

Trinity-Neches Forest Landowner

Association Newsletter Second Quarter, 2011

Next Meeting

To be announced in next newsletter!

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New Systemic Insecticide Approved for Insect Control in Conifers and Hardwoods

Pest management specialists now have a new tool for protecting high-value trees from insect pests. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the use of emamectin benzoate (EB), sold by Syngenta Crop Protection under the trade name TREE-äge® for “control of mature and immature arthropod pests of deciduous, coniferous and palm trees, including, but not limited to, those growing in residential and commercial landscapes, parks, plantations, seed orchards, and forested sites (in private, municipal, state, tribal and national areas).”

Bringing EB to the market as a registered pesticide was a long process involving many collaborators. Dr. Don Grosman, coordinator of the Texas Forest Service Forest Pest Management Cooperative (FPMC), first started working with Dr. David Cox, Syngenta Crop Protection, in 1997 and then later with Joe Docola, Arborjet Inc. (2003), to test tree injections of EB as a systemic treatment for control of cone and seed insects, bark beetles, wood borers, and other forest pests. In nearly all trials, this chemical has provided excellent extended protection against these pests both in conifers and hardwoods.

In early trials (1998), EB almost completely eliminated coneworm damage for two years in loblolly pine seed orchards in Texas. The effect against seed bugs, another group of seed orchard pests, was moderate. A second trial ultimately showed that a single injection of EB reduced average coneworm damage by 80% over a 6-year period. Unfortunately, the seed orchard market alone (just 9,000 acres in the South) is insufficient to justify the cost of EPA registration.

In an attempt to expand the potential market, the FPMC began tests in 2003 on other forest pests. A laboratory test showed that substantially fewer pine regeneration weevils survived when they fed on EB-treated branches compared to those fed on untreated branches. A second trial in 2004 looked at chemical effects against pine bark beetles, forest pests closely-related to weevils. Surprisingly, EB completely prevented the successful attack and colonization of *Ips* engraver beetles on cut logs and standing loblolly pine trees. Subsequent trials showed that single injections of EB could significantly reduce mortality of loblolly and ponderosa pines attacked by southern pine beetle and western pine beetle, respectively, for 3 years. Other researchers also have found EB to be effective against several species of defoliators (gypsy moth, spruce budworm, tent caterpillars, winter moth, bagworm, fall and mimosa webworm, tussock moth, leafminers and sawfly), borers (clearwing, flat-headed and roundheaded), pine needle scale, red palm mite, and pinewood nematode. With the larger potential market, Syngenta decided to pursue EPA registration of this systemic insecticide.

In 2009, EPA approved the use of emamectin benzoate on ash trees for protection against emerald ash borer and other insects, but postponed a decision on other tree species. More recently, EPA has approved the use of TREE-äge (by injection) on additional trees, including conifers, other hardwoods, and palms.

The FPMC currently is evaluating the efficacy of TREE-äge® against several invasive insects such as the soapberry borer (a cousin of emerald ash borer) on western soapberry in central Texas and a chalcid wasp attacking Afghan pine in west Texas. Preliminary results are favorable. In addition, along the Rio Grande River in Texas and Mexico, populations of a leaf beetle introduced to control saltcedar have also infested athel, an important shade tree closely related to saltcedar. A new trial was established in 2010 to evaluate the effect of TREE-äge® injections for protection of valued athel trees from beetle-caused defoliation.

TREE-äge® is applied as a trunk injection treatment at very low rates (0.1 – 0.6 g per inch DBH) near the base of target trees. The FPMC has demonstrated that several injection systems



New Systemic Insecticide Approved for Insect Control in Conifers and Hardwoods – cont'd from Page 1.

(Arborjet's Tree I.V., QUIK-jet and VIPER™ Hydraulic Device, <http://www.arborjet.com/>; ArborSystem's Portal System <http://www.arborsystems.com/>; and the Sidewinder (<http://www.treeinjectors.com/>) can be used to effectively apply this product into conifers and hardwoods. Once EB is injected into the sapwood, the chemical is translocated throughout the tree (foliage, cones, branches, stem and roots). The rate of movement within the tree is dependent on tree species, tracheal system type, and water availability. Generally, it is recommended that injections are made at least 4 weeks prior to target insect appearance to allow insecticide distribution throughout the tree.

Applications of TREE-äge® can be made at nearly any time of the year. However, uptake of the product is dependent upon the tree's rate of transpiration. For optimal uptake, apply when soil is moist, soil temperatures are above 45°F, ambient temperatures are between 40° and 90°F, and during the day when transpiration is greatest, typically before 2:00 PM. Applications to drought- or heat-stressed trees may result in injury to tree tissue, poor treatment and ineffective control. Injection treatment is most effective on trees having a full canopy of leaves and a healthy vascular system.

TREE-äge® insecticide is a Restricted Use Pesticide and must only be sold to and used by a state certified applicator or by persons under their direct supervision. TREE-äge® is currently registered in 38 states including TX, OK, GA, FL, NC, SC, TN and VA in the South. Approval in other states is pending. It is important that all users read the label and follow all precautions and guidelines.

TREE-äge® is currently available in 1-liter containers from two distributors: Rainbow Treecare Scientific - contact Dean Morris at (952) 252-0506, (612) 280-9038 or dmorris@treecarescience.com) and John Deer Landscapes (to find the branch location nearest you, go to <http://www.johndeerlandscapes.com/storelocator/bullseyepro/search.asp>, or contact Chad Schnieter at (972) 881-0205 or Tim Kline (972) 681-5511. The latest price quote is \$525 per liter (discounts are available when purchasing a case of 8 liters or more). Thus, the cost to treat a 10 inch DBH tree at a medium rate (0.2 g AI per inch DBH) would be about \$28 while a treatment of a large (25 inch DBH) tree would be about \$68 (labor excluded).

For additional information, contact Dr. Don Grosman, Texas Forest Service, Forest Health, P.O. Box 310, Lufkin, TX 75902-0310; (936) 639-8170; dgrosman@tfs.tamu.edu.

Websites of Interest



Harvest Trends, 2001 through 2009 - <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/default.aspx>. Highlight "Sustainable Forestry" found in the middle below the photograph, and then select "Economic Development" from the drop down menu that appears. Then click on "Publications".

Timber Price Trends, archives - <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/default.aspx>. Highlight "Sustainable Forestry" found in the middle below the photograph, and then select "Timber Price Trends" from the drop down menu that appears.

A hard copy is also available for \$2 per copy from your local TFS office, or through an annual mail subscription for \$10 per year. To subscribe, please send your request and check or money order to Texas Forest Service, John B. Connally Bldg., 301 Tarrow, Suite 364, College Station, TX 77840-7896.

Google Earth Common Operating Picture - This is one of many resources Texas Forest Service offers to the public. The map allows any user to locate fires, fuels, fire danger, aviation resources and burn bans in areas of interest to them. Supplemental information also is provided. For example, click on a fire icon and the program will tell you what county the fire is in, when it started, how many acres it spread and what percentage of it is contained. <http://ticc.tamu.edu/Home/GECop.htm>

Texas Interagency Coordination Center; important information regarding emergency response (wildfires, hurricanes, etc.). Includes Burn Ban map and Fire Resources map - <http://ticc.tamu.edu/>.

Free Invasive Plant Guides

The USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS) is distributing **free** copies of 2 recently released field guides.

A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests, (GTR-SRS-119 by James H. Miller, Erwin B. Chambliss and Nancy L. Lowenstein) is posted at <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/35292> and **A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests** (GTR-SRS-131 by James H. Miller, Steven T. Manning and Stephen F. Enloe) is posted at <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/36915>.

To request hardcopies of the guides send your name and complete mailing address, along with book title, author and publication number to: pubrequest@fs.fed.us. Or call (828) 257-4830. Or write: Southern Region Station, 200 W. T. Weaver Blvd., Asheville, NC 28804.

Forestry Terminology
101 –



Texas Forest Service:

<http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=187>

This list is the tenth in a series of forestry definitions that will be useful to forest landowners and others interested in better understanding forestry.

Headwaters (Head) - the point on a stream above which the average annual flow is less than five (5) cubic feet per second

Herbicides - chemicals used to kill or slow down the growth rate of plants. Herbicides should be applied by qualified applicators and by following label directions

High Grading - the practice of removing only the biggest and best trees from a stand during a harvest operation and leaving only the poorest and the lowest quality culls on the site to grow

Improvement Cut - a type of intermediate harvest with the primary objective of improving the remaining stand

Increment Borer - a shallow auger-like instrument used to bore into a tree trunk to remove a wood core that shows the tree's growth rings

Intermediate Cut - the removal of trees from the forest sometime between establishment and final harvest with the primary objective of improving the quality of the remaining forest stand

Intermediate Trees - trees shorter than dominant and co-dominant trees but with crowns extending into the crown cover formed by the dominant and co-dominant trees

Intermittent - that part of the drainage network, with a clearly defined stream channel, which provides flow continuously during some seasons of the year, but little or no flow during the remainder of the year

Intolerant - plants that will not grow in the shade of other plants or trees

J-Root - the growth form of tree roots resulting from improper hand planting where some or all of the roots are bent upward as the tree is placed in the ground

Landing - a place where logs are assembled for temporary storage, loading, and subsequent transportation

Leave Trees - trees left in or immediately adjacent to a harvest area to reseed the area

Market Report – Jan./Feb., 2011

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/Ton Difference
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$21.29/ton	\$166.49/mbf	\$24.74/ton	\$192.54/mbf	-14%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$6.48/ton	\$17.49/cord	\$6.42/ton	\$17.31/cord	+1%
Pine-Chip'n'Saw	\$11.70/ton	\$31.58/cord	\$13.09/ton	\$35.35/cord	-11%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$29.51/ton	\$265.60/mbf	\$27.11/ton	\$243.99/mbf	+9%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$7.71/ton	\$21.68/cord	\$7.47/ton	\$20.92/cord	+3%

Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. *This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels.* It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many factors. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale or is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner. Hard copies of this publication can be purchased by contacting Monica Jadowski at (979)458-6630. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>.

Conversion factors between volume and weight vary from sale to sale, so the differences in volume prices above may not equal differences in weight prices.

Stumpage price statistics include gateway sales (estimated by subtracting cut-and-haul costs, other expenses and profits provided by reporter).

Statewide data excludes U.S. Forest Service sales.

Price calculated from specific conversion factor reported for each sale if available; otherwise, average conversion factors listed on page 4 of *Texas Timber Price Trends* (<http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=145>) are used. MBF = thousand board feet. Doyle Scale used for board foot measurements.

**Texas Water Development
Board and Regional
Water Planning Groups –**
from “The Texas Water Source”, March,
2009.



The Texas Water Development Board’s (TWDB) mission is: **to provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.** The TWDB provides water planning, data collection and dissemination, financial assistance and technical assistance services to the citizens of Texas. Among other things, it provides loans to local governments for water supply projects; water quality projects including wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste management and non-point source pollution control; flood control projects; agricultural water conservation projects; and groundwater district creation expenses.

It also supports regions in developing their regional water plans that will be incorporated into a statewide water plan for the orderly development, management and conservation of the state’s water resources by studying Texas’ surface and groundwater resources.

The TWDB also administers the Texas Water Bank, which facilitates the transfer, sale or lease of water and water rights through the state, and administers the Texas Water Trust, where water rights are held for environmental flow maintenance purposes. For more information, please see <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/about/>.

In June, Governor George W. Bush signed into law Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), comprehensive water legislation enacted by the 75th Texas Legislature. This comprehensive water legislation was an outgrowth of increased awareness of the vulnerability of Texas to drought and to the limits of existing water supplies to meet increasing demands as population grows. The state’s population is expected to increase from its current level of about 24 million people to slightly more than 46 million people by the year 2060.

With passage of SB 1, the Legislature put in place a “bottom up” water planning process designed to ensure that the water needs of all Texans are met as Texas enters the 21st century. SB 1 allows individuals representing 11 interest groups to serve as members of Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG) to prepare regional water plans for their respective areas. These plans will map out how to conserve water supplies, meet future water supply needs and respond to future droughts in the planning areas.

SB 1 designated the TWDB as the lead state agency for coordinating the regional water planning process and developing a comprehensive state water plan. The plans are updated every five years. There has been a 2002 and a 2007 State Water Plan. A copy of the latest plan can be found at: <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/WRPI/swp/swp.asp>.

Forecasting Fire Danger –
A Cooperative Effort – News
Release, TFS, Feb. 27, 2011



Every day Predictive Services
Department Head Tom Spencer and
his team study weather patterns, drought conditions
and the status of vegetation across the state.

They gather wind speeds and moisture levels from the field. They monitor areas reporting high winds and low moisture levels, two of the key ingredients for dangerous wildfires. They study changes in land use and the long term wildfire risks that accompany them.

“I’m hoping a wildfire outbreak doesn’t happen, but I’m glad we have the capabilities that we do,” Spencer said of the thoughts that race through his mind when the predictions start to come together.

“It’s just like hurricane or tornado forecasting. It’s good to be able to do it and get the information out, but it doesn’t change the outcome. The hurricane always makes landfall somewhere, the tornado always destroys someone’s house somewhere. These fires always occur and somebody is at risk.”

Created in 1998, the Texas Forest Service Predictive Services Department is tasked with forecasting fire danger. Spencer has led the department since its inception and his team is divided by their specialty – gathering weather data, studying vegetation and mapping wildfire risk.

Spencer then consolidates all their information, focusing on the bigger picture as he develops a longer term forecast. As they complete the process, they also produce several maps – including fire danger and drought maps – that detail conditions and are available to the public.

The research and forecasts have proven invaluable to Texas Forest Service fire managers, who are tasked with planning when and where additional people and equipment may be needed.

“Tom Spencer’s job is to produce seasonal forecasts, as well as short term weekly and daily forecasts – and he’s never been wrong,” said Mark Stanford, fire operations chief for Texas Forest Service.

But Spencer is quick to point out that the agency doesn’t do it alone. When the team spots an alarming trend, they immediately alert their partners: National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the USDA Forest Service, as well as a host of other agencies.

- **Continued on Page 5**

Forecasting Fire Danger – A Cooperative Effort – continued from Page 4

“We want to make sure we’re on the same page and seeing the same thing,” Spencer said. “We get feedback along those lines and it helps us develop a more comprehensive operating picture of what’s coming.”

With the advancements made during the last three decades, the climate indicators have become pretty consistent, Spencer said, explaining that everyone generally is on the same page.

And when everyone is in agreement, Spencer said, it’s time to notify the public. When your job focuses on predicting disasters, the most rewarding aspect is helping people better protect themselves.

“That’s really what we’re all about and why we do this, and it’s why the National Weather Service forecasters do what they do,” Spencer said. “We can’t stop a disaster, but hopefully, our work helps limit the amount of damage that results from one. The safety of our citizens is key.”

For fire danger and drought maps, check <http://ticc.tamu.edu>.

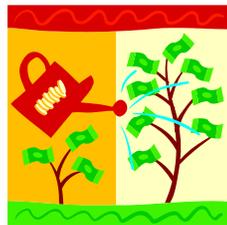
For wildfire updates, check <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.

TFS Wildfire Jargon Defined – Texas Forest Service News Release, March 21, 2011

It’s important to note that a fire can still be active when it is contained. A contained fire means you’ve corralled it with dozer lines, rock features that cannot burn, a body of water, etc. A fire that is 100 percent contained means you’ve got the fire surrounded, but it does not indicate that you have control of the fire. After 100 percent containment is achieved, firefighters wait until they do the appropriate amount of “mop up” inside the containment lines and feel the fire cannot escape. At that point they will call the fire controlled.

Productivity Appraisal Reduces Property Taxes on Farms and Ranches

– from Angelina County Appraisal
District website,
<http://angelinacad.org/index.php/news/2011/01/>



Farmers and ranchers may be eligible for property tax relief on their land. They may apply to their County Appraisal District for agricultural productivity appraisal, a lower appraisal of their land based on what it will produce, rather than what it would sell for on the open market.

There are two types of agricultural productivity appraisal, 1-d-1 and 1-d, named for the sections of the Texas Constitution

that authorize them. Most property owners apply for 1-d-1 appraisal. To qualify, the owner must use the land for agriculture or growing timber. This form of appraisal does not restrict ownership to individuals and does not require agriculture to be the owner’s primary business. The land’s use in a qualifying agricultural or timber purpose must meet the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area. Owners must show that the land has been devoted principally to the qualifying use for at least five of the preceding seven years.

The qualifications for 1-d are more stringent. Under 1-d, the owner must file an application for productivity appraisal each year. The owner must be an individual — not a corporation, partnership, agency or organization. The land must have had an agricultural use for at least three years. The owner’s primary job and source of income must be agriculture.

The law provides penalties, in the form of a rollback tax, for taking qualified land out of agriculture or timber production. The rollback tax is the difference between the taxes paid under productivity appraisal and the taxes that would have been paid if the land had been put on the tax roll at market value. Rollback taxes include interest charges.

Under 1-d-1, an owner triggers a rollback by changing the land’s use to a non-agricultural use. Rollback taxes are based on the five tax years preceding the year of the change. Under 1-d, if the owner sells the land or changes its use, the rollback extends back for the three years before the sale or change of use.

The law also allows a property owner to use land for wildlife management and still receive the special appraisal, if the land qualified for agriculture use in the preceding year. Land under wildlife management must meet acreage size requirements and special use qualifications.

The deadline to apply for productivity appraisal is April 30. If the last day for the performance of an act is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, the act is timely if performed on the next regular business day. Owners of land qualified as 1-d must file a new application every year. Owners of land qualified as 1-d-1 need not file again in later years unless the chief appraiser requests a new application.

For more information about productivity appraisal and application forms, contact your County Appraisal District. Or you may go to: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/ or call the State Comptroller’s Property Tax Assistance Division at (800) 252-9121, ext. 1.



Calendar of Events

- May 14, 2011 Texas Forestry Association's Spring Forestry Tailgate Rally. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Two miles east of Mt. Enterprise on Hwy 84 at TFA's Tree Farm. Free outdoor events for families and children. Call (936) 632-8733 for more information.
- May 24, 2011 NRCS Field Day, Conservation Plants and Plant Technology, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Texas Plant Materials Center, 6598 FM 2782, Nacogdoches, TX. Refreshments provided. Register before May 10. Call (254) 742-9880 or e-mail nancy.posvar@tx.usda.gov.
- June 23, 2011 "Landowners and Longleaf: Growing Longleaf for Timber, Wildlife, and Aesthetics", 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Diboll Civic Center, 601 Dennis Street, Diboll, TX. Information on longleaf history & management, prescribed fire for it, wildlife management with it, financial assistance and seedling availability, establishment needs, and NWTF assistance programs. Lunch provided. RSVP by June 16: call Shane Harrington at (254) 742-9874 or e-mail him at sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu.

2011 Les Reeves Lecture Series:

SFASU, Nacogdoches, Texas, Agriculture Building, 1924 Wilson Drive, Room 110, 7:00 p.m. Come early for refreshments. For more information, contact Greg Grant at (936) 468-1863 or grantdamon@sfasu.edu

- May 19, 2011 Mark Weathington, – Thoughts on bringing color, form, texture and excitement into the southern landscape. - NC Horticulturist, JCR Arboretum, Raleigh, NC - mweathi@ncsu.edu
- June 16, 2011 Steve Dobbs – Traffic stopping, tough and durable perennials for blinding color in the landscape - Horticulturist, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK - sdobbs@okstate.edu

For future events, please see: http://ag.sfasu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=27.

President's Message

Our TNFLA Spring meeting was held at the ArborGen Nursery in Bullard, TX on 3-26-2011 and was a big success. I want to thank Beverly Peoples and her staff for making this meeting possible and such a success. We had 40-50 people in attendance and the speakers were very good. Stacey's Bar-B-Q served lunch and it was good as always.

In Austin, the House heard the Second reading SB 18, by Estes, on 4/13. SB is the Eminent Domain bill that Governor Perry has indicated he will sign into law. Also, SB 332, by Fraser, is the groundwater bill which relates to the vested ownership interest in groundwater beneath the surface of the land; the right of the landowner to produce groundwater & the management of groundwater in the state.

We are all in dire need of rain and hopefully this is not a sign of what the coming summer will bring. We pray for the TFS and other firefighters that have battled wildfires this spring.

***Phil Power
TNFLA President***