

Dealing With Wavyleaf Basketgrass

by Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

I've received several emails to help identify a new weed in the area. Like most weeds, we'd prefer not having to deal with them, but this one can be very persistent. Wavyleaf basketgrass (*Oplismenus undulatifolius*) is an invasive shallow-rooted perennial grass that can develop dense patches in shaded and semi-shaded areas. The leaves have a distinct 'rippled' appearance, which earns the name 'wavyleaf'. Leaf blades are pubescent with hair on the stems and leaf sheaths.

The grass spreads quickly by stolons and seeds. The elongated stolons (stems) root at the nodes along the ground and can grow to 18". The seeds are easily moved by people and animals because they are sticky and adhere to shoes, clothing, tires, animal fur, and paws. The feathery white flower spikes appear in late-summer or fall (late August-November).



Important Dates



- **2022 SE TEXAS URBAN AG & FARM SAFETY SUMMIT**
September 22 & 23, 2022
[Register Here](#)
- **THE FUTURE OF URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT**
September 30, 2022
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
[Register Here.](#)



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Preventing this plant from going to seed is a good practice. Hand-pulling or digging out the plants is the preferred method of removal. Wavyleaf basketgrass has a very limited root system and pulls out easily, especially when the soil is moist. When pulling, it is very important that all stems and roots are placed in sealable bags and disposed of in the trash or burned to ensure that control efforts do not inadvertently become spreading events.

There are two post-emergent herbicides—glyphosate and the grass-specific herbicide clethodim—recommended as effective controls for wavyleaf basketgrass. For treatments to be the most effective, it is recommended that herbicides be applied in the spring or summer prior to flowering.

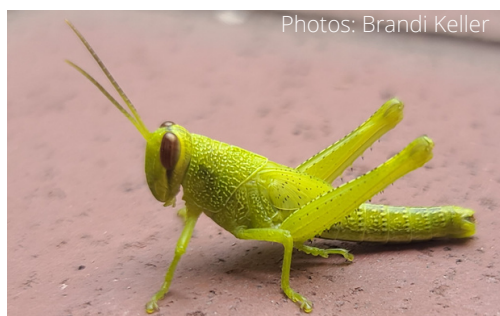
Clethodim is a grass-specific herbicide that will not harm sedges and broadleaf plants, while glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide that will control all types of plants. Both glyphosate and clethodim have been shown to be effective at controlling the majority of wavyleaf basketgrass infestations following one application. For improved control, it may be necessary to apply clethodim twice in one growing season to fully control an infestation. Applications of clethodim should take place at least three weeks apart and be completed before August when flowering occurs. Please read and follow all pesticide label directions.

Summer Garden Observations

by Brandi Keller, Harris County Extension Agent, Horticulture

August Vegetable Gardens

Plant seeds of snap beans, cucumbers, summer squash, and summer greens through the month. Irish potatoes (cut pieces) can be planted through the start of September. Tomato transplants can go in the ground starting early August, but be sure they are determinate varieties or 60 days or less to harvest. Plant eggplant and pepper transplants by mid-month.



Bird Grasshopper (*Schistocera*)

The common name comes from the orthopteran's ability to fly a long distance, especially when disturbed. This inch-long bright green nymph transformed into a much longer adult (less than 3") with green body, reddish-brown wings, and bright yellow stripe down the back.

Grasshoppers undergo incomplete metamorphosis: egg, nymph, and adult. This means the juvenile just looks like a smaller version of the adult.

This particular species could be *S. obscura* (Obscure bird grasshopper) or *S. alutacea* (Leather-colored bird grasshopper), but I lean toward *S. obscura*.

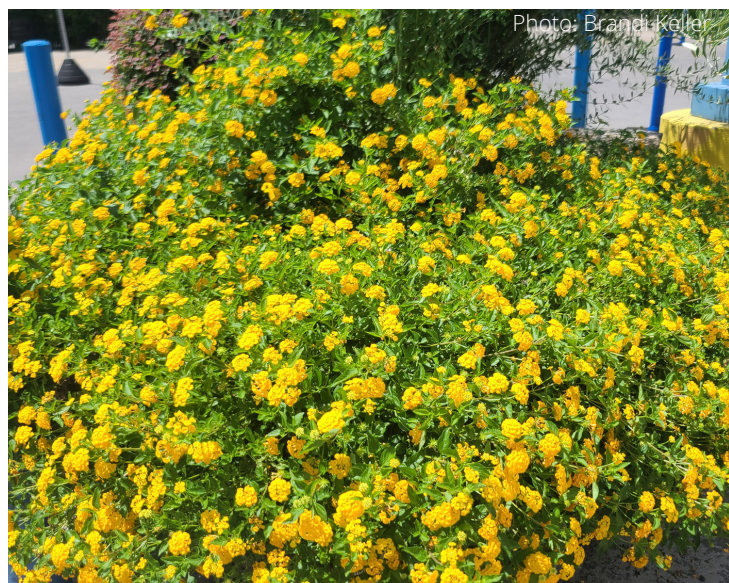
Adults are more common July through September and females can be almost twice as big as males.

I've chosen to leave these this one as it is unlikely to cause significant damage, despite being a plant eaters.

Lantana x hybrida 'New Gold'

This lantana is currently showing spectacular yellow blooms in the heat and drought. It has been bred to be sterile, unlike common lantanas, eliminating berries and invasive spread. Its heat and drought tolerance, while still putting out consistent blooms, earned it Texas Superstar status. While sold as an annual, it can be a hardy perennial here, of shrub size (2' tall x 4' wide). However, hardiness varies depending on cultural conditions and weather.

'New Gold' requires full sun, but partial shade can still grow a great plant at times. It blooms spring to frost.



To register for "[All About Mint](#)," Click [HERE](#).

Forage Management Strategies During Drought Conditions

Shannon Dietz, Harris County Extension Agent, Ag & Natural Resources

During a drought, there is little that can be done to increase forage growth in pastures or hay meadows for the fact there is little or no moisture in the ground or atmosphere to replenish the moisture needed in the soil. However, proper management during times of drought can hopefully minimize the impacts of low forage and pasture during these severe times. When you are considering long range plans for your pasture(s), if they are properly managed during times of low moisture, hopefully the effects of drought will be less severe or maybe take longer to see the effects and help with rebounding when precipitation does become sufficient again.



Through managing your herd and reducing stocking rate by culling cows that are old, in poor condition, or have a poor disposition should first be considered. You should work with your veterinarian to palpate cows for pregnancy and check for health problems that warrant elimination from your existing herd. Another option is early weaning and sale of calves. This will reduce the grazing pressure as well as the nutrient requirement of cow, (reducing forage intake by roughly 20%) because the heavy demand of lactation is stopped. The longer that you as a producer take to make decisions on decreasing livestock numbers, the sooner the forage supply will be exhausted.

Forage Management Strategies During Drought Conditions, cont.

Shannon Dietz, Harris County Extension Agent, Ag & Natural Resources

Lack of moisture during drought suppresses plant growth and stunts root development, allowing for noxious and unwanted weeds to take over when moisture becomes available. Ideally, you should always allow, if possible, 6-8 inches of new growth before allowing livestock to graze. A healthy improved perennial grass pasture will have 3-4 inches of stubble at most times. However, in severe drought, pastures may not reach this stubble height, and if that's the case, these pastures should not be grazed and deferred until the time of when dormancy hits (when nights are 55F for warm season perennial pastures) and then grazed to the 3-4-inch stubble height. Pasture with little or no green growth have severe reduction in leaf growth causing a substantial decline in root mass. As mentioned, this is when you will see an increase in invader grasses and weeds.

You should never apply herbicide during a drought. The internal plant mechanisms in responding to drought conditions will prevent adequate uptake of herbicides into plants resulting in a high-cost application with little control of the specific weeds. Managing for drought conditions, although hard to do at times because of substantial rainfall or lack of time and management, should take place throughout the calendar year. Try to remember to graze properly in the summer and plan for the fall, winter and spring forage production so that feeding of expensive hay or supplements is minimized as much as possible.



For more information on hay and pasture management during drought conditions and how it affects your herd, please refer to the following article by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/nutrition-drought-feeding.pdf>

The Home Grown Podcast!

The Home Grown podcast is presented by the Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) Unit of the Harris County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office. The series provides information on urban agriculture / horticulture / gardening and ag literacy. Check out our latest episodes below.

Episode #14

On this episode, Paul talks with Lauren Kirchner, the director of sales & marketing at Spring Creek Growers in Waller, Texas. Paul & Lauren talk about her family's greenhouse operation and the current trends that she is seeing in the industry.

Episode #13

Shannon interviews Mr. Steven Sisler, DAR (Disaster and Recovery) Agent with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Harris County. Mr. Sisler shares important and timely information about emergency preparedness and information for the 2022 Hurricane Season.

Episode #12

Brandi interviews Sherri Harrah, manager and hardline buyer for Plants For All Seasons Garden Center. They discuss an overview of the family-owned business, a few observations as a woman in horticulture, and touch on some current buying trends in the market today.

Episode #11

Paul interviews Rebecca Dubiski, project manager with Landscape Art Inc. Paul talks with Rebecca about her experience in the green industry and some of the opportunities working for a landscape construction company.

Episode #10

Shannon interviews Kay Wolfe, County Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency for Harris, Waller and Montgomery Counties.

How do you access the podcast?

Click on the image below or go to <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1791415>. You can also search "Home Grown" wherever you find your podcasts.



Harris County
Extension Agents
Horticulture
Paul Winski
Brandi Keller
Ag/Natural Resources
Shannon Dietz

Save -The -Date
SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2022

**SOUTHEAST TX
URBAN AG AND FARM
SAFETY SUMMIT**

Sponsor

SNEAK A PEEK TOPICS

.....

*Farm Loan Information and Business Planning
Livestock (Cattle and Equine)*

Hay & Pasture Management

Vegetables and Crops

More

Livestock Judging contest

Weed Identification Contest

Tradeshow/ Product Demonstrations

Environmental and Pesticide, etc.

Register Here:

<https://SETXurbanAGsummit.eventbrite.com>

HOSTED BY: HARRIS COUNTY AG & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SHANNON P. DIETZ, COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

**LOCATION: GERALD R YOUNG AGRICULTURE SCIENCES CENTER
5801 KATY HOCKLEY CUT OFF RD| KATY, TX| 77493**



THE FUTURE OF URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

September 30, 2022

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

University of Houston-Downtown

(UHD Science & Technology Building)

315 N. Main Street Houston TX 77002

COST: GENERAL \$50.00 | STUDENT - \$ 25.00

Early-Bird Registration - Save \$ 10.00 (Register by 8/15)



Agenda



Gardening for Health – Dr. Joe Novak, Faculty Lecturer, Director of the Betty and Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden Rice University



Certified Organic: What is it and its value – Bob Whitney, Regents Fellow & Extension Organic Program Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center.



Enhancing the Purpose of Food – Dr. Patrick Stover, Institute Director, Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture Texas A&M AgriLife Research | Texas A&M University System



Wicked Problems Lunch Topics – each table at lunch will informally discuss an urban food topic



Innovation in Urban Ag Panel

- **Brenda Anderson Koch** - VegOut! Farms, Owner/Operator
- **Sara Wilson** - Three Sister Farms, Owner
- **Cath Conlon** - Blackwood Educational Land Institute/The SKYFARM at Post Houston, CEO and Founder

REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://FUFSS2022.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://fufss2022.eventbrite.com)

Paul Winski, Harris County Extension Agent - Horticulture

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2022 HOME GROWN LECTURE SERIES

Lectures will be on the first Thursday of each month and include live demonstrations. Register now so you don't miss one!

Winter

STARTING PLANTS FROM SEEDS

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

January 6, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

BASIC GRAFTING TECHNIQUES

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

February 3, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

TOMATOES FOR THE PATIO

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Horticulture

March 3, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Summer

IDENTIFYING PEST & DISEASE ISSUES IN THE GARDEN

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

July 7, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

SAFETY IN THE HOME GARDEN

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

August 4, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

ALL ABOUT MINT

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Horticulture

September 1, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Spring

STARTING PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

April 7, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

HOME BUTCHER: MAKING BOUDIN

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

May 5, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

10 REASONS FOR YELLOWING LEAVES

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Horticulture

June 2, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Fall

PROPER PRUNING IN THE LANDSCAPE

Paul Winski - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture

October 6, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

HOLIDAY MEATS - NOT JUST TURKEY!

Shannon Dietz - Texas A&M AgriLife Harris County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

November 3, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

PLANTABLE CHRISTMAS TREE ALTERNATIVES

Brandi Keller - Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent-Horticulture

December 1, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Registration

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

homegrown2022.eventbrite.com



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Social Media/Websites

[Harris County Horticulture Facebook](#)

[Horticulture YouTube Channel](#)

[Harris County Master Gardeners Facebook](#)

[Harris County Ag & Natural Resources Facebook](#)

[Harris County AgriLife Website](#)

If you would like to **unsubscribe** from the Home Grown newsletter, please email Susan Hubert at susan.hubert@ag.tamu.edu



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 or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.