

SOUTH PLAINS HORTICULTURE

For the most recent updates, straight from the source



EARTH & ARBOR DAY SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are 10 differences in the pictures below.

Think about what parts of these pictures are creating a healthier, happier planet!
(Spot the difference key on page 4)

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LUBBOCK COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE



SMITH SPROUTS

Students in the Smith Sprouts after school gardening program at Smith Elementary have been hard at work the past few months to start vegetable and ornamental plants for their community plant sale! All plants are student grown and cared for. Money earned will go towards furthering the STAR Garden and student learning opportunities. Check out the involvement page (pg 6) for plant sale details!



As you begin thinking about landscaping for the spring and summer seasons, look into Texas Superstar plant selections. Texas Superstar plants have been researched extensively by Texas A&M AgriLife Research to select plants that thrive and perform best in the varying climates Texas has to offer. You can find annuals, perennials, woody shrubs, trees, and more that are classified as Texas Superstars at local nurseries. Check out texassuperstar.com for a complete list and information on the Superstar varieties.

TURF & ORNAMENTAL WORKSHOP



On February 27th, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agent, Christina Reid, hosted the Turf & Ornamental Workshop for the Lubbock County area. Participants heard from a variety of speakers in the field to learn about turfgrass weed management, chemical drift minimization, new spray laws and regulations, turfgrass management projections for 2023, and common turf and tree pests in Lubbock. Their participation earned them the required Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) continuing education units (CEU) to maintain the required licensing for chemical applications.

ROSE DIG AWAY

AT THE LUBBOCK MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

On March 11, the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum hosted a free rose dig away event at the Hodges Rose Garden. Community members were eager to retrieve roses and clear the beds to prepare for area renovations. We are happy to report that all the rose plants have been relocated. The space will be repurposed as a community garden in the coming months.

While there is much work to be done, you can help make the new garden space a success by spreading the word and gathering groups to rent out garden plots in coming seasons.

Stay tuned for further updates. We are excited to see how this space will meet the needs and desires of our local community in new ways!



We are starting a YouTube Channel! Head over to YouTube and look up Lubbock AgriLife Extension Horticulture as we post videos on current topics and tutorials for all your horticultural needs.



Be sure to subscribe and click the bell to get notifications of the latest videos!

SOW & GROW

Are you in need of seeds for this growing season? Check out the Lubbock Public Libraries to make use of the Sow & Grow Seed Library programs. Each library has a variety of seed packets free of charge to the community! Seed donations are also appreciated.



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Lubbock County Extension brings you the latest ag news every day to your local radio station! Tune in to 105.7, the Red Dirt Rebel, between 1:45 and 2:00 p.m. every day. Be sure to give us a listen!

EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 22, 2023

GET IN ON THE EARTH DAY ACTION

- Pick up free mulch when available from the recycling center. Check out the City of Lubbock's Solid Waste management website and click on the *FAQ* tab for information on free mulch pickup. Go to the *Recycling Solutions* tab to find more ways to recycle.
- Looking for sustainable landscape fabric or sheet mulching for your garden? Stop by local grocery stores and request unwanted cardboard!

A QUICK "HOW TO" IN SHEET MULCHING



Sheet mulching is a method of weed management that often uses soaked cardboard and/or newspaper. These materials act as a weed barrier and break down as compost over time.

1. Cut grass to its lowest height to "scalp" the area (if needed)
2. Soak cardboard in water and water the selected ground area to moisten soil
3. Add soaked cardboard to cover the area
4. Add a thin layer of finished compost on top

Tip: Be sure to keep layers moist after mulching to promote decomposition!



CALLING ALL PRESCHOOLERS...

Join horticulture agent, Christina Reid, at the Mahon Public Library on April 20th at 10:30 am for Earth Day activities! Activities will be geared towards preschool aged children. We'll see you there!



COMPOSTING

→ Preparing the Area

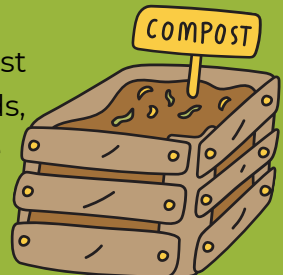
- Begin by selecting between **free-standing piles** or **bins**. Bins will be more space conservative and can be purchased or made of bricks/blocks, fencing, lumber, etc.
- **Location:** if possible, place near a garden or planting area where compost will be used.
- **Partial shade and drainage** are ideal for maintaining proper moisture in the bin/pile.

→ Creating your pile

- **What goes in?** Dried leaves, sawdust, kitchen scraps (avoid animal scraps and oil; focus on fruit and veggies, egg shells, coffee grounds + filters), animal manure (NOT cat and dog waste), grass clippings, and hay.
- Follow a **Brown-Green-Brown** pattern. Start with a layer of dried leaves and twigs, then add food scraps and grass clippings, top with manure and/or sawdust, and so on.
- **Tip:** Always top off your pile with a brown layer like manure to promote decomposition.

→ Maintaining + Using Compost

- Turn/Mix the pile each week in warmer seasons, or each month in cooler seasons
- Allow **90-120 days** for an ideal finished compost.
- **Incorporate** finished compost into your garden, flower beds, planters, etc. to increase the nutrient and water-holding capacity of soil.



HOW TO PLANT A TREE

→ Digging A Hole

- Select an area that receives plenty of full sunlight.
- Dig a hole that is twice the width of the rootball (or container the tree is in) and no deeper than the height of the rootball.
 - *If the hole is too deep, the tree may rot!*

→ Planting The Tree

- Remove the tree from its container and place in the hole.
- Fill in around the tree with the removed soil.
 - *Do NOT add any amendments - such as fertilizer or compost - to the soil*
- Create a 3-4" high berm (a ring of mounded mulch) around the perimeter of the filled-in hole. Ensure this does not touch the tree trunk. The berm will reduce competition of resources such as nutrients and water to help your tree thrive!
- Immediately after planting, water in the tree by filling up the basin created by the berm.

→ Watering After Planting

- Week 1: Lightly water each day (1 quart)
- Week 2: Water with 1-2 quarts every other day
- Week 3: Water every 3rd day with 1-2 quarts
- Week 4+: Water once weekly & just as needed
 - *Always check soil before watering. Only water if the soil is dry to prevent overwatering and rotting.*



WHAT TREES SHOULD I PLANT?

Listed below are a few trees that will thrive in the South Plains region



Lacebark Elm



Japanese Zelkova



Chinese Pistache



Rocky Mountain Juniper



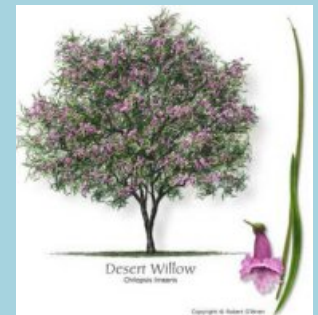
Hawthorn



Bur Oak



Afghan Pine



Desert Willow

THE DROP OF LIFE

Water Weekly

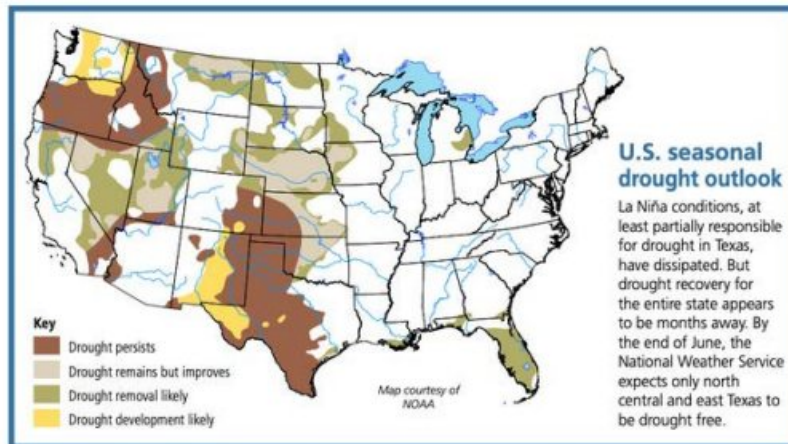
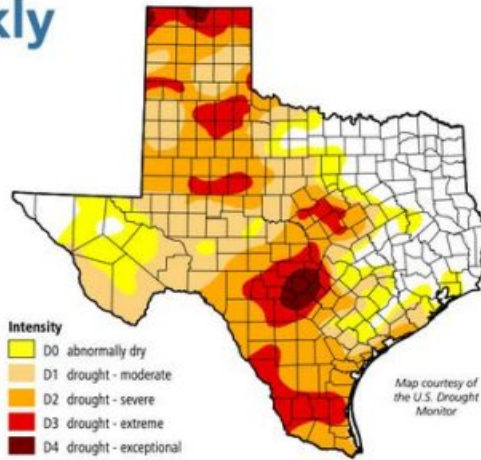
For the week of 03/20/23

Water conditions

For the fifth consecutive week, the area of the state impacted by drought has expanded. The latest drought monitor map, for conditions as of March 14, shows contraction of drought in north central Texas but expansion in central and south Texas. Drought has reached its largest extent in four months.

Drought conditions

- ◆ 65% now
- ◆ 64% a week ago
- ◆ 52% three months ago
- ◆ 91% a year ago



Written by Dr. Mark Wentzel — Dr. Mark Wentzel is a hydrologist in the TWDB's Office of Water Science and Conservation.

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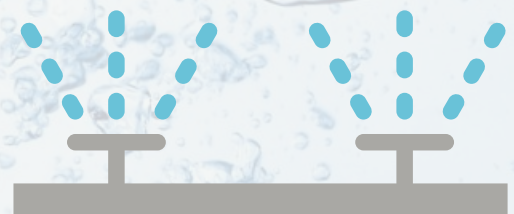
Texas Water
Development Board

MINDFUL WATERING

Temperatures will soon be warming up and lawns will be thirsty for proper irrigation! Keep these tips and tricks in mind as you begin watering for the warmer season to be proactive in your lawn maintenance. County Extension agents and the Water Utilities Department are great resources for further information.

WATERING TIPS:

- Do not water when temps are under 35°F.
- Now is a great time to check irrigation systems for leaks or required maintenance to prevent runoff.
- Avoid watering during precipitation.
- Save time and money by properly programming your irrigation controller.



Spring & Summer Watering Days & Times

IRRIGATION FROM APRIL 1ST - SEPT. 30TH



Spring into Getting Involved

this month at the Arboretum



Saturday, April 8

9:30 AM, Free for all ages

Lubbock Memorial Arboretum

Want to help the
Easter Bunny?

We are accepting donations of plastic Easter eggs & unopened bags of individually wrapped candy to support the Easter Egg Hunt event.

Please drop off donations at the Lubbock Garden & Arts Center 4215 University Avenue Monday-Friday 9am-5pm before April 1.

SPRING PLANT SALE

APRIL 22ND

9:00 A.M.
TO
1:00 P.M.

LUBBOCK MEMORIAL
ARBORETUM
FOUNDATION
4111 UNIVERSITY AVE
LUBBOCK, TX 79413

2ND SATURDAY EVENT

APRIL 8TH

BIRDS OF CLAPP PARK

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
DOORS OPEN AT 9:30 A.M.

LUBBOCK MEMORIAL
ARBORETUM FOUNDATION
4111 UNIVERSITY AVE
LUBBOCK, TX 79413

**PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY NEILL.
THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT CLAPP PARK.



Student Grown

PLANT SALE

**PRESTON SMITH
ELEMENTARY GARDEN
8707 DOVER
AVENUE**

Spring into Getting Involved

around the community

Lubbock Master Gardener Scholarship Program

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF WEST TEXAS, LMGA IS PROUD TO AWARD LOCAL STUDENTS PURSUING THEIR EDUCATION IN HORTICULTURE, BOTANY, PLANT SCIENCE, OR A RELATED FIELD.

APPLICATIONS DUE JUNE 1, 2023

VISIT
LUBBOCKMASTERGARDENER.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP/
FOR THE APPLICATION AND MORE DETAILS.

Lubbock Master Gardener Intern Course Applications

Becoming a Lubbock Master Gardener is a great way to get involved in the community through service activities, gardening projects, and meeting other individuals taking an active interest in their lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers, and gardens. Check out the application on the Lubbock Master Gardeners website!



LUBBOCK MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Plants for sale include:

Tomatoes

Peppers

Herbs

Waterwise perennials

* All sales on April 15 are tax exempt

* Cash, check, debit/credit card accepted

* Proceeds go to the LMGA Scholarship Fund

When:

**Saturday, April 15th
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Where:

**Hodges
Community Center
4011 University Ave
Lubbock, TX 79413**



www.lubbockmastergardener.org

PRESERVING TEXAS' PECAN LEGACY

JOIN OUR INDUSTRY-WIDE 2023 DISCUSSION

WHAT: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension & Texas Pecan Growers Association through funding from Texas Dept of Agriculture & Industries are hosting ten (10) "Regional Pecan Listening Sessions" this Spring—2023.

WHY: Pecan growing is a Texas legacy—one worth preserving! We want to hear from pecan growers around the state about this important agricultural industry. Are we gaining or losing financial strength? Are we gaining or losing acreage or people? What are your successes? What do you need help with? How can we can work together to sustain pecan growing in Texas? Help set the priorities. ***We want to listen!***

WHERE: Ten Regional Listening Sessions—Attend the one nearest you! Your opinion and experiences matter!




TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Horticultural Sciences

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Region	Date	Location
Lower Colorado River	Tuesday, March 28th	Bastrop
Gulf Coast	Wednesday, April 5th	Wharton
Guadalupe Valley	Tuesday, April 11th	Seguin
East Texas	Tuesday, April 18th	Palestine
Wintergarden-South Texas	Wednesday, April 26th	Uvalde
High Plains	Tuesday, May 2nd	Lubbock
Concho Valley	Tuesday, May 9th	San Angelo
Central Texas	Tuesday, May 16th	Goldthwaite
North Central-Red River	Tuesday, May 23rd	Bowie
El Paso Valley	Tuesday, May 30th	El Paso

WHO: Texas A&M University: Dr. Monte Nesbitt, Dr. Larry Stein, Dr. Amit Dhingra. Texas Pecan Growers Assn: Ms. Blair Krebs, Ms. Meghan Mabry, and Board of Directors





BROCCOLI

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
APRIL



Broccoli belongs to the Cruciferae family, which also includes cauliflower, cabbage, bok choy and Brussels sprouts. Broccoli prefers cool weather. It is often boiled, roasted or steamed, but can also be eaten raw. A head of broccoli is made up of tiny flower buds. If you don't pick it early enough, the head turns into a bunch of yellow flowers. Broccoli is filled with a lot of healthy vitamins and minerals which provide strength to the body and help fight diseases.

DID YOU KNOW?

Broccoli is an excellent source of vitamins C and K, and it is a good source of vitamin A and potassium.

FUN FACT

Broccoli has been around for more than 2,000 years and has been grown in the United States for more than 200 years!



BROCCOLI
GROWING REGIONS

1. Winter Garden 2. Rio Grande Valley



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

This product was funded by USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

