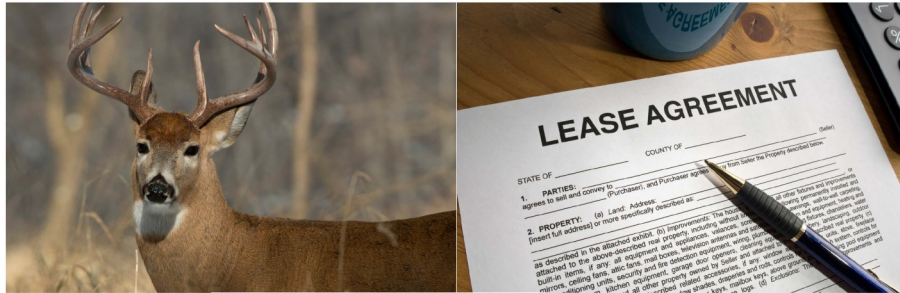




Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

August 2024



PRESENTED BY: **TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION**

Hunting Leases & Landowner Liability Seminar

Monday August 26, 2024
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Robert Lee Rec Hall

150 County Park Rd

Robert Lee, TX 76945

325-453-2461

Cost: \$10.00

morgan.runyan@ag.tamu.edu

Featured Virtual Speaker
Tiffany Dowell Lashmet
Extension Agricultural Law Specialist - Amarillo

Hunting Lease Must-Haves

When setting up a hunting lease, it's important to cover various aspects to ensure a positive experience for both the landowner and the hunters. Tiffany will highlight some must-haves for a hunting lease agreement

Shielding Landowners from Potential Liability

Shielding landowners from potential liability is crucial when establishing a hunting lease. Tiffany will cover some strategies to help protect landowners

- In this issue:
- Hunting Leases & Landowner Liability
 - Four Tips To Prevent and Remove Grass Stickers
 - Oh That Smell, Can You Smell That Smell
 - Advancing the Fundamentals of Brush Management

Hunting season is right around the corner and this is a great opportunity to set yourself up for a good season. Please contact your local County Extension office for details on locations for this program in your county.

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.

Four Tips To Prevent and Remove Grass Stickers How to banish and manage sandburs for good



Tip 1: Understand your location's needs

Sandburs are nasty little weed seed pods. Ridding your lawn of them takes some time and effort, but it can save you and your household some real pain. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife) Your location determines how to control sandburs. Boeri warns that Texas' wide range of climates makes it difficult to provide specific instructions. In cooler parts of the state, sandburs are a summer annual that dies back and returns from seed. In warmer regions in the south, they can live as perennials that overwinter as plants. Therefore, your control methods and timing will differ based on where the plants are in their life cycle. Sandburs have extended germination periods that can last more than three years, Boeri said. This occurs because the spiny pods contain two types of seed with different dormancy. Additionally, seeds can survive up to eight years in the soil.

Tip 2: Consider preemergence herbicides

In northern parts of the state like where Boeri resides in Dallas, preemergence herbicides may help. However, he cautions that while this will prevent seeds from emerging, it won't get rid of a plant that has emerged. Timing is crucial — he explains how sandbur seeds can begin early germination at soil temperatures of 52 degrees and continue to germinate at low levels through the summer. However, peak emergence is around April-May when soils reach 72 degrees. Plants emerging at this time will produce the highest number of burs. Apply preemergence products before peak germination and follow with another application depending on label instructions, soil type and weather. Boeri recommends using products with active ingredients like dithiopyr, indaziflam, oryzalin or pendimethalin. "If you apply a preemergent, and you notice a few sandburs still emerge, there is a chance they may become resistant," Boeri says. "Remove those plants by hand or mechanically, or kill them with a post-emergent herbicide."

Tip 3: Post-emergence herbicides for sandburs

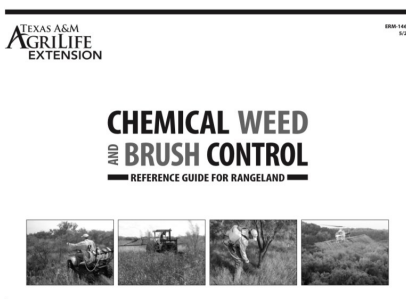
Most post-emergence herbicides available to homeowners at retail stores are not labeled for sandburs. However, products containing flazasulfuron and thiencazone plus iodosulfuron and dicamba are effective but intended for licensed commercial applicators. Boeri said applicators should be aware that flazasulfuron is only for use in Bermuda grass and zoysia grasses. The most homeowner-friendly post-emergent for sandburs should include imazaquin. Products including this ingredient are available online and in home and garden departments. "Using pre- and post-emergent herbicides can be an effective part of the plan to keep sandburs at bay," he said. Boeri said users should always follow product labels for all herbicides.

Tip 4: Maintain healthy and happy turfgrass

Herbicide regimens can be hit or miss as well as time- and money-consuming. Boeri explained the best long-term strategy to win the war against sandburs is to create dense, healthy turfgrass. Sandburs thrive in poor soil, so start with a soil test to determine what nutrients your lawn needs. Then, follow the recommendations for your soil type and grass species. Contact your local AgriLife Extension office to pick up a soil test kit with sampling and mailing instructions. "Weeds are opportunistic," he said. "So, we want to create conditions that promote healthy, resilient turfgrass. That is the best defense against sandburs."

Chemical Weed and Brush Control Reference Guide—Updated

ERM-1466 Chemical Weed and Brush Control Reference Guide was updated in May of 2020 to include the most recent chemicals.



This publication provides general suggestions for herbicides used to control brush and weeds on Texas rangelands. It also gives information on the levels of control expected. Visit the AgriLife Bookstore for the free download:

<https://agrilife.org/westtexasrangelands/files/2020/05/ERM-1466.pdf>



Figure 9. Mesquite tree showing lateral roots and branching taproot.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, 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.

Ooh That Smell, Can't You Smell that Smell

Dr. Jacob Dykes

Assistant Professor & Extension Wildlife Specialist

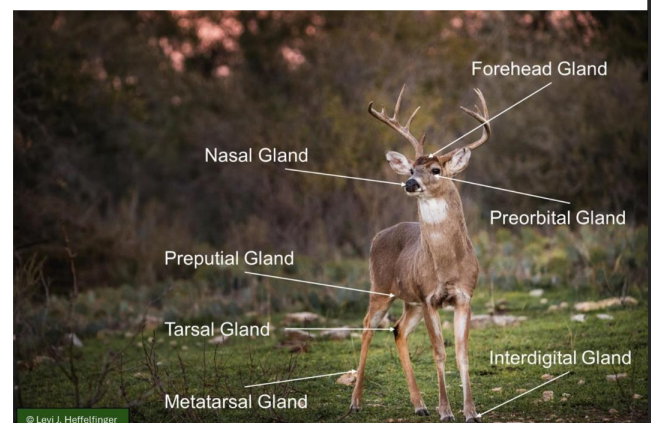
No, Lynyrd Skynyrd's famous song 'That Smell' wasn't talking about deer glands, but we are. In fact, today, we'll be doing a head-to-toe inventory of whitetail glands and discussing their role in scent communication.

Whitetails have seven glands: the interdigital, metatarsal, tarsal, preputial, nasal, preorbital, and forehead. Each gland is responsible for communication by depositing scent or facilitating scent exchange. Starting from the ground up, we have the interdigital gland between the hooves. This gland is one of the more "gland-looking" and is easy to spot when you pull the hooves apart. The scent from this gland is deposited in tracks while deer are on the move, and as you can imagine, it is likely important for a herding species trying to keep tabs on each other. Moving up to the "ankles," we have the metatarsal gland, which isn't well understood. It is documented that some deer, depending on where they are located on the globe, have larger or smaller metatarsal glands and that they may play a role in thermoregulation. On the rear legs near the "knee," you will find the most well-known of the glands – the tarsal gland. The tarsal gland secretes oils to hold urine deposited when deer urinate on their hind legs and rub them together, often called rub-urinating. It's common to see this behavior when bucks visit scrapes. Bucks urinate on these glands during the rut to increase scent communication, causing the tarsal gland to become darker and have a pungent smell.

Now, leaving the legs and getting to the main body, we have the preputial gland inside the penile sheath, which is thought to assist with lubrication and may have antimicrobial properties. The nasal gland is inside the nostril; high-five to whomever gave it such a straightforward name. The nasal gland is believed to moisturize the nasal passage to facilitate smell rather than deposit scent. The preorbital gland is in the corner of the eye and can deposit scent on tree branches, such as a licking limb commonly found over buck scrapes. The forehead gland is, you guessed it, located on the forehead beneath the hair. You may have noticed bucks often get a darker forehead during the rut, and this is due to the gland actively secreting an oily substance that can be deposited onto licking limbs and rubbing trees.

Of course, I can't talk about scent communication without mentioning the Jacobson's organ, commonly called (and less cool) the vomeronasal organ. This organ is located in the soft tissue inside a deer's nose and is essential for interpreting pheromones, which influence social responses. Have you ever seen a buck raise its head and weirdly curl its lip? If so, you have witnessed pheromones being directed to the vomeronasal organ for communication in what is called the flehmen response.

We've all heard it: communication is key, but communication doesn't have to be verbal. Spend any time observing a group of whitetails, and you will notice that they are constantly communicating with each other even though you haven't heard a thing.



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2024 Advancing the Fundamentals of Brush Management

San Angelo—September 19, 2024



2024 ADVANCING THE FUNDAMENTALS OF BRUSH MANAGEMENT

Join us for a day devoted to understanding and refining basic and advanced knowledge of herbicide applications. We will hear from leading industry experts, producers, and Farm Bill funding agencies!

Event Dates

8AM - 4PM | Building Locations TBD

- Tuesday Sept. 10, 2024 | Wichita Falls, Texas
- Tuesday Sept. 17, 2024 | Corpus Christi, Texas
- Thursday Sept. 19, 2024 | San Angelo, Texas

Our Partners



Whether you are contemplating herbicide applications to manage encroaching brush and trees or are invested in a long-term herbicide program, this workshop is guaranteed to propel your brush management program forward!



<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/>

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