

June 2018

Volume 12, Issue 3

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

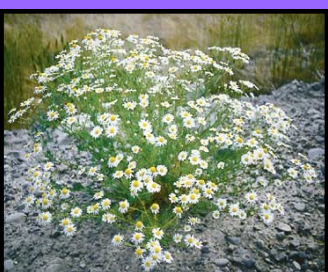
Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

# The Municipal Agricultural Connection

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry



Partners in Rural Conservation  
www.mdwainwright.ca



## ASB Summer Update

If you see a blue M.D. truck and the sign "Pest Inspector" on the tail gate, that is myself or James conducting surveys to better serve our producers. We will be completing multiple surveys and the information collected will be used to indicate disease and insect pressure in the M.D.

**Diamondback Moths:** Diamondback monitoring started at the beginning of May and will go for six weeks. There is one trap location with 2 traps in the M.D. This monitoring is used to determine when the moths have arrived from our southern neighbours.

**Bertha Armyworms:** This year 3 locations with 2 traps each will be set up in the M.D. Monitoring will start the beginning of June and go for 6 weeks.

Producers can see live reporting of berth armyworms on the Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network.

**Swede Midge Monitoring:** Swede Midge traps will go up at 2 locations starting in June and will be monitored for 12 weeks. Swede midge has not yet been reported in the M.D. of Wainwright.

**Grasshopper Surveys:** Grasshopper surveys start in early August and will go until completed. Approximately one pasture field is selected in each township for survey. Data collected will be used for the forecast maps distributed by Alberta Agriculture.

**Clubroot Surveys:** Clubroot surveys start in late August or early September and will go till completed. One to two fields are randomly selected in each township in the M.D. Approximately one hundred plants are pulled in the main field entrance.

**Wheat Midge Surveys:** Wheat midge is surveyed by collecting soil samples in the fall after harvest. Six random locations are chosen throughout the municipality for testing. Samples are sent to Alberta Agriculture for testing and we see the results in the new year.

On the left are pictures of commonly found Prohibited/Noxious weeds. From top to bottom we have yellow toadflax, hoary alyssum, leafy spurge, common tansy and scentless chamomile.

**If you have a suspicious plant that you need identified, call James or Tanis and we would be happy to identify it for you.**

**The M.D. of Wainwright's spray program begins on June 1 and will continue until fall. Roadside mowing will begin July 15 or later and go until August 31. If you have any questions contact James or Tanis at 780-842-4454.**

### 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



# Pest Inspector

# Weed Watch 2018

The weeds listed on the previous page already have established populations in the M.D. of Wainwright. There are new species of weeds that have been found in isolated populations and they have the potential to spread and cause problems for M.D. of Wainwright residents.



## Don't Miss Out!!

Top from left to right: tall buttercup, orange hawkweed, diffuse knapweed, nodding thistle and spotted knapweed. These weeds have been found in field settings in the M.D. of Wainwright. Control initiatives have been taken to eradicate these weeds.

Bottom from left to right: Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed. These plants are common in gardens. If they escape they are highly invasive and can take over a natural area and form monocultures.

**If you see or suspect any of these plants stop by the M.D. office and talk with James or Tanis.**

**2018 Saskatchewan Pasture Tour**  
**Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Macklin, SK area**

Join us to network with people excited about the livestock industry. Engage with producers making the everyday decisions, extension staff and researchers. Topics will include cattle handling facilities, corn & swath grazing, native & tame pasture management, labour sourcing and much more.

Photo Credit: SFC

The M.D. of Wainwright is pleased to announce our collaboration on the annual Saskatchewan Pasture Tour! We have an action packed agenda for producers to learn and share knowledge of the livestock industry.

Topics will include:

- ◆ Cattle handling facilities
  - ◆ Corn & swath grazing
  - ◆ Managing invasive weeds in pasture
  - ◆ Native & tame pasture management
- Plus so much more!

Tour leaves from Macklin, SK.

Stay tuned to the M.D. of Wainwright's Facebook page and website for registration information.

For more information watch the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) website: [www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca) or contact the office at (306)329-3116 or [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca)

PRESENTED BY:



**Contact Tanis for more Information, 780-842-4454**



## Managing Toadflax in Pasture & Hayland

Yellow Toadflax, a noxious weed on the Alberta Weed Control Act is very common in the M.D. of Wainwright and one of the most difficult weeds to manage in pasture situations. It is a persistent perennial weed that spreads via rhizomes



and seed. Because of its rhizomatous nature, tillage is not a management option and it worsens the problem by spreading the toadflax across the field. Toadflax is also resilient against herbicides. The thick waxy cuticle on the leaves limits absorptions and the thin needle-like leaves are difficult to contact with spray droplets. Herbicide control options are limited to Tordon 22K, Glyphosate and the newly added Grazon (Dow Range & Pasture product). As with all selective hay and pasture herbicides, the producer must be comfortable with spraying

out the legume/alfalfa component of the pasture.

Despite these management challenges, the results from the 2017 Lakeland College Research trials in the M.D. of Wainwright gave some useful tools for producers to help the situation. Trial results showed that post-bloom is the most effective application timing for toadflax control. This is good news in terms of scouting and identifying toadflax patches during flower, then following up with a spray application immediately after bloom. Early identification and control of patches along field edges or within a field is essential to stop an infestation from spreading.

The 2017 trials also found that a spring nitrogen fertilization of pastures, followed by a post bloom herbicide application, can be effective in reducing toadflax populations, but only if the pasture is competitive to start with. Fertilizing tired or sparse pastures infested with toadflax will result in increased competitiveness of the toadflax.

The trials also confirmed that the picloram containing product Tordon 22K was the most effective against toadflax. However, growers should use caution, picloram moves readily in sandy soils and can have off-target effects if the label is not followed properly. Recently, toadflax was added to the Grazon XC label which is a picloram/2,4-D product. Control options for toadflax are limited, with addition of toadflax to the Grazon label it gives producers another potential option is battling this invasive weed. Good management practices is controlling toadflax when you have isolated populations before it spreads across the entire field. If the infestation is severe enough termination of the pasture followed by re-establishment may be the best option. Seeding to an annual crop for a few seasons before forage re-establishment increased selective herbicide options to fully control the remaining toadflax. If you have any questions regarding toadflax and its control call James or Tanis at the M.D office at 780-842-4454.

*Submitted by: Laurel Perrott & Tanis Ponath*

### **Are you noticing a problem with your shelterbelt trees?**

**Contact Tanis at the M.D. of Wainwright and she would be happy to help you identify the cause.**

**We have already seen some winter kills this year in evergreens along with yellow headed spruce sawfly.**



### **Unacceptable Waste For A Front Load Bin**

- ◆ No appliances or furniture
- ◆ Hazardous materials or any container having contained such material
- ◆ Free liquids, oily wastes, oil filters oily rags, sludge's and semi-solids
- ◆ Solvents, greases, empty containers
- ◆ Paint, thinner or remover cans (unless RCRA empty, solidified or triple rinsed)
- ◆ Treated wood, railroad ties, industrial waste
- ◆ **Animal wastes and / or carcasses**
- ◆ Drums / containers (sealed)
- ◆ Burned debris
- ◆ Compressed cylinders (propane, oxygen etc.)
- ◆ Batteries, transformer, ballasts
- ◆ Household chemicals
- ◆ Herbicides and pesticide containers
- ◆ Hydrocarbon soils
- ◆ Asbestos
- ◆ Biomedical waste
- ◆ Fluorescent tubes
- ◆ Radioactive materials, naturally occurring (NORM)



**If you have any questions or concerns about acceptable waste contact the Wainwright Waste to Energy Facility at 780-842-4051.**

## Raising Awareness against Invasive Species

The battle against invasive species is a on-going issue that we face at the M.D. of Wainwright. Awareness is a huge part of our program so that producers can identify if they have an invasive weed on their property. There are multiple campaigns promoted by the Alberta Invasive Species Council to raise awareness around invasive species.

**1. Clean Drain Dry Your Boat:** This campaign is aimed to prevent the spread of aquatic plants and organism in Alberta waterbodies. The main concern is the invasion of the zebra and quagga mussels. Already found in Manitoba and Northern Montana these mussels are knocking at our door and will have devastating effects if they become established in our lakes. When you see an inspection station stop, they inspect your boat for free and you are helping keep our landscapes natural.

**2. Don't Let It Loose:** Some of the most invasive species are sold as plants and animals for aquariums and water gardens. Gold fish are invading storm water systems and the Bow River in southern Alberta. Do not flush fish down the toilet and dispose of plants properly by double bagging them and taking them to your landfill.

**3. Play Clean Go:** This campaign is aimed towards outdoor enthusiasts. Whether you are walking, hiking, biking, riding an OHV or a horse clean your equipment to prevent the spread of invasive species from place to place.

**4. Grow Me Instead:** This informative brochure educates gardeners on Prohibited and Noxious weeds that you will find in garden centers. The brochure provides a list of alternative plants that are similar and okay to grow. Stop by the M.D. office and pick up yours today!

Remember preventing invasive species begins with you.

## Fusarium Head Blight Infection Risk Report

Don't forget to check out the Fusarium Head Blight Infection tool! The map, which was developed by the Alberta Wheat Commission, Alberta Climate Information Services and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry helps producers decide whether they should spray crops with a fungicide or not. The tool which can be viewed on your mobile phone was designed to determine the local disease severity risk. Head over to [www.weatherdata.ca](http://www.weatherdata.ca) and click on the "Fusarium Disease Severity" link on the left hand side of the page. Second step would be to choose the weather station that is closest to you. The map shows real time information on precipitation and humidity. The risk for Fusarium is rated on a low, medium, high and severe scale. The tool is not meant to be a forecast, it will show you whether the conditions are favorable for Fusarium development at that exact time. Producers can also review the maps from the previous years.

## Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Producer Tools

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry or Ropin the Web have a variety of decision making tools to assist producers. Visit [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca) and click on the "Decision Making Tools" tab at the top of the page. The webpage offers decision making tools for crop, livestock, land, machinery and farm management. Some of the tools include forage seed mixer calculator, rural water quality information tool, swath grazing calculator, land area calculator, farm input prices and so much more.

## Strychnine Update

Please remember that strychnine is only sold on Tuesday's 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.



Start thinking about the 2018 Calendar Contest! The M.D. of Wainwright's annual calendar photo contest is fast approaching. Submissions are due the Friday after the Rural Routes supper (Aug 17). Showcase the diversity in the M.D. of Wainwright. Can't wait to see your submission this year!

**Mark your calendars!! The M.D. of Wainwright annual Rural Routes Supper is on August 10th, 2018. Stay tuned for more information on reserving your seat.**