



TX Agriculturalist

Erwin E. Smith, early cowboy photographer captured real life on the range.



Direct From TX

Buy directly from a Texas source; farmers, ranchers, wineries and more.



TDA Updates

Division updates from Food & Nutrition, GO TEXAN, and more.



TEXAS AGRICULTURE Matters!

Your monthly connection to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Volume 1
Issue 6
June 2020



Howdy Neighbors!

Welcome to the Texas Agriculture Matters newsletter, your monthly connection to the Texas Department of Agriculture.

We are closely watching the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff members at TDA have transitioned to working remotely for the time being. Rest assured we are hard at work everyday to support farmers, ranchers and Texans with their agriculture endeavors.

Our operations will continue to serve you and we have plenty of opportunities available. Whether you're a young farmer, want to learn how to get a hemp license or need to read something that brings you joy, this newsletter will serve you well.

Remember friends, Texas Agriculture Matters!

Sid Miller

Texas Agriculture Commissioner

State Fishes of Texas

Two types of fish hold the title of official State Fish of Texas.

Texas has many symbols. With the size, stature and swagger of the Lone Star State, how could we not? From our official dinosaur (Allosaurus) to our state dish (chili) to state bird (Mockingbird), Texas symbols are iconic. And of course, Texas is so big we claim not one state fish, but two.

The Guadalupe Bass (*Micropterus treculie*) is a freshwater fish who was first named state fish by the Texas Legislature in 1989. In 2011, the Guadalupe Bass was joined by the Red Drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) - or Red Fish, Rat Red, Bull Red or just "Red" - as the official saltwater fish of Texas.

The Guadalupe bass has overcome obstacles like changes in habitat and hybridization with smallmouth bass. These obstacles have caused



Guadalupe bass illustration: image was copied on 5/26/2020 from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's website; www.tpwd.state.tx.us (all rights reserved; used by permission).

the numbers of the Guadalupe Bass to decrease in recent years. Stocking programs were put into place by the State of Texas to improve fishing in Texas streams and rivers but ultimately led to the Guadalupe bass decline.

Today, TPWD works hard to introduce pure Guadalupe bass to balance the populations of fish throughout Central Texas, and implement habitat improvements for the bass that also benefit aquatic plants and other animals.

A Hill Country native, the Guadalupe bass lives in streams of the Edwards Plateau region of Central Texas in the headwaters of the San Antonio, Guadalupe and Colorado river systems as well as some tributaries of the Brazos River. Due to the nature of its habitat, shallow or narrow streams, these fish are not known to be huge: “the state record is 3 pounds, 11 ounces” but still makes for a popular sport fish because of the attractive Hill Country landscape. The Guadalupe bass can be distinguished by its unique markings from native relative black bass and smallmouth bass – a distinct pattern of diamonds, rows of dots that form stripes on its belly. Its mouth is smaller, and the jaw doesn’t extend past its eye. They typically eat fish, crayfish and insect larvae.

The Guadalupe bass was recognized as a distinct species



in the 1950s with the help of Dr. Clark Hubbs of the University of Texas. In 1989, the 71st Legislature of the State of Texas designated the Guadalupe bass as the state fish of Texas. “Though its small size prevents it being highly sought as a sport fish, the sheer abundance of

Guadalupe bass is living testament to the sparkling purity of our state's freshwater tributaries; and the Guadalupe bass is unique to Texas and will be a fitting addition to our distinguished roster of official state symbols”.



Guadalupe bass illustration: image was copied on 5/26/2020 from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's website; www.tpwd.state.tx.us (all rights reserved; used by permission).

TEXAS AGRICULTURE *Matters!*



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

*Produced by the Office of Communications
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ABOUT COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Sid Miller is an eighth generation farmer and rancher and the 12th Commissioner of Agriculture for the great State of Texas. Commissioner Miller has devoted his life to the agriculture industry, and supporting Texas producers and the communities they call home. He is a businessman, rancher, community leader, former ag teacher and former school board member. Commissioner Miller is a rodeo cowboy and holds 12 world championship titles. He is an honors graduate of Tarleton State University in Stephenville, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Agriculture Education.

Red Drum

The red drum dwells in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico along the edges of bays submerged in vegetation like seagrass. They've been seen in water so shallow their backs are exposed while swimming. They're distinguishable by a large black spot on the upper part of the tail base. Having multiple spots is not uncommon,

however, no spots is extremely rare. Some believe the black spot is designed to trick predators into attacking the tail instead of their head. The most recognizable feature of this fish is its Texas sized stature. Red drum is a fast-growing fish, reaching up to 8 pounds and 24 inches in three years. The largest red drum fish caught in **fishes of Texas continued on page 5**



COVID-19

The Texas Department of Agriculture is committed to providing the same high level of service to our customers during the COVID-19 emergency as they've come to expect. Whether we're helping Texas farmers and ranchers continue to provide a safe and dependable food supply, ensuring Texas school children continue to have access to regular, healthy meals or supporting our vital rural hospitals and clinics, the Texas Department of Agriculture is here for Texans.

Due to the Coronavirus emergency, The Texas Department of Agriculture is now operating on a Skeleton Crew and will continue to do so until it is determined otherwise by agency leadership. As a result, we are asking all constituents, customers, licensees and others to contact TDA by email, as there will be limited staff in the office answering the phones. Additionally, TDA is not accepting external visitors in the office during this time. If you need to make a payment, you may do so online or via USPS.

Please visit our [website](#) for updated information or view our [COVID-19 Resource Guide](#) for additional resources and information.

ABOUT TDA

The Texas Legislature established the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in 1907. The agency's key objectives are to promote production agriculture, consumer protection, economic development and healthy living. The agriculture commissioner oversees the agency and is elected every four years. The current commissioner, Sid Miller, was elected in 2014. TDA is a diversified state agency that provides value-added services through our regulatory and marketing and initiatives. TDA is headquartered in Austin and has five regional service offices, two sub-offices, three laboratories and five livestock export facilities.

Mission:

TDA's mission is to partner with all Texans to make Texas the nation's leader in agriculture, fortify our economy, empower rural communities, promote healthy lifestyles, and cultivate winning strategies for rural, suburban and urban Texas through exceptional service and the common threads of agriculture in our daily lives.

Texas Agriculture Profile



Erwin E. Smith, cowboy photographer.

Erwin E. Smith is an icon among western artists, capturing the true meaning of cowboy life in his photographs on some of the greatest ranches, rodeos and Wild West shows. Erwin Smith was born on August 22, 1886 in Honey Grove, Texas, and his family moved to Bonham shortly after. He spent the summers on his uncle's ranch in Quanah where he was introduced to cattle ranching and the cowboy lifestyle. He practiced his artistic abilities at a young age through sketching and painting, which were influenced by his newfound love for the west.

As he grew older, he began to see the disappearance of ranching life; the ways of the cowboy were vanishing. He started carrying a camera while working as a cowhand so he could document the lives of cowboys quickly and transparently. Smith soon moved north to Chicago for art school and practiced painting and sculpture but chose photography to document his record of this dying culture. From ranch owners to trail bosses, trail drives and roundups, to Wild West Shows and chores, Smith captured the authentic vibe of the cowboys in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. The honesty and ingenuity of his work in photography makes it some of the

best even today. His photographs were published in collaboration with the Sunday editor of the Boston Herald, George Pattulo, who wrote stories of the west and working cowboy. In 1912, he was recognized by the Eastman Kodak Company for demonstrating excellence with a simple box camera. Despite these milestones, Smith eventually was bankrupt by 1917 and

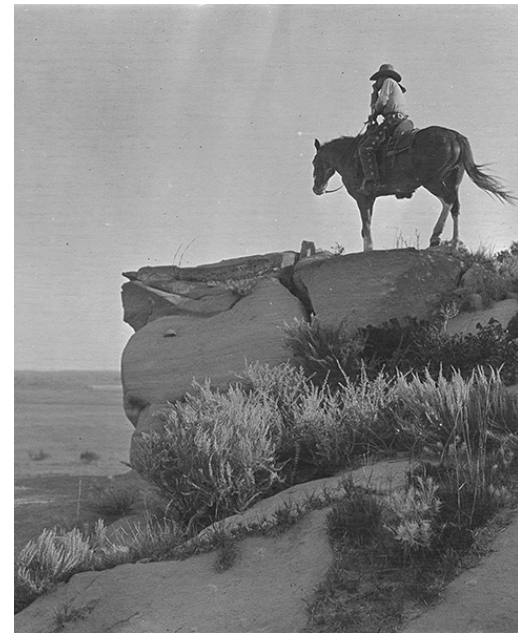
horses, and wide-open ranges. His collection was donated to the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, in Fort Worth, Texas. You can see more of Erwin E. Smith's photos by browsing the [online gallery](#). 🇺🇸



Erwin E. Smith, *Cowpunchers lingering around the campfire for a final smoke and story before going to bed. JA Range, Texas, 1908. Gelatin dry plate negative. Erwin E. Smith Collection of the Library of Congress on Deposit at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, LC.S59.078 ©Erwin E. Smith Foundation*

spent the remainder of his life outside of Bonham. His camera never left his side.

Smith passed away on September 4, 1947 and was buried in his birthplace of Honey Grove. He had more than 10,000 photographs in his collection when he died. His photos show everything from branding, roping, portraits, gatherings around the campfire or chuckwagon, riding



Erwin E. Smith, Zack T. Burkett, LS Foreman, *Overlooking the Canadian River, Texas 1917, Nitrate negative. Erwin E. Smith Collection of the Library of Congress on Deposit at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, LC.S59.078 © Erwin E. Smith Foundation*



Erwin E. Smith, *Texas rodeo performers [Prairie Rose Henderson, sitting third from left, and Lucille Mulhall, standing fifth from left] 1920s, gelatin dry plate negative. Erwin E. Smith Collection of the Library of Congress on Deposit at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, LC.S6.542 © Erwin E. Smith Foundation*

fishes of Texas cont...

Texas was 54 inches long and 59 ½ pounds.

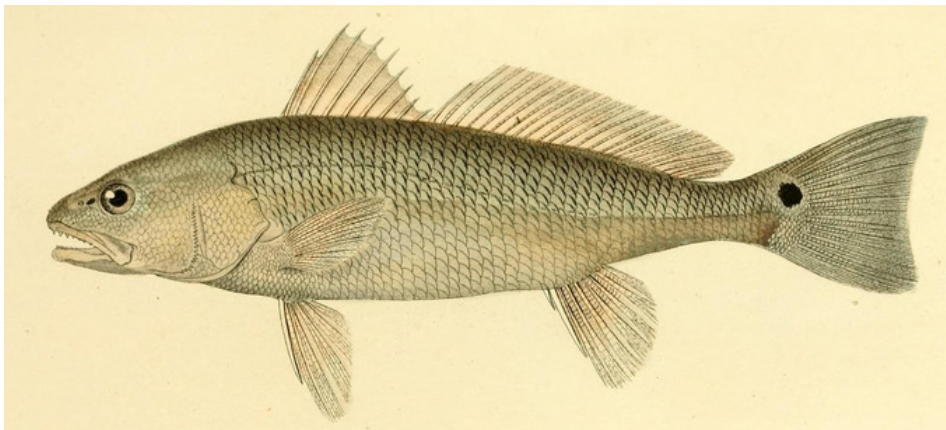
A young red drum enjoys small crabs, shrimp and marine worms. Generally bottom feeders until they grow older, the red drum will take on larger crab, small fish and sometimes their cousins, the Atlantic croaker. They're a favorite among fishermen on piers, coves, oyster reefs and jetties. Depending on the tides and water temperature they can move upriver and into tidal creeks. During the 82nd legislative session, the red drum was declared to have the "hardiness and adaptability so often found in the Lone Star State, swimming up rivers on occasion and also taking up residence in certain island reservoirs". Red drum males attract females by producing a drum-like noise by vibrating a muscle in their swim bladder. Their cousins the black drum, spotted seatrout, weakfish, mullets and croakers, also make these drumming sounds.

In the past few decades, the red drum has helped drive Texas's commercial fishing industry. It's popularity for taste and size led to overfishing and illegal netting, and by the 1980s the drum population had decreased exponentially.

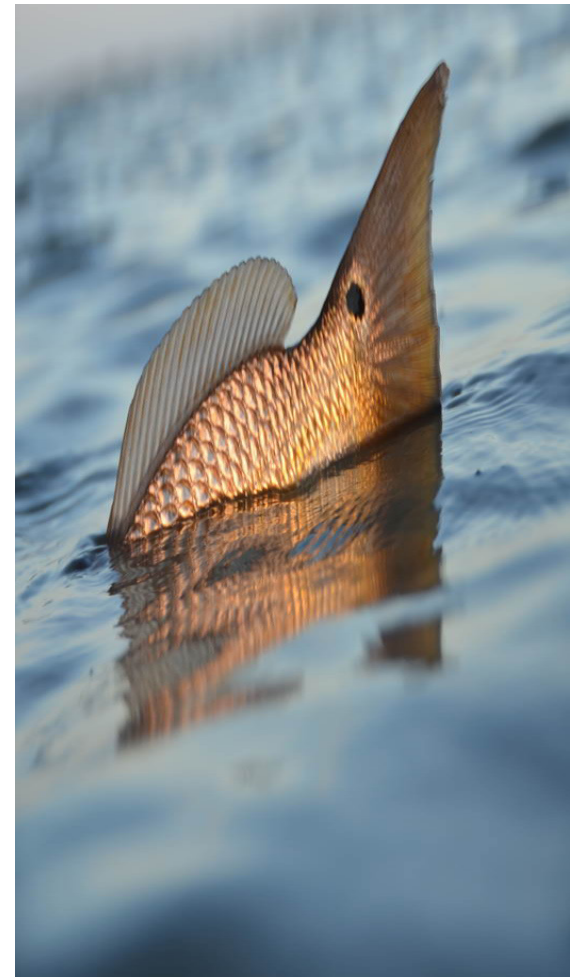


By enacting legislation and adopting wise management and enforcement measures, the number of red drum in the Gulf of Mexico has rebounded enough to make Texas one of the best red drum fisheries in the nation. Because of their popularity among fishermen across the Gulf Coast

waters and its inspiring come back story, the 82nd Legislature of Texas thought the red drum was a fitting symbol of the Lone Star State and was adopted as the State Saltwater Fish of Texas. 🇹🇽



Red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) Photo by: [Biodiversity Heritage Library on Flickr](#)



The red drum is known for "tailing", or exposing their backs out of the water.



New web page on the GO TEXAN website, and Facebook group, highlights local farmers and ranchers you can buy direct from today.

While Texas slowly begins to reopen, Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has launched a new online effort to connect consumers with local agriculture producers selling directly to the public. The "Direct from Texas" campaign has posted a list of Texas producers selling items like beef, pecans, honey, vegetables, fruit and more directly to the public. Also, a new "Direct from Texas" Facebook Group provides a forum for these businesses and consumers to interact and do business. Selling direct to the public allows Texas growers and producers to avoid delays in distribution chains while

continuing to make money until restaurants, cruise ships, hotels and other businesses fully reopen.

"This is like agriculture used to be," Miller said. "A farmer or rancher has a great product and they sell it directly to their neighbor. Today, that neighbor can be around the corner or across the globe. 'Direct from Texas' provides our ag producers another avenue to reach customers until Texas finally reopens. And consumers get fresh, Texas-made products. That's what I call a Texas "twofer" – everybody wins."

As COVID-19 continues to impact rural communities around the

state, the ability for Texas farmers and ranchers to sell directly to the consumers proves the food supply remains strong despite interruptions in processing, packaging or distribution.

To see the "Direct from Texas" business listing, click [here](#).

To join the Facebook Group, visit <http://www.facebook.com/groups/directfromtexas> and request to join.

There is no cost to appear on the web listing or join the Facebook Group. This is provided by the Texas Department of Agriculture as a public service in support of Texas businesses. 🇹🇽

"Still Standing Tall"

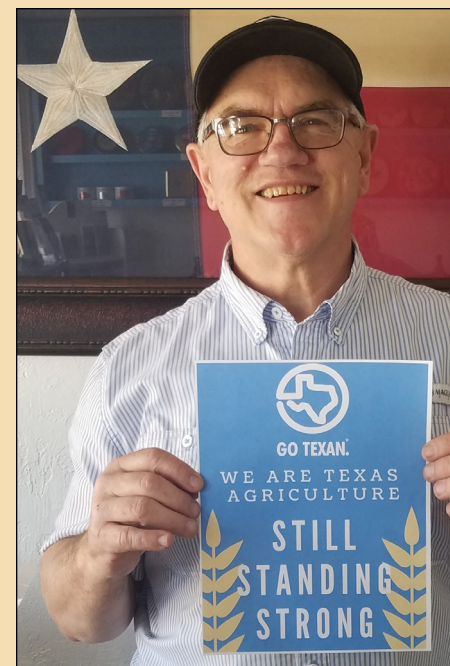
GO TEXAN members are "still standing tall" throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



GO TEXAN member, Cowboy Spice Company in Houston, Texas.



GO TEXAN member, South Tex Organics, and their three generation farm family.



GO TEXAN member, Davis Mountain Nut Company.

Fresh From the Field



TDA field representatives across the state promote various programs of the Trade & Business Development division.

Our field representatives have important jobs; meeting with county judges, city officials, business owners, event planners and consumers to work together to highlight the best that Texas has to offer. They work with GO TEXAN members within their region and promote various programs like Texas Agriculture Finance Authority (TAFA) and the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) program and other agency administered grants.

There is no doubt the field representatives provide service throughout the Lone Star State. Just like with any other disaster event, the field reps were ready to lend a hand to their community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several journeyed out into the public to deliver necessary personal protective equipment to essential workers and businesses. TDA appreciates our field representatives and applauds them for continuous service to the people of the State of Texas. 🇹🇽

NEW MEMBERS! GO TEXAN.®

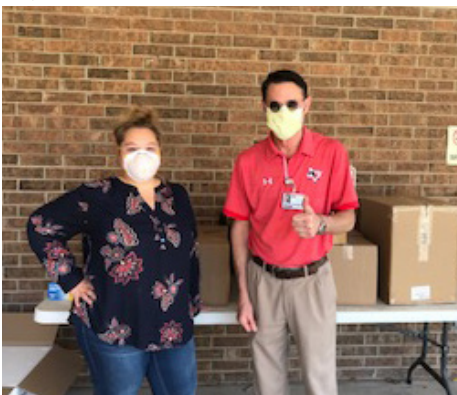
- ☆ [Aus Mex Tortilla Plant](#)
- ☆ [Rockbar Meatworks](#)
- ☆ [The Plain Ole Salsa Company](#)
- ☆ [Indies Coffee](#)
- ☆ [Gentlesoll Farm](#)
- ☆ [Mr. Kooks, Inc.](#)
- ☆ [One7Three BBQ Company](#)
- ☆ [Tyla Simone's Wings](#)
- ☆ [Volleman Dairy Processing, LLC](#)
- ☆ [River Creek Cattle](#)
- ☆ [RJ Bee Foods](#)
- ☆ [Itchy Acres Gardens and Art](#)
- ☆ [Old World Foods](#)
- ☆ [GH Foods Houston](#)
- ☆ [Letovim Meats, LLC](#)
- ☆ [Phillips Forest Products](#)
- ☆ [American Hat Company](#)
- ☆ [Comfort Candle Company](#)
- ☆ [Raven Wing Sundries](#)
- ☆ [Essence Bottling Works](#)
- ☆ [Hi Point Sale and Marketing](#)



Carol Faulkenberry (region 2) delivers to Moore County Hospital District



Nelda Barrera (region 8) delivers to Starr County Memorial Hospital



Larissa Place (region 1) delivers to Mitchell County Hospital



Nelda Barrera (region 8) delivers to Starr County Pediatric Care Center

DOGUET'S RICE MILLING COMPANY

FARM PROFILE

This month's featured farm is Doguet's Rice Milling Company, located in Beaumont, Texas.

The Doguet family has been in the rice business since the 1920s. In 1979, Darby Doguet started the company when he bought a rice dryer in Beaumont. By 1981, he had added a mill to create what became Doguet's Rice Milling Company. His children, Mike Doguet and Debbie (Doguet) Robbins, bought the rice mill from their father in 1997. Debbie bought the rice mill from Mike in 2010, and now the rice mill is a 100 percent woman-owned business.

Doguet's mills both white and brown rice. The difference between these two grains lies in the milling process. Brown rice is milled only to remove the outer hull. The germ and the fiber are left intact which makes brown rice high in fiber. White rice is milled to remove the bran and much of the germ.

Today, Doguet's Rice Milling Company's business includes the drying, storage and milling of rough rice, marketing rice for other farmers, and of course, growing rice.

Doguet's Rice and Feed Store



+ STATS

Owner: Debbie (Doguet) Robbins

Founded: 1979

Location: Beaumont, Texas

Specialty: Organic and conventional brown and white rice



© Patcharee / Adobe Stock



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This product was funded by USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





Farm to Food Bank Project Will Make Connections while Cutting Waste, Feeding Texans

Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has implemented the Farm to Food Bank project in Texas to connect agricultural producers, processors and distributors with food banks. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing more than \$600,000 in funds for the project in the Lone Star State. Food banks will have an opportunity to use the funds to assist agricultural businesses with the costs for harvesting, processing, packaging or transporting donated commodities. Through a partnership with the Feeding Texas food bank network, 17 Texas food banks are eligible for participation.

TDA also will support the project by utilizing a portion of funds from the Texans Feeding Texans Surplus Agricultural Product Grant as a cost share. These additional funds will strengthen Farm to Food Bank and ensure more products can go to Texans in need. Since 2001, this state grant has supported efforts that fight hunger, improve

Texans' health, and reduce food waste. The state grant has grown from donating 9 million pounds of surplus agriculture in 2006 to more than 65 million pounds in 2019.

TDA and Feeding Texas will work with food banks that are part of the Emergency Food Assistance Program, a federally assisted USDA program administered by TDA. Food banks will be able to use the USDA funds for new initiatives and existing projects that meet the definition of a Farm to Food Bank project. The purpose of the project must be using food donations to reduce food waste at the production, processing, or distribution level; provide food to individuals in need; and build relationships between agricultural producers, processors and distributors and food banks.

Commissioner Miller's Farm to Food Bank implementation included collaboration between the TDA Grants Office and the

TDA Food and Nutrition Division. For more information on grants TDA offers, [click here](#); for more information on Food and Nutrition initiatives, including coronavirus-response resources for TDA partners, [click here](#). 



Texas Superstars 2020

Blue Daze



'Blue Daze' (*Evolvulus glomeratus*) is a heat and sun loving low spreading annual. Growers are rewarded with summer long flowers in a beautiful sky blue hue. The brilliant blue funnel-shaped flowers are small but plentiful and presented on a backdrop of grey green foliage. 'Blue Daze' will thrive in those garden hotspots that threaten less hardy species.

Exposure: Ideally grows and blooms in full sun. Flowering is reduced in areas that are too shady. 'Blue Daze' is tolerant of salty conditions and should be considered for coastal gardens.

Height: Grows 9 to 18 inches tall and spreads to 36 inches wide.

Plant type: Generally grown as an annual where frost is experienced. Tender perennial in USDA zones 9-11.

Planting time: Plants are readily available in the spring through the summer months starting with 4 1/2 inch or quart size containers progressing later in the season to larger 10" hanging baskets.

Soil type: "Blue Daze" requires a moist soil that is well drained. Wet plants can quickly contract fungal diseases that will severely shorten their life span. A wide range of soils is tolerated including poor and sandy soils.

Suggested uses: 'Blue daze' is a spiller and works best when you need a quick spreading cascading groundcover for mass bedding, mixed borders, mixed containers or hanging baskets.

Special notes: Benefits from mulching and regular summer irrigation as long as the soil drains.

Pentas



Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*) are also known as Egyptian Star Flowers and have been a favorite in Texas gardens for many years. The cultivar Butterfly Deep Pink was promoted many years ago and the taller type Butterfly series are still classics. The Kaleidoscope series is another taller type that performs well. More compact types that are still vigorous enough to survive our hot summers are the Lucky Star and Graffiti 20/20 series which are more recent introductions with heavy flowering. Overall, the pink and deep pink colors seem to perform the best. But all pentas attract butterflies and hummingbirds!

Exposure: Full sun with late afternoon shade or at least some shade during the afternoon is best in Texas landscapes. Will tolerate partial shade well but flowering may be reduced.

Height: Taller types can reach 24 inches tall and wide, whereas the more compact types will be 12 to 16 inches tall and wide.

Plant type: Annual in Texas except in coastal areas and the Valley where temperatures never fall below freezing.

Planting time: Best in spring from 4 inch or quart size pots or larger as large plants establish more quickly. Plant early enough to allow for establishment before summer heat arrives.

Soil type: Tolerant of soil type but prefers a slightly alkaline pH with good drainage a must.

Suggested uses: Mass bedding, mixed borders & mixed containers.

Tidal Wave Red Velour Petunia



As the name implies, Tidal Wave Red Velour Spreading Petunia (*Petunia x hybrida* 'PAS1085269') offers dark red flowers that appear as if crafted of rich velour. This 12 to 24 inch tall dense canopied petunia spreads to 30 to 60 inches in width. Flowering is greatest from early spring to early summer and if well-tended can survive our summers and return for significant fall bloom. Tidal Wave Red Velour combines well with its earlier designated fellow Texas Superstars® Tidal Wave Silver Spreading Petunia (*P. x hybrida* 'PAS97287') and Tidal Wave Cherry Spreading Petunia (*P. x hybrida* 'PAS91421') to offer great seasonal waves of Texas tough color.

Exposure: Full sun exposure is best for floral display; partial shade may help in over-summering plants.

Height: Plants typically grow 12 to 24 inch tall with a spread of 30 to 60 inches.

Plant type: Typically grown as a fall (southern) or early spring (northern) cool to transition season annuals, but plants can be short-term perennials in USDA Hardiness Zone 8b. Summer temperatures can be limiting in warmer portions of the state, but Tidal Wave Red Velour is more tolerant of heat than most petunias.

Planting time: Best in late winter or early spring in northern portions of our region once past severe freezes. Plants can be planted in late fall for periodic winter display in the warmer portions of the state. Growth in patio pots and containers is vigorous and will benefit from occasional shearing.

Soil type: Almost any well drained soil; petunias benefit from regular fertilization.

Suggested uses: Tidal Wave Red Velour Spreading Petunia can be used as a bedding, specimen, or an accent plant in mixed borders; plants are also effective in containers, hanging baskets, and window boxes.

Purslane



Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*, *P. umbraticola*, or hybrids) makes a spreading groundcover with succulent leaves that are covered with flowers all summer long. They require full sun and a hot, dry location which in Texas is not hard to find. The flowers have iridescent colors which open with the sun and close at night. They can be used to carpet a bed or to spill from containers and baskets. The Cupcake series performs well and has spreading and upright forms. The Muffin series and Rio Grande series are also outstanding performers. The Toucan series can be grown from seed while the others are produced vegetatively.

Exposure: Full sun is needed for good flowering.

Height: Spreading types grow 4 to 10 inches tall with upright types slightly taller. Spread is 12 to 24 inches.

Plant type: Annual in Texas except in coastal areas and the Valley where temperatures never fall below freezing.

Planting time: Best in spring but can be planted in the summer. Larger plants are best when planting in the heat.

Soil type: Tolerant of soil type but needs good drainage. Allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings.

Suggested uses: Mass bedding, edging for borders, as a spiller in mixed containers, window boxes, and hanging baskets. Will spill over the edge of raised beds.

Special notes: Flowers generally open during daylight hours though they may close somewhat earlier in extreme heat.

Visit a local nursery for your Texas grown plants or Texas Superstars.

To learn more about the Texas Superstars, check out our [brochure](http://www.texasuperstar.com) or visit: www.texasuperstar.com 



Downtown Revitalization Program

TDA believes that traditional downtown areas are critical to economic development for rural Texas communities. For communities that do not have resources to invest in improvements for deteriorating downtown conditions, TDA offers the Downtown Revitalization and Main Street Programs. Funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant, the programs assist communities to address blighted conditions by providing sidewalks, lighting, downtown streets, and other

infrastructure. Traditionally, these funds are often used to improve accessibility so that residents and visitors of all abilities can participate in community life, and the local economy can grow and thrive.

The City of Slaton completed a Downtown Revitalization Program grant in 2017, improving one section of the main square. The city recently celebrated the opening of a new business on that block. What had been a vacant building is now the humble GROUNDS Café – an exciting,

locally owned coffee shop and community gathering space. Read their story below. The city is already hard at work on the next phase of their downtown improvements through TxCDBG, with more economic opportunity to come!

Applications are currently available for the 2020 Downtown Revitalization and Main Street Program funding competition, where TDA plans to fund at least 20 communities for downtown improvements. [Applications](#) are due by September 1, 2020. 🇺🇸

humble Grounds Cafe

Eric and Karen Hybner bring coffee and community together in small town Slaton with the help of the Downtown Revitalization Program.



“Eric and I discovered Slaton 17 years ago and fell in love with this quaint little town full of precious people.

My mom raised me to love coffee and community. There is just nothing like enjoying a hot cup of coffee over good conversation. I have dreamed of opening a coffee shop for over 20 years, but never felt like it was the right time or the right place...until now.

When the little white building came to our attention, we prayed over the property and were inspired to name the business based on the address of 152. Luke 1:52 discusses how the humble will be exalted, so humble Grounds was born.

We were pleasantly surprised that the owners of the building had a very similar vision for the property and they were amazingly accommodating including updating the bathroom facilities to be ADA compatible. With the updated ADA ramps in the front of the building, our little shop is ready for business...and then COVID-19 restriction begin.

Through prayer and contemplation we decided to open and offer basic beverages and snacks. The community has been amazingly supportive and has showered us with love and excitement! Our little business has taken off and we are humbled by its success.

Our mission is to offer a comfortable place where people can gather to enjoy excellent locally and organically sourced coffee, teas, handcrafted sodas and keto friendly treats.” - Karen Hybner, humble Grounds Cafe 🇺🇸



The white building, before Slaton received their revitalization grant, is now home to humble Grounds



Eric and Karen Hybner in front of their new community focused business, humble Grounds Cafe, in Slaton, Texas.



PEACHES

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
JUNE



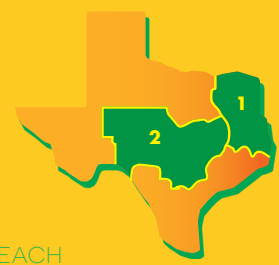
Peaches are stone fruits, which mean they have large pits or seeds in their centers. Peaches are known for their yellow and red fuzzy skins and they're really soft to the touch. Peaches are mostly grown in the central and eastern regions of Texas. The Hill County peach farms located in central Texas are famous for the quality of their fruit. Peaches grow on trees and taste the best from June through the end of August. Peaches are an extremely juicy fruit and taste great fresh or cooked. Use them with yogurt or in a fruit salad.

DID YOU KNOW?

The word 'peach' has come to mean 'fine' or 'excellent' and is used in many sayings like "everything's peachy" and "life is peachy keen."

FUN FACT

In China, peaches are symbols of long life and good luck.



PEACH GROWING REGIONS

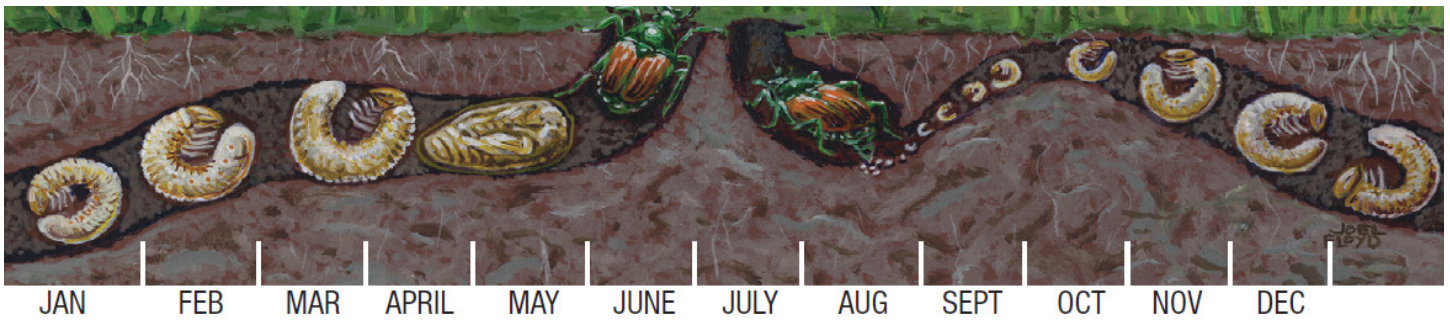
- 1. East Texas
- 2. Central Texas



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Japanese Beetle Trapping

TDA cracks down on the destructive Japanese beetle in Texas.

This month inspectors will begin trapping some nurseries for a beetle you've likely never seen, Japanese beetle.

Around the country Japanese beetle pupae are hatching and emerging from the soil in their adult, beetle form. The beetle is of regulatory concern throughout the United States and feeds on ornamental plants at every stage



of its life. As grubs within the soil they are able to devastate turf grass by feasting on the roots and as adults, they will feed on everything from

asparagus to *Zea mays*.

Japanese beetles prefer aromatic plants and can do incredible damage to rose bushes, leaving behind petals that resemble swiss cheese, if any at all. Once you've seen these beetles, they're hard to miss. A bright, metallic green with tufts of white hair on their sides

and antenna that fork at the end. Look alikes include the much larger June beetle and others within the same family of scarab beetles.

Originally from Japan as the name implies the Japanese beetle is seldom seen in Texas but requires regulatory oversight. None the less, Texas nurseries shipping their products into states not colonized by the beetle are required to show negative trapping data. This requires a nursery to anticipate shipping patterns a year in advance. Additionally, TDA is to trap any areas which have had past positive finds in order to monitor spread.

Our trapping data has shown that it is possible for beetles to survive in irrigated ecosystems where soil is easily worked, and moist. We find this invasive pest on imported plants coming from infested states. Most of Texas does not have soil amenable to the survival of this pest. If you are a nursery grower and plan on shipping out of state, please call TDA at 512-463-7660 to set up a trapping regime for this insect. 🇹🇽

PEST ALERT

Ralstonia solanacearum race 3 biovar 2 is a bacterial pathogen that infects certain vegetables and ornamental crops, causing brown rot of potato, bacterial wilt of tomato and eggplant, and southern wilt of geranium. The pathogen is not harmful to humans or animals. It is not known to occur in the United States.

In April 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of *Ralstonia* in a U.S. greenhouse that had purchased geranium cuttings from an offshore production facility. This is the first confirmed detection of this pathogen in a U.S. greenhouse since 2004. APHIS has successfully eradicated all previous detections of this pathogen in U.S. greenhouses.

If you suspect *Ralstonia* in geranium, potato, tomato, pepper, or eggplant, contact TDA Plant Quality officials, PlantQuality@TexasAgriculture.gov or (512) 463-7660



STAR Fund

TDA grant available to help farmers and ranchers through recovery from natural disasters.

In times of need, Texans are here to lend a helping hand. When natural disasters strike, many Texas Agriculture farmers, ranchers, producers, and agribusiness owners are left to rebuild after the devastation.


The STAR Fund (State of Texas Agriculture Relief Fund) was created solely with monetary donations from private individuals and entities to fund disaster recovery efforts for agricultural operations. The STAR Fund is used to assist impacted farmers, ranchers and agribusiness owners in rebuilding fences, restoring

operations and paying for other agricultural disaster relief.

In 2017 alone, over 60 Texas counties suffered from natural disasters ranging from wildfires to tornadoes to massive Hurricane Harvey. The STAR Fund helped ranchers replace, feed, and relocate stranded livestock, aided farmers with purchasing new seed, repair equipment, and restore fields, and helped processors repair refrigeration systems and tree removal. For many, the costs of recovery were overwhelming, but with the assistance of the STAR Fund, the burdened was lessened.

Hundreds of our fellow Texans and neighbors from other states have helped numerous agricultural operators recover from hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and tornadoes. If you would like to help folks impacted by these and similar disasters, please consider donating to the STAR Fund.



More information on the STAR Fund on the TDA website: <https://texasagriculture.gov/Home/ProductionAgriculture/DisasterAssistance/STARFund.aspx> or by contacting the TDA Grants Departments by email Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov or by telephone (512-463-6695). 



GO TEXAN International Products

The iconic mark can be found all over the globe. We've highlighted a few GO TEXAN members that have taken Texas worldwide.



S.O.S From Texas offers certified organic sewn and grown cotton and apparel. One of their distributors is located in Japan.

www.sosfromtexas.com



Primos Coffee Co sells their products in Canada, UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain through Amazon.

www.primoscoffeeco.com



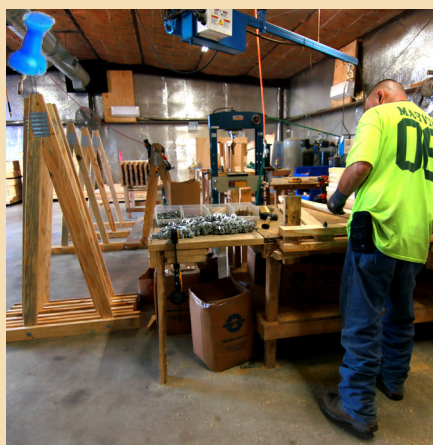
Continental Dairy Facilities Southwest, LLC exports their nonfat dry milk to Mexico, China, Morocco, Algeria, Columbia, Malaysia and Indonesia. They produce approximately 9 million pounds of dry milk per month and approximately 95% of that is exported from their plant in Littlefield, Texas.

www.cdfswllc.com



Renfro Foods Inc Mrs. Renfro's products are found in 9 countries. UK, Canada, Spain, Australia, Germany and a few Asian markets.

www.renfrofoods.com



Houston Carton Inc export their Mighty A Frames™ To Canada and Mexico.



Mercedes Boot Company creates custom boots and has shipped to 16 foreign countries.

www.mercedesboots.com



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#GOTEXAN



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Did You Know?

TDA administers federal funds for various natural disasters. Hurricanes are excluded. Hurricane recovery efforts are federally funded through the General Land Office (GLO).

TDA inspects cotton, cottonseed, other field crops and produce for plant health and pests, but food safety for produce is overseen by Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

TDA inspects trees for disease and pests. Other forestry issues are handled by the Texas A&M Forest Service.

TDA's Small Town Environment Program (STEP) supports community development projects that encourage local volunteers to become involved with restoring their community's infrastructure.



Texas Ag Stats:

- ★ Texas is home to 81,381 mules, burrows and donkeys.
- ★ There are over 2,500 honeybee farms in Texas that account for over 210,000 bees!
- ★ There are more horses in Texas than any other state (330,671) and produced \$122,969,000 in sales in 2017.
- ★ In Texas, 97,648 acres of vegetables were harvested in 2017.
- ★ Texas is one of two states that produce guar and accounts for over 14,000 harvested acres in the state.

Recipe of the Month

Peach Cobbler

Ingredients

Two 15-ounce cans sliced peaches in syrup
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1 cup self-rising flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup milk

Homemade Whip Cream

2 cups whipping cream, chilled in the fridge
4 tablespoons sugar

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Drain 1 can of peaches; reserve the syrup from the other. Place the butter in a 9- by 12-inch ovenproof baking dish.

cont... Heat the butter on the stove or in the oven until it's melted. In a medium bowl, mix the flour and sugar. Stir in the milk and the reserved syrup. Pour the batter over the melted butter in the baking dish. Arrange the peaches over the batter. Bake for 1 hour. The cobbler is done when the batter rises around the peaches and the crust is thick and golden brown. Serve warm with fresh whipped cream.

2. Chill a large metal mixing bowl and the wire beater attachment in the freezer for about 20 minutes. Pour the chilled cream and sugar into the cold mixing bowl and beat until it forms soft peaks, about 5 minutes. The mixture should hold its shape when dropped from a spoon. Don't overbeat or you'll have sweetened butter!



Your Thoughts...

on cattle ranchers struggling during COVID-19

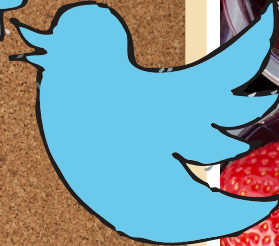


AMERICA.CGTN.COM

Cattle ranchers struggle during coronavirus pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the strain on the cattle industry and...

Tweet



Paula M. Parks WELL YOU'VE GOT SOME PEOPLE THAT THINK THE MEAT JUST CAME FROM THE GROCERY STORE! HAHHAHAHA

Paula M. Parks The plants are open just that so many people that work in the poultry and pork and cattle plants got sick .People that really need a job can get one.

Paulette Sturrock Well who thought they weren't essential in the first place?!

James P Mooney Yes it is along with the Bucther Plants . They all need to be reopened!! Everything needs to be opened !

Renee Perkins Most definitely is. Where's the beef



JUNE 2020

Tell Us...what are your summer plans?



@TexasDepartmentofAgriculture



@TexasDeptofAg



@TexasAgriculture

TEXAS AGRICULTURE *Matters!*



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