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Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter or municipal meeting? Send suggestions to Asst. Agricultural Fieldman Tanis Ponath, asb@mdwainwright.ca or 780-842-4454

Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

The Municipal Agricultural Connection

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry



Partners in Rural Conservation
www.mdwainwright.ca



Strychnine Update

Please remember that strychnine is only sold on Tuesdays from 1—3 p.m at the M.D. rec shop located at 2010-15 ave N. After June 28, strychnine will be sold by appointment only by calling the office at 842-4454. Cost is \$250.00/case or \$10.50/bottle.

The M.D. of Wainwright has available for rent:

- Skunk traps
- Raccoon taps
- Magpie traps



New Insect Species

Found in Canola Flowers in Alberta and Saskatchewan

A new insect species has been found in Alberta and Saskatchewan canola flowers. Researchers at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Saskatoon Research and Development Center (SRDC), along with colleagues at the University of Guelph and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency found a new insect damaging canola in northeastern Saskatchewan and east-central Alberta. The new species, a midge, which has yet to be named and scientifically described, belongs to the genus *Contarinia*. It is similar in appearance to the swede midge, *Contarinia nasturtii*, commonly found in Ontario. The only confirmed symptoms of damage are bottle shaped galled flowers that form as a result of larval feeding inside the flowers, damaged flowers do not produce pods or seeds.

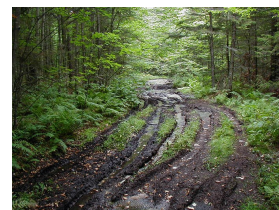
For a few years now there have been accounts of differences between the swede midge found in Saskatchewan compared to the insects found in Ontario. Adult size, number of generations per year and the type and amount of damaged reported have all varied between the provinces. This information and the fact that there was extremely low capture rates of adult swede midge in pheromone traps in Saskatchewan despite high rates of adult swede midge emergence caught the attention of the SRDC. Samples were collected and researchers determined differences between the midge collected in Saskatchewan compared to those collected in Ontario. Midges from Saskatchewan were more robust, had hairier wings and had slight differences in the antennae and reproductive organs. The differences were confirmed by a midge expert with CIFA. While the midge observed in Saskatchewan in 2016 appeared to be low in most fields, the economic impact of the new midge is not known. Understanding pests and pest management is a priority of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and work is underway to formally describe and name this new species.

It's a hot summer day and you just bought yourself a brand new quad, you've decided to take it out and explore a new area. You come across a creek and you felt tempted to ride through it but the question is should you? Did you know that it is against Alberta Law to ride through any body of water or along a shoreline on public lands. You may think that you are creating minimal damage but a little damage multiplied by multiple off road vehicles can lead to a lot of damage very quickly.

Riding through water can:

- Kill fish eggs, fry and damage their habitat
- Stirs up silt and decreases water quality down stream
- Damage shoreline

To avoid damaging riverbeds and shore lines keep wheels out of the water and away from the shoreline, use a bridge or crossing. Research your route and make sure it minimizes potential damage to the landscape. Finally what I believe to be the #1 rule is, always wash your vehicle to minimize the spread of any invasive species.



WEED WATCH

Phragmites

Phragmites is an invasive aquatic or sub-aquatic, perennial grass with an extensive root system. They are highly competitive against native species and form dense mono-specific stands, native species are choked out by toxins released from its roots. Phragmites stands have negative impacts on the structure and function of wetland systems. They grow in freshwater alkaline and brackish waters but can also thrive in highly acidic wetlands. It can reach heights of up to 5 meters with 200 stems per sq. meter. It prefers stationary or slow moving waters and irrigation canals. Although the weed can survive in a variety of environments it prefers waters with high nutrient pollution. There is a native and invasive species of Phragmites making identification difficult, normally a DNA analysis of the plant tissue is required. The invasive species was confirmed in Brooks in early 2016, since then there has been 5 additional locations confirmed. Locations range from Medicine Hat to Peace River and sites were located along transportation corridors. Phragmites is not listed under the Alberta Weed Control Act however, it is listed under the Fisheries Act. If you suspect this weed please contact Agricultural Fieldman James Schwindt or Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Tanis Ponath at the M.D. office.



Prohibited Noxious & Noxious Weeds

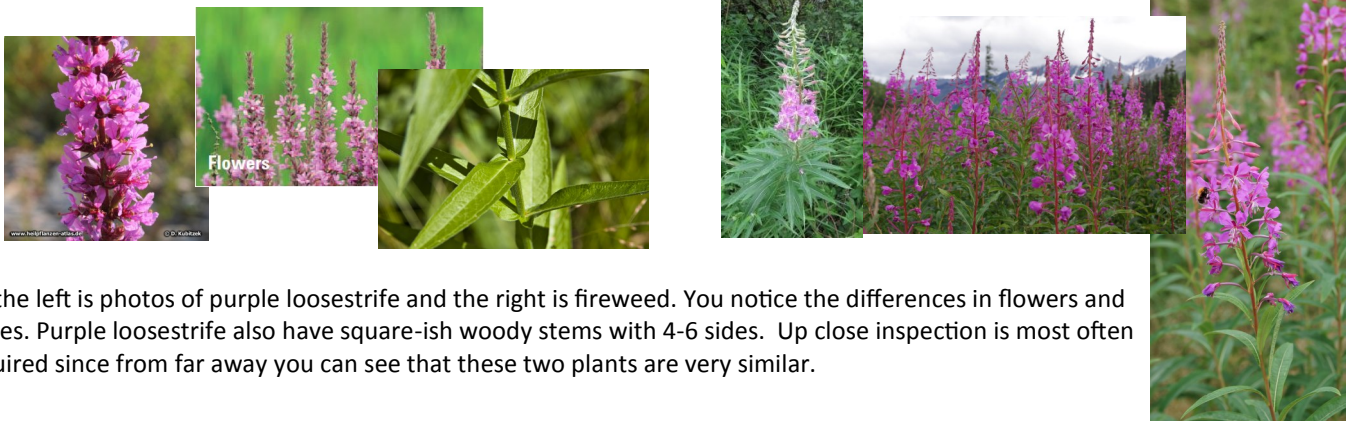


Left to Right (Top): Diffuse Knapweed, Nodding Thistle, Spotted Knapweed, Hoary Alyssum and Common Tansy.

Left to Right (Bottom): Toadflax, Leafy Spurge and Orange Hawkweed.

Purple Loosestrife VS Fireweed

Purple loosestrife is a highly invasive weed that invades native wetland communities, they form a monoculture that no species depends on. It grows at a rapid pace, faster than any native species which in time will out compete all native species. It spreads primarily by seeds, a single mature plant can produce up to 2.5 million seeds annually. Fireweed, a native plant is a similar plant in appearance is often mistaken for purple loosestrife. Fireweed grows in a variety of habitats burned/logged areas, roadsides, mixed forests etc. In B.C. it is usually the first to grow after a disturbance such as fire, hence the name.



On the left is photos of purple loosestrife and the right is fireweed. You notice the differences in flowers and leaves. Purple loosestrife also have square-ish woody stems with 4-6 sides. Up close inspection is most often required since from far away you can see that these two plants are very similar.

Herbicide Trials for the Management of Yellow Toadflax & Hoary Alyssum In the M.D. of Wainwright

This year the M.D. of Wainwright has partnered with the Crop Research Division at Lakeland College to examine integrated weed management techniques including herbicide and nitrogen application to control the prohibited noxious weed hoary alyssum and noxious weed yellow toadflax in forage stands. These persistent weeds reduce forage stand yields and hoary alyssum is poisonous to horses. Toadflax is not new to Alberta or the M.D. of Wainwright and we know the struggle some producers face managing this perennial weed. More control options are needed to help improve pasture production and prevent further spread. The annual weed hoary alyssum thrives in sandy soils with poor fertility, and it is a fairly new species to the province with limited established populations across Alberta. With the right control options, we may have a chance to prevent the weed from establishing permanent populations. This is the first herbicide efficacy work conducted in the province to date on hoary alyssum. Currently there are limited chemical options for producers who have established hoary alyssum populations and the picloram-containing products Tordon 22K and Grazon are the only registered selective products for use on toadflax. In addition to investigating the effect of herbicidal control, the effect of increased pasture competitiveness from nitrogen fertilization will be examined.

Research commenced in April 2017 at three locations in the M.D. of Wainwright (three yellow toadflax and one hoary alyssum site), and two hoary alyssum trial locations in Lamont County. Stabilized nitrogen was surface broadcast at 100 kg N/ha in late April and herbicide applications will follow. The hoary alyssum trial will consist of pre-bloom herbicide of Navius, Method, Overdrive, Reclaim and Restore II. Navius, Method, Overdrive, Reclaim and Tordon 22K (industry check) will be applied both pre and post bloom in yellow toadflax to determine optimal timing for control. The density of hoary alyssum and yellow toadflax will be measured before application and then on day 14, 28 and 52 for each separate herbicide treatment. Perennial forage height will be measured in early July to quantify the forages competitive response to fertilization. There is potential to extend the project into 2018/2019 to determine the long term control of the herbicides application and fertilizations. Once year 1 of the project is completed, the results will be available to producers who are interested and there will be an extension meeting where the results will be presented, in the fall of 2017.

This work will provide data to initiate the future expansion of herbicide labels through the minor use program or by industry. These are the first steps in giving producers more integrated control options increase forage yields, especially sensitive areas such as native pastures and sandier landscapes.



Water Quality in Dugouts

This spring we have seen above average moisture levels which has led to wet fields and an excess of run-off running into dugouts. There is potential for run-off water to have a higher concentrate of nutrients than normal. The past few years we have experienced dryer than normal conditions and even drought. The lack of moisture has left nutrients and fertilizers in field which then start to build up. As a manager dugouts should be checked for any changes, weekly from April to September and monthly from October to March. You not only need to be aware of your on-farm management practices but also what your neighbour may be doing. If you notice a change in colour, odor or the presence of materials get your water tested. Remember, algae blooms will not show up until spring when the weather/water has warmed up. If you know the situation before hand you may be able to mitigate the issue or prepare for how to properly treat it. There are multiple treatments you can administer to your dugout to treat them. Copper sulphate also known as blue-stone is one of the most common treatments for cyanobacteria. Coagulation, herbicides and colorants are also used as treatment options. Aeration is the single most effective practice for maintaining and improving water quality.

M.D. Of Wainwright Weed Inspectors

Division 1 & 2 : Ray Enstrom, 780-842-8461

Division 3,4 & 5: Laine Maron, 780-842-8579

Division 5,6 & 7: Dennis Fuder, 780-842-7060



Tips for Tree Planting

Planning the site, choosing the design and species can be difficult but planting trees incorrectly can lead to long term challenges. The best time to plant trees in is the early morning, late afternoon or during a cloudy day. Trees are more likely to dry up if they are planted on a hot summer day. If you have received your trees and are unable to plant for a few days, keep trees in a cold storage facility. Do not leave in a vehicle or in direct sunlight this will cause the roots to dry up.

Trees can be planted by hand or mechanical, there are advantages and disadvantages to both systems. Holes need to be big enough to allow enough worked earth for the tree to establish itself. The width should be 3X the diameter of the root mass and the depth should be deep enough to allow the roots to grow straight. To deep and there will not be access to enough oxygen for tree growth. Fill with soil and pack down so trees are straight and don't come out easily.

Once planting is completed the most important thing is to keep trees watered. Water trees at the time of planting and then once a week through the first year in absence of rain. Slowly water trees so it soaks through and gets down to the roots. Watering too quickly will cause it to run and little moisture will get down to the roots. This can cause surface roots which leads to drought susceptible trees. The goal is to create trees with deep roots that can withstand mother nature. If you want to know whether to water your trees or not use this trick. Take a soil knife and put it into the soil, if the knife comes out with soil on it you do not need to water your trees. If the knife comes out dry its time to water.

Weed control is always going to be an issue with newly planted trees. There are multiple methods such as mechanical, herbicides and various mulches which can help keep weeds away. Mulch is also a great way to conserve moisture. It is very important to stay on top of weeds so they do not out-compete your newly planted trees. Trees should also be check weekly for insects, disease and animal damage.

If you have an concerns or think you might have a pest damaging your trees you can give Tanis Ponath or James Schwindt a call at the M.D. office (842-4454) and we will assist you the best we can.

Cauliflower Dorito Salad

- 1 head of cauliflower
- 3 green onion
- 1/3 cup of coleslaw dressing
- 1/3 cup ranch dressing
- Grated cheese (optional)
- 1 bag of Doritos

Combine all ingredients and enjoy!



Jim Gerrish Grazing School

Blackfoot, AB - June 17th 2017

What Determines Profitability In Grass Farming & How To Get The Most Out Of Your Pasture



Jim is one of North Americas most respected grazing consultants with over 22 years of beef-forage systems research at the University of Missouri. Jim also has over 20 years of experience managing commercial cattle and sheep production on his farm first in Missouri and now in central Idaho.

Time & Date: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm June 17th 2017
 Location: Blackfoot Community Hall, Blackfoot, AB (West of Lloydminster)
 Registration: \$ 50 Must register before June 14th. Includes classroom & field session
 Lunch and snacks will be provided.
 To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jim-gerrish-grazing-school-tickets-34674833360>
 Any Questions Contact : Jordan Smith at 587-220-4287 or jsmith@county24.com

