

Zavala County- Agriculture and Natural Resources

April 2025 Newsletter

Inside This Issue:

- Upcoming Program Flyers
- Plant of the Month
- Newly named Earth-Kind roses support sustainable gardening
- Tx Beef Quality Assurance Tip of the Month

Upcoming Programs:

- Zavala County Farmers Market (4/5/25)
- Multi-County Water Well Screening (4/16/25)
- Rainwater Harvesting Tour (4/17/25)
- Bird Watch & Walk (4/19/25)
- South Texas Agricultural Symposium (4/29/25)



Welcome to this month's Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter! This publication aims to keep you informed about upcoming programs and provide valuable insights into agriculture and natural resource topics relevant to our area.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Contact Information:

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leslie.dominguez@ag.tamu.edu



<https://zavala.agrilife.org/>



Zavala County- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension





THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF CRYSTAL CITY



ZAVALA COUNTY FARMERS MARKET



JOIN US

DATE: APRIL 5, 2025

TIME: 10 AM - 2 PM

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL CITY, TX
(BY THE POPEYE STATUE)

SUPPORT LOCAL VENDORS

***TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE WILL BE OFFERING
VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE
FARMERS MARKET***

SMOOTHIE MAKING PROGRAM- 10 AM TO 12 PM
GARDENING PROGRAM- 12 PM TO 1 PM



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION





*MULTI-COUNTY
WATER WELL SCREENING
ZAVALA COUNTY*

Have you tested your private water well?

Samples will be screened for: Fecal coliform bacteria,
nitrates, salinity, and hydrocarbons

Cost: \$15 per sample

Samples drop off date: April 16, 2025

Samples drop time: 8-9 AM

Drop off location: AgriLife Extension Office
221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX

Samples can be submitted in clean plastic bottles

*Let the pump operate ten minutes to an hour before taking the
sample. Take the sample as close to the pump as possible.*

Results for screening will be emailed within a week.

*Questions?
830-374-2883
leslie.dominguez@ag.tamu.edu*

RAINWATER HARVESTING TOUR

Hosted by: Atascosa, McMullen, Frio, LaSalle, Dimmit, & Zavala Counties

APRIL 17, 2025

JOIN US TO TOUR TWO
RAINWATER COLLECTION SETUPS
IN SOUTH TEXAS

**\$10 PER
PERSON**

MEET AT THE MCMULLEN COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
8 AM

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

**Christy Lansford -ANR Agent,
McMullen County**

361-274-3323

christine.lansford@ag.tamu.edu

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Two yellow-bellied sapsuckers are perched on a thick, horizontal, weathered branch. The bird on the left is facing left with its beak open, while the bird on the right is facing right. Both birds have bright yellow bellies, dark wings, and a distinctive black and white pattern on their heads. The background is a solid, light blue sky.

3rd Annual Winter Garden Bird Watch and Walk

**April 19, 2025
7 AM
“THE TRAIL” IN
CRYSTAL CITY**

**MEET AT THE ENTRANCE CLOSEST
TO TOWN.
ACROSS FROM E WEBB ST.**

**JOIN TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION AND
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
FOR A FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY
BIRD WATCHING WALK!**

BINOCULARS AND CAMERAS ENCOURAGED



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

2025 South Texas Agriculture Symposium

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:00 am-12:30 pm

Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - South Texas Based Specialists

Challenges & Solutions

- Small Acreage Opportunities
 - The Relevance of Income Diversification in Farm Production
 - Parasite Control in Goats and Sheep
 - Knowing Your Plants: Creating a Farm/Ranch Herbarium
 - Managing to Maximize Rainfall Infiltration
 - Things to Watch Out for with Generic Herbicides
 - Increasing Your Cowherd's Profitability with a Breeding Season
 - What Mineral Supplement(s) Does My Cowherd Need?
 - Vultures: Love Them or Hate Them?
 - Using Drones on Ranches
 - What's That Fungus?
 - The Challenges of Growing Citrus
 - The Corn-Leaf Hopper
 - The Economics of Grain Storage Decisions
 - Watering and Fertilizing Fruit Trees
-

Virtual Workshop

Hosted by:

Leslie Dominguez - Zavala County

Location: 217 N 1st Ave,
Crystal City, Tx 78839

Price: \$10 per attendee

Cash or check

Make checks payable to: Zavala Ag
and Natural Resources Committee

Lunch sponsored by:



RSVP by April 22nd

Call 830-374-2883



2025 South Texas Agriculture Symposium

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:00 am-12:30 pm

AGENDA

8:00-8:30 Registration

8:30 Small Acreage Opportunities

Liz Tidwell, Wildlife Program Specialist, Uvalde

8:45 The Relevance of Income Diversification in Farm Production

Dr. Yuri Calil, Assistant Professor & Extension Economist, Corpus Christi

9:00 Parasite Control in Goats and Sheep

Dr. Jake Thorne, Assistant Professor & Extension Sheep & Goat Specialist, San Angelo

9:15 Knowing Your Plants: Creating a Farm/Ranch Herbarium

Dr. Stacy Hines, Assistant Professor & Extension Rangeland Habitat Management Specialist, Corpus Christi

9:30 Managing to Maximize Rainfall Infiltration

Dr. Megan Clayton, Professor & Extension Range Specialist, Uvalde & Sam Womble, Bexar County Ag/NR Extension Agent

9:45 Things to Watch Out for with Generic Herbicides

Dr. Josh McGinty, Associate Professor & Extension Agronomist, Corpus Christi

10:00 Increasing Your Cowherd's Profitability with a Controlled Breeding Season

Dr. Karl Harborth, Extension Livestock Specialist, Corpus Christi

10:15 BREAK

10:30 What Mineral Supplement(s) Does My Cowherd Need? Dr. Karl Harborth, Extension Livestock Specialist, Corpus Christi

10:45 Vultures: Love Them or Hate Them?

Liz Tidwell, Wildlife Program Specialist, Uvalde

11:00 Using Drones on Ranches

Dr. Megan Clayton, Professor & Extension Range Specialist, Uvalde

11:15 What's That Fungus?

Dr. Kim Cochran, Associate Professor & Extension Pathologist, Uvalde

11:30 The Challenges of Growing Citrus

Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulture Specialist, Uvalde

11:45 The Corn-Leaf Hopper

Dr. Jose Santiago-Gonzales, Assistant Professor & Extension Entomologist, Corpus Christi

12:00 The Economics of Grain Storage Decisions

Dr. Yuri Calil, Assistant Professor & Extension Economist, Corpus Christi

12:15 Watering and Fertilizing Fruit Trees

Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulture Specialist, Uvalde

12:30 Evaluation & Adjourn



Plant of the Month



Guayacan, Soapbush

Guaiaacum angustifolium

Melastomataceae, Zygophyllaceae (Caltrop family)

Description:

Guayacan is a common component of the South Texas brush country. Guayacan is an unusual evergreen shrub, or small tree reaching up to 20 ft or 6 m, in the Caltrop Family (Zygophyllaceae). It has a short trunk and a clump-like dense crown often growing in colonies. It has extremely hard wood, and its branches are so short that the leaves seem to be growing from the stem. The thick, leathery, lustrous, dark green leaves, which fold inward during the heat of the day and night to conserve water, are pinnate and have tightly clustered groups of 4 to 8 pairs of pinnae with tiny linear-oblong leaflets (to 2 cm) that grow in pairs. From March to April, its numerous star-shaped fragrant flowers bloom. Each is about 2.5 cm wide and has 5 violet, purple, or pink petals; 5 sepals; and 10 stamens with noticeably yellow anthers. Guayacan tends to bloom after receiving precipitation. The fruit is a 1.25 cm yellow capsule and has 1 to 3 shiny red, orange, or yellow seeds. The capsule is heart-shaped, mostly two-lobed, and with somewhat winged margins. Guayacan offers good forage for deer and small mammals such as rabbits and rodents and excellent cover for birds and small mammals. Bees drink its nectar and caterpillars munch on its leaves. One of its common names, Ironwood, references its being one of the hardest woods in the United States.

Plant Characteristics:

Flower Color: Pink, and Purple

Seed Type: Capsule

Duration: Perennial

Stem Texture: Hairless/ Smooth

Growth Habit: Shrub (Woody)

Leaf Shape: Pinnately Compound

Season: Evergreen



Newly named Earth-Kind roses support sustainable gardening

2025 selections thrive with minimal care, offer beauty and resilience in Texas landscapes

March 24, 2025- by Karn Dhingra

The latest group of rose cultivars named Earth-Kind roses by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service marks a new chapter in sustainable landscaping practices.

These rose varieties were selected after extensive trials to ensure they thrive with minimal pesticides, fertilizers or excessive watering, making them ideal for Texas gardeners and other regions of the country with challenging growing environments.



Paul Winski, AgriLife Extension horticulture program specialist in the Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Sciences, emphasized the importance of these rigorous testing conditions.

“We apply water initially to establish the plant, but after that, irrigation is kept to a minimum, and no fertilizers or pesticides are used,” he said.

2025 Earth-Kind rose selections:

Double Knock Out Rose

Double Knock Out is a shrub rose known for its robust nature and cherry-red double flowers with a sweet, fruity fragrance. This variety provides continuous blooms throughout the growing season.

Pink Double Knock Out Rose

Featuring bubble-gum pink double blooms, this rose offers reliable color and disease resistance, making it a favorite among home gardeners and landscapers alike.

Alister Stella Gray

This versatile rose produces soft yellow clusters of fragrant flowers. It can be trained as a climber or left as a stand-alone specimen, offering flexibility in landscape designs.

Rose Easy Elegance My Girl

A shrub rose with deep pink, hybrid tea-like fragrant flowers. This variety combines traditional beauty with the durability of a modern landscape rose.

Crepuscule

A noisette rose showcasing large, orange double flowers that mature to an apricot-yellow hue. This variety is well suited for climbing or as a striking focal point in the landscape.



Earth-Kind
Landscaping



TEXAS BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE



BQA TIPS

The Importance of Hay Storage

April 1, 2024
Emily Lochner

Hay storage will impact how much hay is needed and the cost of the hay feeding program. Strategies to reduce storage loss will vary some based on annual rainfall.

In most environments, round bales stored outside should be stacked in long rows with the flat ends butted against each other. At least 3 feet should be left between rows to allow sunlight and wind to dry the bales out quicker after it rains. Hay should not be stacked under trees as this delays drying. Storage sites with well drain soils will help reduce loss on the bottom of bales.