

**cover** is especially important during fawning season, when does leave their fawns hidden while they go off to forage for themselves.

**Too many deer is often the case in the Hill Country.** Efforts need to be made to keep numbers low enough to prevent destruction of plants, starvation of fawns and adults. This can only be done by removing deer by harvesting. When man took the place of other predators, he then had to assume their roll. We are responsible for their care and that of all other plant and animal species.

*"The number one threat to wildlife in Texas is land fragmentation" - Dr. Bob Brown*  
(TAMU Wildlife and Fisheries Dept. Head)

**Song birds are enjoyed by most people.** The addition of a bird bath and feeder will attract many types of birds. Also many migrate through going north or south depending on the season. Hummingbirds also provide enjoyment. The **greatest threat to birds nesting in our area is feral cats.** Cats destroy many nests in the wild. Wild dogs, feral hogs and other exotic animals and plants released or escaping into the wild are doing a lot to destroy native wildlife habitat - think before you act.

**Other small animal** species need a variety of places for cover, types of food and amount of water. Providing supplemental water at ground level will help many small critters. The sound of dripping water is often very inviting. Providing "natural" spaces in tall native grasses, understory and mid story plants, brush piles, rock piles, and an old hollow log may be excellent habitat for wildlife. Learn all you can about the species you enjoy most and provide for their benefit.

**Deer resistant plants.** There are plants that are not eaten and others less preferred by deer. But when deer are hungry, most plants may be on their diet. A list is available of plants least preferred by deer.

### Wanted/Unwanted Guests

When you move to the country you are moving in with a host of outdoor life - not all invited. Spiders, scorpions, snakes, weeds, thorns and a bunch of mammals think you are building a home and planting food for them. Armadillos and fire ants appreciate your watered yard and lots of critters like the rock piles, shops and stacks of stuff. Learn about the beneficial aspect of these critters, tolerate some, appreciate others - before you call for help.

### Suggested Additional References

#### **\* Grazing Management**

"Stocking Rate Decisions." TAEX B-5036

"Range Condition, Key to Sustained Ranch Productivity." TAEX, B-5024

"Balancing Forage Demand with Forage Supply." TAEX, B-1606

"How Much Forage Do You Have?" TAEX, B-1646

"Grazing Systems for Profitable Ranching." TAEX, L-2211

#### **\* Rangeland Weed and Brush C**

"Brush Management Methods." TAEX, B-5004

"Chemical Weed and Brush Control - Suggestions for Rangeland," TAEX, B-1466

"Prescribed Range Burning in Texas." TAEX, B-1310

"Planning a Prescribed Burn." TAEX, L-2461

#### **\* Seeding Rangeland**

"Seeding Rangeland." TAEX, B-1379

#### **\* Book Marks**

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers> - This site is good for all horticulture questions

<http://cnrit.tamu.edu/cgrm> - Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management

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