.

Laramie Kettler- Colorado County Extension
Agent
Agriculture/ Natural Resources
316 Spring St.
Columbus, Texas 78934
(979) 732-2082

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

2024 Colorado County Beef and Forage Educational Program

Sponsored by the Beef and Forage Committee of Colorado County

Monday, February 26th, 2024
Colorado County Fairgrounds - Exhibit Hall
1146 Crossroads Boulevard, Columbus, TX 78934
(Pre-Register by February 23, 2024) CALL: 979-732-2082



Registration: 8:00 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.

Program: 8:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. LUNCH WILL BE CATERED

**Fee: \$30.00 pre-registration
\$35.00 at the door**

Topics Include:

- *Livestock Diseases, Insects, Parasites and their Control
- *Strategies for Soil Health
- *TDA Laws & Regulations Update
- *Weed Control in Pastures and Hayfields

**Private Pesticide Applicators
will receive 5 continuing edu-
cation units (CEUs): Pending
approval from TDA.
No Structural Credits Offered.**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. 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 or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activity, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office (979-732-2082) for assistance 5 days prior to the activity.

Colorado County Lunch - N - Learn Series 2024

**Bring your lunch
and learn!**

**Light refreshments;
tea and snacks will be
provided.**



Registration:

11:50am - 12:05pm

Program:

12:05pm - 12:55pm

**No Pre-Registration
Required**



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 or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 732-2082 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Sponsored by: Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Colorado County Homeowner Soil Testing Campaign

This campaign is limited to annuals, flowers, gardens,
turfgrass, trees and woody ornamentals.

February 15, – February 29, 2024

Soil sample bags, **CAMPAIGN ONLY SUBMISSION FORMS**,
and directions for sampling are available at the Colorado County Extension Office.

All soil sample bags, submission forms, and payments must be returned to the
Colorado County Extension Office by 5:00pm on February 29, 2024

Routine Analysis - \$8.00 per sample

For Routine + Micronutrients - \$15.00 per sample

Laramie Kettler
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Extension Agent Ag/NR
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(979) - 732-2082
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Please make checks payable to: BMGA

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ACFW Multi-County Homeowner & Garden Soil Testing Campaign

Campaign participant information

Pricing valid 2/15/24 through 2/29/24.

Name: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dropoff County : Austin Colorado Fayette Washington

Make checks to: Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association (BMGA)

Note: All blanks for each row/soil sample must be answered to participate in this discounted rate campaign.

Have you soil sampled in the past three years? Yes No

Sample information: * required for discounted pricing.

Your sample ID*	Square Feet Represented*	Planned Fertilizer for 2024 without soil test*	What are you growing?*	Analyses Suite**	County Tally #
Example: Front Yard	Example: 2250 sqft	Example: 10 lbs 13-1313	A	enter # from below	
A. Azaleas and Camellias B. Roses C. Annuals D. Vegetable Garden E. Other F. Common Bermudagrass G. Hybrid Bermudagrass H. St. Augustinegrass I. Centipedegrass J. Buffalo grass K. Tall Fescue L. Kentucky Bluegrass M. Zoysiagrass N. Pecan trees O. Fruit trees P. Shrubs and Ornamentals Q. Shade trees R. Other trees					

Analyses suites**

All blanks and questions answered

1	Routine: pH, Cond, P, K, Ca, Mg, S and Na	\$8.00	
15	Routine plus Micro: adds Fe, Zn, Cu and Mn to #1.	\$15.00	

Private Applicator Training



What is a Private Pesticide Applicator?

A private pesticide applicator is someone who uses or supervises the use of restricted-use or state-limited-use

pesticides or regulated herbicides to produce an agricultural commodity on:

- Personally owned property;
- Rented property;
- Property owned by his or her employer;
- Property under his or her general control; or
- The property of another person if applied without compensation, other than the trading of personal services between producers of agricultural commodities.

Books and study materials for the course need to be purchased ahead of time for \$40.00 at the Extension Office.

A registration fee of \$10.00 will be charged for the training.

The registration fee will include the training, additional study materials, refreshments and snacks. The training will begin at 1:30 pm and conclude at 5:00 pm.

Seating is limited, so make sure to reserve your spot in the class!



When: March 8, 2024

Where: Colorado County Extension office

316 Spring St. Columbus, TX 78934

Contact: 979-732-2082

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Laramie Kettler

County Extension Agent—Ag/Natural Resources—Colorado County

laramie.kettler@ag.tamu.edu

979-732-2082

colorado.agrilife.org

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. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 732-2082 ten (10) days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.