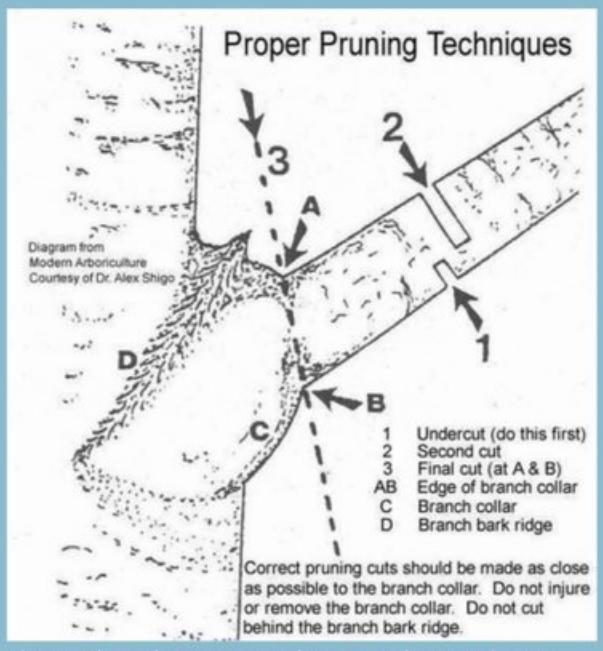
SOUTH PLAINS HORTICULTURE

For the most recent updates, straight from the source

hello WINTER

WHAT'S GROWING ON:



Above: Shows how to properly prune a large or heavy tree branch. Remember to paint all pruning cuts.

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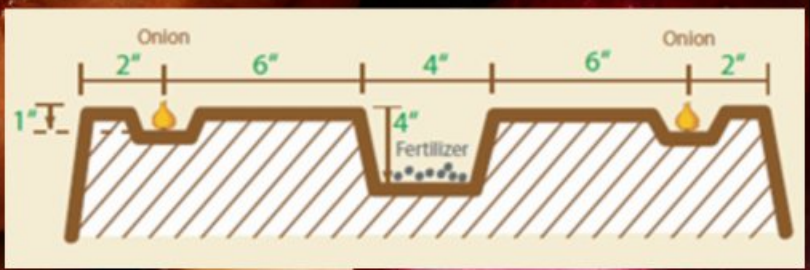
PLANT SOON FOR SPRING HARVEST

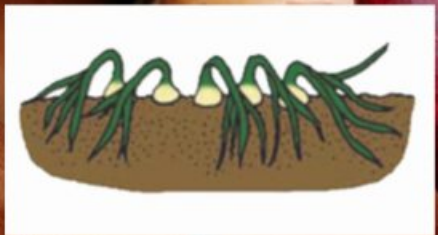
Onions

What You Need To Know

- Start looking for onion sets (as opposed to seeds) now for onion planting in February.
- The size of the onion bulb is dependent upon the number of green leaves at the time of bulb maturity. For each leaf, there will be a ring of onion.
- Onions are characterized by day length:
  - long day" onion varieties will quit forming tops and begin to form bulbs when daylight reaches 14 to 16 hours (better in states north of the 36th parallel)
  - short day" onions will starting making bulbs at 11 to 12 hours of daylight (better in states south of the 36th parallel)

Short day (11–12-hour day length)	
Yellow	Chula Vista, Cougar, Jaguar, Legend, Linda Vista, Mercedes, Prowler, Safari, Sweet Sunrise, TX 1015Y, Early Grano 502, Granex
White	Cirrus, Marquesa, TX Early White, Crystal Wax
Red	Red Bone, Rio Santiago, Sakata Red, Red Burgandy
Intermediate day (12–13-hour day length)	
Yellow	Caballero, Cimarron, Riviera, Utopia, Yula
White	Alabaster, Mid Star, Sierra Blanca, Spano
Red	Fuego
Long day (14–16-hour day length)	
Yellow	Armada, Capri, Durango, El Charo, Ole, Seville, Sweet Perfection, Valdez, Vaquero, Vega
White	Blanco Duro, Sterling, White Spanish Sweet
Red	Tango





Above: Shows proper trench and onion planting.

Left: Shows onion tops flopped over signaling time to harvest.

- Onions grow best in full sunlight and well draining soils.
  - Work the garden soil only when it is dry enough to not stick to garden tools.
  - Soil should be loose and crumbly 8 to 10" deep.
  - Remove all rocks. If your soil is compacted, work in compost to improve aeration and drainage.
- Onions prefer soil with a pH between 6.2 and 6.8.
- Apply fertilizer (10-20-10) 2-3" below sets at planting time.
- Plant the onions 6" from the edge of the trench on both sides of the trench at 1" deep 3" apart. Do not plant the onions in the trench! Leave a 2" margin between the onions and the outside edge of the bed.
- Water thoroughly after planting, and regularly thereafter. If leaves develop a yellow tinge, cut back on watering. The closer to harvest time, the greater the need for water. However, when the onion tops start falling over, stop watering and let the soil dry out before harvesting.
- When caring for the onions during the season, do not allow weeds to mature near onions.
- Nutritional needs are different during the growing season.
  - Every 2 to 3 weeks after planting, fertilize with ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) in alkaline soils. Water the onions after every application. Stop fertilizing when the onions start to bulb.
- When the tops of the onions turn brown and fall over, it's time to harvest. Ideally, the plant will have about 13 leaves at this point.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Lubbock County presents

2025 COMMERCIAL TURF & ORNAMENTAL WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025 | 8:30AM - 3:00PM | $50.00

5 TDA CEUS | LUNCH PROVIDED
TEXAS A&M RESEARCH CENTER 1102 E FM RD 1294 LUBBOCK

Registration & Payment Required by Friday, February 14, 2025

For questions, please call (806) 775-1740

NO PAY AT THE DOOR Check & Card Payments Only

Mail registration and payment to:
Lubbock County Extension, PO Box 10536, Lubbock, TX 79408
Or hand deliver to Lubbock County Extension Office: 916 Main STE 401 Lubbock
Make checks payable to AgriLife Extension Acct. 272113

Name on CEU Certificate: _____

Pesticide Applicator License#: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

NEW!

Pay with credit card here:
https://2025commercialturf.eventbrite.com
Registration is still required!

so many books, so little time

In The Weeds

A PLANT LOVERS BOOK CLUB

All plant lovers are welcome to join our new monthly book club where we read and discuss all things plants. No green thumb required!

First meeting 1/13/25 6:30pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Lubbock County Office

916 Main Street STE 401

Please RSVP to Christina Reid (806) 775-1740

Sponsored by Christina Reid, CEA Horticulture

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

MASTER

Are you interested in becoming a Lubbock Master Gardener? We are offering an online class starting in 2025. We would love to have you join us! Apply before our 1/15/25 deadline here: https://lubbockmastergardener.org/

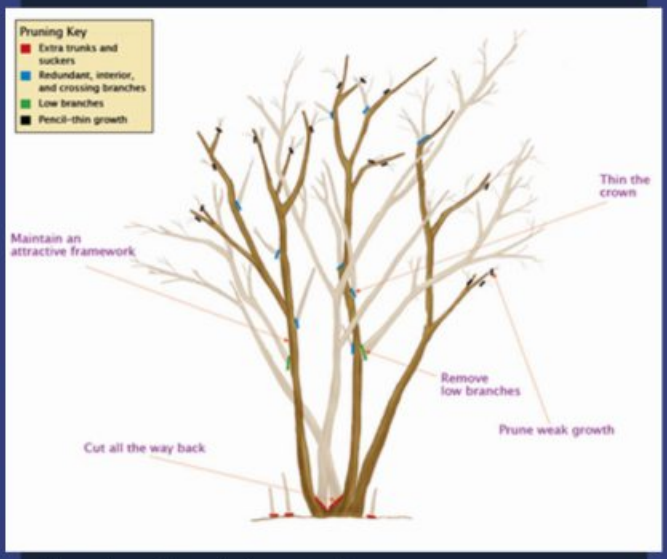
IT'S PRUNING SEASON

Crape Myrtle is one of the most common, toughest, and showiest plants on the South Plains. Unfortunately, there has been this horrible "ritual" of butchering them every year put into practice.

Topping Crape Myrtles causes permanent scars and makes a profusion of smaller branches resulting in a lack of proportion. All trees have a characteristic shape.. Topping does create larger blooms, though fewer of them. Unfortunately, these larger blooms on new young shoots tend to flop over and droop after summer rains or break in high winds.

The only real pruning crape myrtles require is to thin out the trunks on young trees leaving somewhere around 3 to 7 permanent trunks/canes. Odd numbers are always best. The fewer you have, the more you can admire their shape and smooth texture. Each year around early spring, all you do is remove any new suckers that appear from the ground. Make sure to cut suckers back to the soil line. Removing dried pods during the winter doesn't promote any more bloom during the summer. Removing them during the summer does promote faster re-bloom, however. This "old saying" of pruning back to pencil size wood comes from recommendations from the 1960's and is antiquated.

AG chat cont.



Above: Proper Crape Myrtle pruning diagram.

NEW

ASK THE AGENT + MORE!

Ask Texas A&M Extension Horticulture Agent Christina Reid any questions on horticulture, urban landscapes, home gardens + MORE!

Phone: (806) 775-1740
Email: christina.reid@ag.tmau.edu

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.

THE DROP OF LIFE

Water Weekly

For the week of **01/06/25**

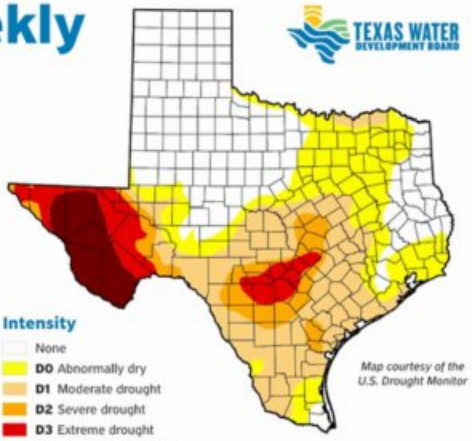
TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of December 31 shows 44 percent of the state in drought. Drought contracted six percentage points in December but still finished up five percentage points for the year. In 2024, drought reached a maximum extent of 74 percent on October 29.

Drought conditions

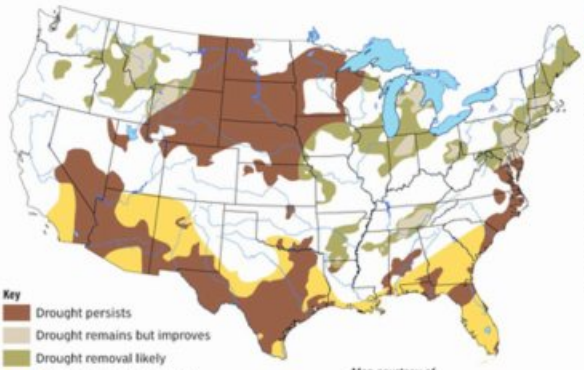
44% now
54% a week ago
34% three months ago
39% a year ago



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

Intensity

- None
- **D0** Abnormally dry
- **D1** Moderate drought
- **D2** Severe drought
- **D3** Extreme drought
- **D4** Exceptional drought



Map courtesy of NOAA

Key
- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

U.S. seasonal drought outlook

The National Weather Service anticipates more drought expansion for Texas during the first three months of 2025. By the end of March, only the Panhandle, parts of north central Texas, and the northeast corner of the state are expected to be drought free.

By Dr. Mark Wentzel, Hydrologist, Office of Water Science and Conservation
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www.twdb.texas.gov

TEXAS ALLIANCE FOR WATER CONSERVATION
TEXAS TECH Davis College

11th Annual Water College

Wednesday - January 22, 2025
Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
1501 Mac Davis Ln
Lubbock, TX 79401

8:30am – 9:00am	**Registration & Visit Booths**
9:00am – 9:15am	**Welcome** Clint Krehbiel, Dean of Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Texas Tech University
9:15am – 9:45am	**NRCS Programs to Benefit Producers** Reed Poling, Field Engineer, NRCS
9:45am – 10:15am	**Crop Insurance – What Producers should Know** Kyle Benson, Crop Insurance Agent, Double B Crop Insurance
10:15am	**Coffee Break & Booth Visits**
10:30am – 11:30am	**Advancements in Produced Water and Its Future in Agriculture** Jeff Braune, LEEDS Product Manager, Bechtel Adrianne Lopez, Manager of Research and Development, Texas Pacific Water Resources
11:30am – 11:45pm	**Agricultural Water Research – Texas Tech Davis College Leading the Way** Krishna Jagadish, Thornton Distinguished Chair, Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, Texas Tech University
11:45 – 1:00 pm	**Lunch & Visit Booths** – Photo Contest Winners will be announced
1:00pm – 1:30pm	**Water and the Cattle Market** David Anderson, Professor and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Economist, Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M
1:30pm – 2:00pm	**Impacts of Land Use on Water Resources in the High Plains using Satellite and Ground-based Data** Bridget Scanlon, Research Professor, Bureau of Economic Geology
2:00pm – 2:30pm	**Changing the Family Farm to Sustain the Family Farm** Layton Schur, TAWC Cooperating Producer, Hale County
2:30pm – 3:00pm	**2025 Weather Outlook** Marissa Pazos, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NOAA
3:00pm	**Close**

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

DAVIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & NATURAL RESOURCES

PROTECT THOSE PIPES

STOP THE FREEZE WITH FAUCET COVERS!

City of Lubbock TEXAS
WATER UTILITIES

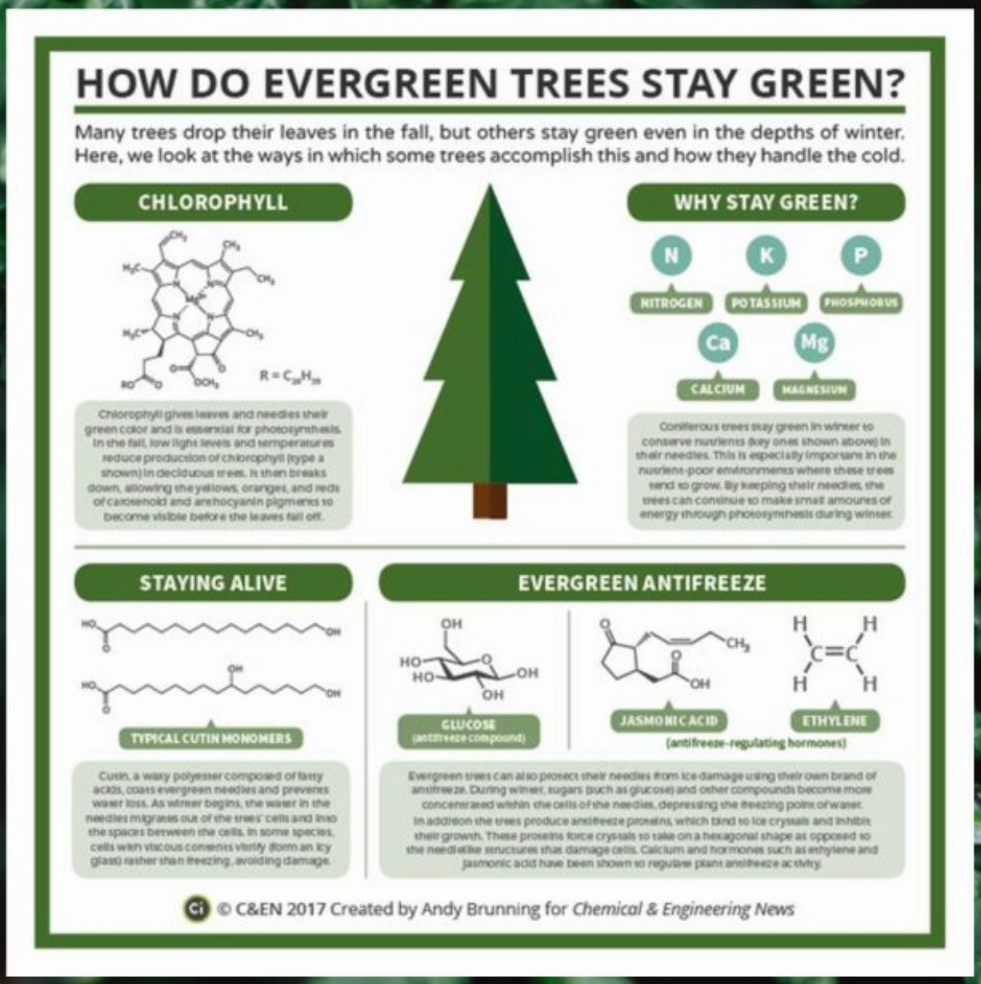
UPCOMING EVENTS

ARBORETUM

Lubbock Arboretum 2nd Saturday Program
Annual Meeting Saturday, January 11,
10 am 4111 University Ave.

Are you interested in becoming a Lubbock Master Gardener? We are offering an online class starting in 2025. We would love to have you join us!
Apply before our 1/15/25 deadline here: https://lubbockmastergardener.org/

TREE OF THE MONTH!



THE EVERGREENS OF LUBBOCK:


Afghan Pine


Eastern Red Cedar


Pinyon Pine


Arizona Cypress

SHRUB OF THE MONTH!

CALLICARPA AMERICANA

American Beautyberry is a wonderful, large understory shrub with a naturally loose and graceful arching form. It most often grows 3-5 ft. tall and usually just as wide. It has long, arching branches and yellow-green fall foliage, but its most striking feature is the clusters of glossy, iridescent-purple fruit (sometimes white) that hug the branches at leaf axils in the fall and winter. The bark is light brown on the older wood, reddish brown on the younger wood, and elongated, raised corky areas (lenticels); twigs are round to 4-sided. Leaves in pairs or threes, blades half as wide as long and up to 9 inches long, ovate to elliptic. Flowers are small and pink, in dense clusters at the bases of the leaves, and clusters usually do not exceed the leaf petioles. Fruit distinctly colored, rose pink or lavender pink, berrylike, about 1/4 inch long and 3/16 inch wide, in showy clusters, persisting after the leaves have fallen.

The seeds and berries are important foods for many species of birds, particularly the Northern Bobwhite. Foliage is a favorite of White-tailed Deer.

Plant Characteristics
Duration: Perennial
Habit: Shrub
Water Use: Low
Light Requirement: Part Shade
Cold Tolerant: yes
Heat Tolerant: yes
Soil Description: Sandy, Sandy Loam, Medium Loam, Clay Loam, Clay, Acid-based, Calcareous

PERENNIAL OF THE MONTH!

HELLEBORUS ORIENTALIS

Lenten rose is a winter-blooming, broadleaf evergreen, clumping perennial in the Ranunculaceae family. It typically grows 1 to 1.5 feet tall and equally as wide in a bushy, upright clump. The flowers are large, cup-shaped, nodding, and have overlapping petals. They appear in clusters of 1 to 4 blooms in colors varying from white, and pink, to light rose and rise above the foliage on a thick stem. Blooms appear in late winter and persist into spring. The foliage is dark green, glossy, and palmately divided. In warmer climates, it is evergreen, but deciduous in colder winter climates.

It is easy to grow, requiring only a shady location and well-drained, soil with a neutral to alkaline pH. It will do best where it receives winter sunlight but is protected from the wind. It is intolerant of bright winter sun and high temperatures but is resistant to damage by deer browsing.

Use this plant in a border front, on patios, in containers, or in other protected, shady spots, such as a woodland garden. It is an excellent choice for a late winter blooming display. Pollinators will benefit from the nectar of these early-blooming flowers.

RED GRAPEFRUIT

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
JANUARY

Red grapefruit is the state fruit of Texas. It was discovered growing on a pink grapefruit tree in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. It has a tangy, sweet taste and can be juiced, sliced in half or divided into several sections. Texas citrus fruits grow in places with lots of sunshine and soft ground. Varieties like Rio Star, Flame and Ruby Sweet can be found in supermarkets from October through May.

DID YOU KNOW?

A grapefruit has lots of vitamins A and C, so eating a ruby Texas red grapefruit or drinking its juice helps keep your skin and your eyes healthy, and helps protect your body from getting a cold or the flu.

FUN FACT

Grapefruit got its name from growing in bunches just like grapes.

RUBY RED GRAPEFRUIT GROWING REGIONS

Rio Grande Valley

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER
This product was funded by USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.