



Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

October 2024

Landowner Program — Mills County October 24, 2024

- ◆ RSVP by October 22nd.
- ◆ Please pre register by scanning the QR code or by contacting Tom Guthrie, Mills County Extension Agent at 325-648-2650 or

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 - Plant ID-KR Bluestem
 - USDA Releases 2024 Cash Rent Data
 - October Horticulture To-Do List

Mills County Landowner Program October 24, 2024

2 CEU's (1 L&R, 1 General)
\$15.00 for attendees
\$10.00 for Botanical Garden Members

Pesticide Laws & Regs

Ag Valuation

Basic Brush Control

8:30 a.m. - Registration
9:00 a.m. - Noon - Program

Topics

R.S.V.P by October 22nd
Mills Co. Extension Office
325-648-2650 or t-guthrie@tamu.edu
or scan the QR code

- Where can I go in Mills County for Landowner Assistance?
- AgriLife, Texas Botanical Gardens, NRCS, FSA, TPW, Wildlife Coops,
- Agriculture Valuation - Tom Guthrie, Texas A&M AgriLife, CEA-ANR, Mills County
- Pesticide Laws & Regulations - Neal Alexander, Texas A&M AgriLife, CEA-ANR, San Saba County
- Basic Brush Control - Scott Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife, CEA- ANR, Brown County

Texas Botanical Gardens and Pavilion
1219 Fisher Street
Goldthwaite, TX 76844

"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, veterans status, sexual orientation, or gender identity."

Plant ID– King Ranch Bluestem

Common name: King Ranch Bluestem (KR Bluestem)

Latin name: *Bothriochloa ischaemum* (L.) Keng

Family: Poaceae

Life Cycle: Perennial

Type: Grass

Description: Plants can begin as a bunch-type growth habit, but then spreading by rhizomes and/or stolons, especially in mowed turf. Inflorescence is a terminal panicle with spicate primary branches. One of the most common roadside and utility turfgrass weeds in Texas.

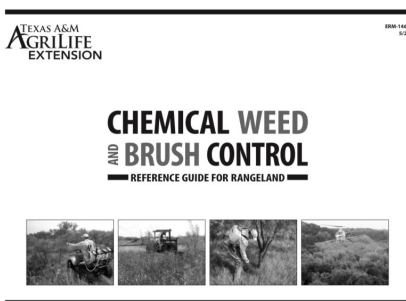


To combat Kleberg and King Ranch bluestems, land managers have tried burning, disking, mowing, plowing, and combinations of these tactics. Although these invasive grasses are suppressed temporarily, they often regain their original density within a few months and sometimes surpass the previous coverage.



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.

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USDA Releases 2024 Cash Rent Data

Tiffany Lashmet—Ag Law Specialist

Each year, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts a nationwide survey to gather data and compile a report showing average cash rental rates across the United States. These results are based upon the survey responses from landowners and producers around the country. **Please note that all reported cash rent amounts are listed in a per acre/per year format.**

To see a chart listing the cash rents by county for Texas, [click here](#). Here's how things broke down in the Lone Star State.

Pastureland

The statewide average for pastureland was \$8.20/acre, which is down \$0.30 from last year. The highest pastureland rental rates were reported in Bowie and Delta Counties at \$22/acre and Bell County at \$21/acre. Conversely, the lowest reported pastureland lease averages were in West Texas with Winkler County at \$0.90, Hudspeth at \$1, and Presidio at \$1.40

Irrigated Cropland

The Texas average lease rate for irrigated cropland was \$117/acre, up \$4 from 2023. For 2024, the highest average reported lease rates were in Hartley County (\$229/acre) and Gaines County (\$194/acre). The lowest reported rates for irrigated cropland came from Chambers County at \$39.

Non-Irrigated Cropland

Statewide non-irrigated cropland lease rates averaged \$31.50/acre, which is a \$0.50/acre increase from the prior year. The highest reported rental for non-irrigated cropland was found in San Patricio County at \$88/acre and in Willacy County at \$75.50/acre. On the other hand, the lowest rates came from Llano County at \$6.50/acre, Sutton County at \$7.60/acre, and Kimble County at \$7.90/acre.

Dr. Greg Kaase pulled together the following table showing the average cash lease rates for 2023 and 2024 for each of Texas' regions.

County level estimates are accessible online at the following web address:

[https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide to NASS Surveys/Cash Rents by County/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide%20to%20NASS%20Surveys/Cash%20Rents%20by%20County/index.php)

Cash Rents District Estimates, Dollars per Acre, Texas 2023 and 2024

District	Pasture		Cropland			
	2023	2024	Irrigated		Non-Irrigated	
			2023	2024	2023	2024
	dollars	dollars	dollars	dollars	dollars	dollars
Northern High Plains	12.27	9.00	111.77	122.15	28.95	28.20
Southern High Plains	6.14	6.93	127.73	118.21	40.38	42.13
Northern Low Plains	8.27	8.44	(D)	(D)	25.05	22.60
Southern Low Plains	8.40	7.70	77.33	(D)	23.79	27.91
Cross Timbers	11.03	10.85	(D)	(D)	19.06	19.03
Blacklands	15.76	14.40	(D)	(D)	27.60	27.93
North East	16.03	15.39	(D)	(D)	19.15	19.93
South East	13.54	12.45	(D)	(D)	19.09	17.76
Trans-Pecos	4.53	1.96	133.17	(D)	(D)	(D)
Edwards Plateau	5.40	5.35	(D)	(D)	18.42	19.97
South Central	12.61	10.91	(D)	92.17	23.63	26.82
Coastal Bend	11.80	11.45	(D)	(D)	62.37	61.33
Upper Coast	12.52	11.14	71.58	68.36	38.73	39.14
South	7.98	7.14	121.87	116.25	23.14	22.25
Lower Valley	14.43	10.50	114.00	95.83	54.25	58.63
State	8.50	8.20	113.00	117.00	31.00	31.50

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October Horticulture To-Do's

Allison Schwarz – Tom Green County CEA-Horticulture



The first landscape task for fall is to modify watering. Homeowners with automatic irrigation systems should adjust the timers if they have not been changed for fall yet. While there have been plenty of hot days recently, landscapes are needing less water than during the extreme summer climate. The website WaterMyYard.org is a great tool to help know how long to run the irrigation system each week based on local weather.

There have been questions about a weedy grass popping up in yards – KR bluestem is an invasive, aggressive perennial grass that pops up in late summer and has gone to seed this time of year. It thrives most in yards that are stressed, and not as much in healthy, vigorously growing yards.



So the main recommendation for control is to mow frequently, fertilize properly and irrigate regularly through the growing season to allow the turfgrass to thrive and resist weed invasion. Pre-emergent will not provide good control since KR bluestem is a perennial plant. Keep an eye out and catch it early – dig up clumps of the grass by hand before it gets out of control.

Avoid using high-nitrogen fertilizers on trees, shrubs and turf too late in the season, after mid-October, as nitrogen stimulates tender new growth that can be easily damaged at the first fall freeze. Cool season annuals and vegetables will benefit from steady applications on nitrogen. Wait until winter for major tree pruning work for general canopy maintenance, except dead and damaged branches should be removed now while they are easily visible.

Later in the season when leaves start to fall, remember “don’t bag it” and keep fallen leaves out of landfills. Leaves are a great source of organic matter and should be taken advantage of – place in a compost pile, use as mulch in beds, or even simply mow over leaves in the grass to shred them up.

Fall is a good time of year to top dress St. Augustine lawns with sphagnum peat moss, one to two bales per thousand square feet, to prevent take-all root rot fungal disease. The acidity of the peat will help reduce the pH and make it less hospitable for the pathogen. It doesn’t maintain a long-lasting effect, so for yards with a history of the disease it’s a good practice to apply the peat moss every fall and spring.

Lisa Brown

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