

ATTENTION RANCHERS AND HUNTERS

★ NEW TEXAS LAW ★

NONCOMMERCIAL  
COTTON PLANTS MUST  
BE DESTROYED



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TEXAS DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE



COMMISSIONER  
TODD STAPLES

## HB 1580

- Passed by the 2009 Texas Legislature, HB 1580 requires a landowner or operator to destroy
- noncommercial cotton.
- The Texas Department of Agriculture is charged with enforcing noncommercial cotton regulations.
- Operations found with noncommercial cotton may be subject to fees and/or fines.

## Why?

- Boll weevils in noncommercial cotton plants escape detection and treatment. This increases the expense of boll weevil eradication.
- A single noncommercial cotton plant can produce boll weevils that will hinder boll weevil eradication efforts for an entire county.
- Texas has made a \$1 billion investment in boll weevil eradication.
- Years of eradication efforts have almost eliminated the threat of boll weevils in large areas of Texas.



## What is Noncommercial Cotton?

- Any cotton that was not intentionally planted or not planted for commercial purposes.

*“Texas leads the nation in cotton production, and we want to keep it that way. Our state has invested millions in successful boll weevil eradication efforts, but we must eliminate noncommercial cotton as it can become a major breeding ground for this harmful pest.”*

*-Commissioner Todd Staples*

## How Can I Help?

- Monitor areas where you feed cottonseed to cattle and wildlife. Destroy any cotton plants that germinate.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same if they feed cottonseed.
- Call TDA if you see noncommercial cotton plants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:

**1-800-TELL-TDA**

OR

**WWW.TEXASAGRICULTURE.GOV**