

Our goal is to make the public aware of the issue and educate them on what the plant looks like, so that you too can help us identify its location. We don't know how big this problem has to get before actual research and funding can be allocated to fight this fast-growing Jujube plant.

ERADICATING JUJUBE

We expect it to take 12 months to kill the root system. Landowners have experimented with using drones and other ways to spray in the past. For example, one landowner sprayed Jujube ten years ago. Later, he went out to call the cattle in to feed, and they ignored him. So, he got out of his truck to investigate, and the Jujube was already one to two inches high again.



We are responsible for providing technical, financial, and educational resources to the agricultural producers and the public of Dewey County. Our existence is to serve and improve the quality of life through conservation of the soil, water, air, plants, animal energy, and human resources. We serve Dewey County citizens, future generations, and visitors.

OUR VISION

Honor and provide services to conserve, protect, and improve the land.

OUR MISSION

Assist the people of Dewey County in conserving, protecting, and improving our natural resources and environment while providing leadership, education, technical and financial services, and administering conservation programs.



Jujube (ziziphus) Plant



HISTORY

According to locals, a past landowner near Webb, OK, once purchased a fruit tree and found the fruit to be very tasty. Over the years, the tree mutated into a bush that forms mottled groves, has thorns, and can pose a hazard to livestock and grazing. The Jujube resists traditional eradication methods such as fire and soil disturbance and is highly drought tolerant. It grows fairly quickly and produces small fruit. The Jujube has a rhizome root system, green leaves, and fruit. This invasive species could potentially become worse than the Eastern Red Cedar.

ACTION WE'RE TAKING

Through the Locally Led Process of gathering information from landowners, the conservation district sees this as a major problem for landowners. This is how the Locally Led Process at the grassroots level is supposed to work.

The Dewey County Conservation District received a grant from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to conduct a study and collect data on the Jujube plant.



The conservation district, along with several agency partners, will collect information to determine an approximate acreage affected. The counties currently reporting Jujube are Dewey, Woodward, Ellis, Blaine, and Roger Mills.



ERADICATING JUJUBE CONT.

The district will implement this study using a new method to eradicate Jujube by using a Brush Bullet system and Velpar. We will place the chemical at the base of the plant and be activated by rainfall. Dewey County is working with five different producers for this project. These test sites were selected using soil data and the variation of mott size for the study.

Velpar will be applied at one bullet per inch of trunk diameter. After the plant has died, the remaining plant must be shredded or removed.

One selected site will be used to study the growth rate after the mott has been removed and soil has been disturbed.

Though this is an intensive project, our mission is to work alongside landowners to help solve issues that cause grazing loss, production loss, or create a hazardous environment for cattle, humans, or wildlife.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Any producers interested in helping locate these Jujube plants, can report the locations using the latitude and longitude, capture a photo of the plant, and send them to the Dewey County Conservation District at 306 S. Broadway, Taloga, OK 73667 or email it to:

deweyccd@conservation.ok.gov
Please call 580-328-5366 for questions and assistance.

ABOUT US

Formed in September 1941 as a political subdivision of the State of Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl era, we are a non-regulatory organization that offers voluntary conservation assistance to landowners in Dewey County. Our technical partner is the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).