Chute 'n the Bull *by Tommy Neyland*

Tommy Neyland

Summer isn't always kind to Texas turfgrasses. Heat and drought combine to put lawns through real struggles. Here are some simple guidelines to help you – and your grass – survive summer intact.

Common bermuda should be fertilized every 8 weeks (dwarf hybrid bermudas more often, but with lighter doses at each feeding). Use a high-nitrogen or all-nitrogen lawn food, very preferably one that does not have a weedkiller included. Mow it at 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches, and mow on 4- or 5-day intervals to keep the grass low and spreading. If you find that the grass is brown for 2 or 3 days after you mow, consider raising the mower one notch (but not above 1-3/4 inches). That browning is because you have been mowing down into stem stubble. Raising the blade will help. However, you will need to remember to drop the blade down that same notch in late winter next year so that the grass doesn't become gradually taller.

If you have weeds in your bermuda lawn use the appropriate herbicide(s) to control them. Apply a broadleafed weedkiller (containing 2,4-D) for the non-grassy weeds, and apply MSMA to control grassy weeds such as dallisgrass, crabgrass and grassburs. Use Image or Sedgehammer to eliminate nutsedge ("nutgrass"). Read and follow label directions carefully.

St. Augustine is a tropical grass that loves the heat. It also does its best in the sun. Many of us use it, however, because of its tolerance of shade. While bermuda and other grasses need 6 to 8 hours of sunlight daily, St. Augustine can thrive on as few as 4 hours. St. Augustine is the dominant grass of all the types we have at our disposal. As such, it will crowd its way into all other types of grasses.

Fertilize St. Augustine in early summer, then wait until mid-September to feed it again. Gray leaf spot (a fungal disease) can be an issue in the hottest part of the summer when you apply nitrogen to it. If it does show up, apply a labeled fungicide to stop its spread. Watch, too, for chinch bugs. They will leave sunny, hot areas of the lawn dry-looking, even after you water. They're small, black insects with white diamonds on the backs of their wings. You'll be able to see them at the interface of dying grass and healthy grass on the hottest summer afternoons. Lawn insecticides will control them.

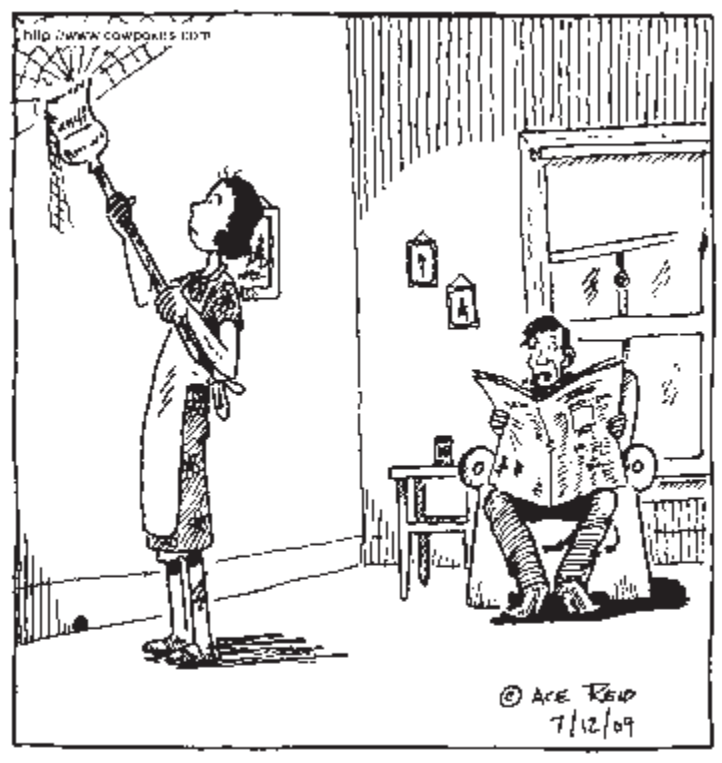
If you have nutsedge in your St. Augustine, apply Image or Sedgehammer as mentioned for bermuda. If you have dallisgrass, you'll either have to spot-treat with a glyphosate herbicide or hand-dig the weed. MSMA cannot be used in St. Augustine turf. In fact, you can actually use MSMA to eliminate invading St. Augustine from bermuda lawns.

Zoysias are warm-season grasses, and, as such, can be handled similarly to bermuda and St. Augustine. Feed your lawn now and again in very early fall. Mow as needed and at the height recommended for the variety you're growing. There are scores of varieties, so ask questions of your turf vendor. Some are intended to be mowed very short, while others must be allowed to grow taller, to 2 or 2-1/2 inches.

Buffalograss grows slowly. It also requires a lot less maintenance than the other grasses, and it's drought-tolerant to boot. However, bermuda invades it and cannot be controlled. In areas where we have turf or native stands of bermudagrass nearby, buffalograss will probably never become mainstream so long as we have no herbicide that will eliminate bermuda without harming the buffalograss.

Fescues look their worst over the summer. That's because they are "cool-season" grasses that gear up and start growing in late September and October, then breeze through the winter and into mid-spring, before Texas' hot season takes its toll. Apply ample water regularly. Avoid all plant foods until fall. Make plans to overseed every September to keep fescue lawns full and dense. For the record, fescues are better suited to Northwest Texas, where summer evenings are somewhat cooler. You can find this and past articles on the web at www.mycountrytractor.com for your reference. Extension programs serve of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperatings serve of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

COW POKES® By Ace Reid



"Maw yore'd better leave them spiders alone. Yore might upset the balance of nature!"

Commissioners check out expo centers

by Vanessa Goodwyn

The Leon County Commissioners appear to be gearing up to see the county's Expo Center project become a reality. Next week they will attend a committee meeting for the Leon County Expo Center at the Leon County Annex I, 3rd floor Grand Room July 21st, 2009 from approximately 7pm to 9pm. Earlier on that day they are scheduled to visit the Travis County Expo Center in Austin, and on July 23 will make visits to the Grimes County Expo Center in Navasota and the Montgomery County Expo Center located in Conroe.

Judge Byron Ryder described the goal of the upcoming visits. "They have gone to Ellis and Brazos County and will be visiting Travis, Grimes and Montgomery Expo Centers to get some ideas, see what other people are doing and learn how they got their money. We'll try to see what will work for us."

Judge Ryder went on to point out that the nearest expo centers are in Corsiciana and in Conroe, so the right facility right on the interstate in Leon County would have a lot of potential.

Lamb and Goat Notice

All Leon County 4-H and FFA Members wishing to show lamb or goat projects at the Major Spring 2009 Shows in Texas need to order tags by contacting the Texas Agrilife Extension Service at 903.536.2531 by August 24, 2009. Each tag will cost $10.00 and the tags will not be ordered until payment is received. Extension programs serve all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

TDA Market Recap July 6, 2009

AUSTIN – (July 6, 2009) For the week ending July 4, 2009, feeder cattle prices at Texas auctions were mostly steady to $3 lower per hundredweight in light holiday-week trade. Some early-week sales were as much as $5 higher. Fed cattle cash sales were also light with prices up from the previous week. Corn and grain sorghum markets declined after USDA reported higher-than-expected corn acres planted for 2009. Good harvest progress pushed wheat prices lower and cotton prices were higher on a decline in planted acres. As for futures markets, feeder cattle, finished cattle and cotton were higher, while wheat, corn and lumber were lower. Most of the state again experienced hot, dry weather during the week. However, parts of the Plains and Edwards Plateau received up to 2 inches of rain and isolated showers fell elsewhere. Topsoil moisture remains in very short to short supply statewide. Wheat harvest is 90 percent complete with most of the acreage rated in very poor to fair condition. Cotton planting neared completion, with 57 percent of the crop squaring and 17 percent setting bolls. The state's corn crop is in mostly fair to good condition with 63 percent of the acreage tasseled. Grain sorghum planting is nearing completion. Pastures continued to suffer from the hot, dry weather and are reported in mostly very poor to fair condition.

"Out With It!"

B	E	H	A	R		M	I	A	T	A		A	D	D
A	L	O	N	E		O	W	N	E	R		R	O	O
S	A	I	D	A	P	R	A	Y	E	R		M	I	Z
E	T	S		L	E	O	S		D	I	L	A	T	E
D	E	T	A	I	N	S				V	I	D		
			U	T	T	E	R	E	D	A	S	I	G	H
L	U	C	K	Y			E	V	I	L		L	O	U
E	T	A			L	I	V	E	S			L	A	G
T	E	N		R	I	D	E			S	L	O	T	S
S	P	O	K	E	V	O	L	U	M	E	S			
		P	E	A				L	E	A	D	O	R	E
S	T	E	N	C	H		S	C	A	T		P	O	T
P	A	N		T	A	L	K	E	D	T	R	A	S	H
A	X	E		O	N	A	I	R		L	U	R	I	E
S	I	R		R	A	W	L	S		E	N	T	E	R

Sudoku Solution #1500-M

8	9	6	1	5	2	7	3	4
1	2	3	7	4	8	5	6	9
5	4	7	9	3	6	2	8	1
9	6	8	4	2	3	1	7	5
3	5	2	6	1	7	9	4	8
4	7	1	5	8	9	6	2	3
6	3	9	8	7	1	4	5	2
7	8	5	2	9	4	3	1	6
2	1	4	3	6	5	8	9	7

BUFFALO LIVESTOCK REPORT

Sale Date:	**7-11-09**
Head Count:	**2367**
Last Week:	**N/S**
Sellers:	**239**
Buyers:	**58**
Cutter Cows	42-53
Fat Cows	43-51
Canner Cows	32-46
Slaughter Bulls	**Steady/Down**
Heavy Bulls	56-61
Light Bulls	48-55
Cow/Calf Pairs & Bred Cows	
Choice Pairs	N/T
Good Pairs	850-970
Plain Pairs	600-750
Bred Cows 3-6 Yr Old	500-810
Steer/Bull Calves & Yearlings	
Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.	
150-200 lbs	95-125
200-300 lbs	95-1.23
300-400 lbs	99-128
400-500 lbs	90-108
500-600 lbs	85-105
600-700 lbs	87-100
700-800 lbs	82-92
Heifer Calves & Yearlings	
Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.	
150-200 lbs	95-120
200-300 lbs	95-1.16
300-400 lbs	88-111
400-500 lbs	85-101
500-600 lbs	83-98
600-700 lbs	83-93
700-800 lbs	82-83

BRAZOS VALLEY LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date of Sale:	**7-7-09**
Total Receipts:	**1802**
Previous Week:	**1955**
Total Sellers:	**199**
Total Buyers:	**72**
Feeder Steers- Med/Large #1	
200-300	110-130
300-400	104-127
400-500	101-120
500-600	89-117
600-700	86-98
700-800	87-94
Med/Large #1-2's	
200-300	95-110
300-400	97-115
400-500	88-100
500-600	81-88
600-700	80-85
Feeder Heifers - Med/Large #1	
200-300	104-119
300-400	100-110
400-500	91-99
500-600	84-97
600-700	85-93
700-800	80-88
Feeder Heifers - Med/Large #1-2	
200-300	90-100
300-400	85-100
400-500	80-90
500-600	80-86
600-700	76-84
Stocker Cows	
Palpated Cows	340-800
Cow/Calf Pairs	
Choice	810-940
Good	670-800
Plain	410-650
Slaughter Bulls	
High Yield 1-2	56-64.5
Lower Yielding	52-56
Slaughter Cows	
Shelly Cows	24-33
Cutter Canners	34-51.5
Cutter/Boning UT	41-51.5

GROESBECK LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date of Sale:	**7-9-09**
Head Count:	**1758**
Cut/Boner	42-47
Canner Cow	38-44
Breaker Utility Com Cow	49-53
Thin Cows	30-42
Bulls Yield Grade 1&2	58-62
Bulls Yield Grade 3&4	55-58
Stocker Cows	
Young Bred Cows	750-900
Older Plain Cows	450-750
Good Choice Pairs	850-1150
Common Medium Pair	650-850
Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings	
Steers Good & Choice	
Up to 200	----
300-400	109-127
400-500	98-110
500-600	95-107
600-700	93-105
700-800	90-104
Heifers Good & Choice	
Up to 200	----
300-400	95-110
400-500	90-100
500-600	87-98
600-700	90-96

ANDERSON CO. LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date of Sale:	**7-8-09**
Head Count:	**784**
Buyers:	**48**
Sellers:	**117**
Steers/Bull Calves & Yearlings	
200-300	95-1.32
300-400	92-1.26
400-500	90-1.06
500-600	87-1.04
600-700	85-1.00
700-800	78-95
Heifers Calves & Yearlings	
200-300	92-1.23
300-400	87-1.21
400-500	85-1.05
500-600	82-1.02
600-700	80-1.00
700-800	72-90
Slaughter Cows	30-50
Slaughter Bulls	52-62
Stocker Cows	425.00-775.00
Pairs	675.00-850.00

EAST TEXAS LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date:	**7-7-09**
Volume:	**2285**
Tested:	**451**
Sellers:	**256**
Total Buyers:	**90**
Packer Buyers:	**5**
Order Buyers:	**13**
Cattle Companies:	**31**
Feeder Orders:	**203**
Slaughter Cows	
Canners	21-38.00
Boning/Utility	39-45.00
Cutters	46-52.50
Slaughter Bulls	45.50-61.50
Bred Cows	520-780/hd
Cow/Calf Pairs	630-910
Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1's	
150-200	113-128
205-300	111-135
305-400	105-128
405-500	93-115
505-600	85-106
605-800	81.50-100
Feeder Heifers - Large Frame#1	
150-200	110-128
205-300	100-128
305-400	95-120
405-500	84-107
505-600	80-101
605-800	73-99

Compared to last week:
All classes of feeder steers and heifers from 500 lbs and down ended firm to $3 higher while classes over 500 lbs ended uneven to $2 lower. Slaughter cows and slaughter bulls ended $2 to $3 lower. Buyer demand and trade continues to remain good on most feeder classes.

Full Service Equine Hospital

Mare Management and Foaling

Embryo Transfer

Breeding

Stallion Collection and Evaluation

Semen Shipping and Freezing

Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm
Sat. by appt. only.
Credit Cards Accepted

CVRS
Dacques Pourciau DVM
903-536-2424
3771 FM 811, Centerville, TX