April 2020

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Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

The Municipal Agricultural Connection

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 call 780-842-4454

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Partners in Rural Conservation
www.mdwainwright.ca

New Strychnine Purchase Protocols

The start of strychnine sales for eligible producers has been postponed until **Tuesday, April 14, 2020 between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm.** Due to COVID-19 we are developing new sales and handling protocols to meet Alberta Health's requirements and to help protect the public and staff.

When arriving at the north side of the M.D. rec shop located at 2010-15 ave N. please follow the posted directions and get in line and stay in your vehicle until a staff member can get to you. A staff member will come to your vehicle and fill out the form with you. You will still be required to sign the form. We will only be accepting cheques (no cash) at this time. A staff member will place the strychnine in your vehicle. If you are feeling sick or are showing any symptoms of COVID-19 we ask that you do not come and purchase strychnine for the safety of our staff and others.

STRYCHNINE NOTICE

2020 FEDERAL REGISTRATION
OF
2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE CONCENTRATE
(LSC)
(PCP#304533)

RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL CONTROL

AVAILABLE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Farmers with a Farm fuel # or farm license plates only. Product to be used only on land with economically significant Richardson Ground Squirrel populations.

Infestation levels must be:
1 RGS hole per four meters of walking, or if a producer has 20% damage in a 100m strip of crop or pasture land.

Additional Conditions and Purchase Restrictions Also Apply
Cost of this product will be $11.00/bottle or $260.00/case

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
TUESDAYS BETWEEN 1:00-3:00PM Each Week
Starting April 14, 2020 until June 30, 2020. Purchases after these dates can be made by appointment
All sales dependant on product availability

LSC will be distributed from the M.D. of Wainwright Rec.Shop
(North side of the building)
2010-15 Avenue North Wainwright
(Located between United Rentals and Wainalta Motors)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WAINWRIGHT AT (780)-842-4454

Important Notice to Agricultural Producers who Purchase Strychnine

The final decision on the re-evaluation of 2% liquid strychnine concentrate (LSC) has been released. The registration for LSC has been cancelled. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency will be implementing a three-year phase out period.

- **One year of sale by the registrant from March 4, 2020 - March 4, 2021.**
- **Two years of sale by the retailer (M.D. of Wainwright) from March 4, 2020 - March 4, 2022.**
- **Three years of permitted use from March 4, 2022 - March 4, 2023 for eligible producers.**

Product sales by the M.D. of Wainwright are subject to availability from the registrant.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the M.D. office

Distinguishing Between Disease and Winter Injury

Throughout the M.D. of Wainwright, purplish brown to rusty brown needles can be seen on spruce trees. A variety of problems can result in needle discoloration including insects, disease and environmental conditions.

This time of year two common problems are Rhizosphaera needle cast and winter injury. Rhizosphaera needle cast is caused by a fungal pathogen. Winter injury is the result of environmental conditions. It is important to be able to distinguish between these two problems, since very different action is required to maintain tree health depending on the cause of the problem. Rhizosphaera needle cast is caused by the fungi *Rhizosphaera kalkhoffii* and is most commonly seen on Colorado blue spruce, which are highly susceptible to the disease. White spruce and Norway spruce have greater resistance to the disease but can become infected when stressed.

Trees suffering from Rhizosphaera needle cast can be recognized by browning of the older needles closer to the trunk. The older needles are located at the base of the branch closest to the trunk, while the new needles grow from the tip of the branch. (Diseased spruce trees often have branches with green needles at the tip of the branch and brown needles towards the base.) In addition, the branches closest to the ground tend to be more severely infected, because humidity is highest there. Later in the summer the discoloured needles may fall off. If a spruce tree has been suffering from Rhizosphaera needle cast for several years, it may appear sparse and have dead branches at its base. The fungal pathogen of Rhizosphaera needle cast can be seen on infected spruce needles. Use a hand lens to closely examine discoloured needles. Tiny black pimple like spore producing structures can be seen arising from the stoats, or air holes in the needle.

Spruce trees suffering from winter injury often have needle discoloration on the needles at the tips of the branches. Frequently this damage occurs on the south or west side of the tree due to excess wind and sun warmth on those sides. In some cases winter injury is observed on trees receiving reflective light from a nearby building or car. The discoloured needles often appear bleached or faded, with the tip of the needle most severely discoloured. Winter injury can occur under several conditions. Needles can be killed by cold temperatures, desiccated by the wind, or bleached by the sun. If a spruce tree did not have time to harden off properly in the fall (too much fertilizer) or is not fully adapted to Wainwright winters, complete browning of all needles may be observed. If the problem is clearly winter injury, not much can be done for the tree at this point, other than extra TLC. Luckily, light winter injury rarely kills the buds of the tree and as weather warms and spring rains arrive, new growth resumes improving the overall color of the tree. Make a note to water trees throughout the summer to prevent drought stress and to help the tree harden off next fall. In very exposed areas, spruces can be protected from future winter injury with a simple burlap barrier to block the wind and sun.

If the problem is clearly Rhizosphaera needle cast, management strategies should be implemented to protect this year's needles from infection. When new needles are half the length of mature needles, spray the tree with a fungicide whose active ingredient is Chlorthalonil. *Completely read the label and follow all instructions when using a fungicide.* Apply the fungicide once more at the interval recommended on the fungicide label (typically 3-4 weeks later). These two sprays will protect the needles from infection.

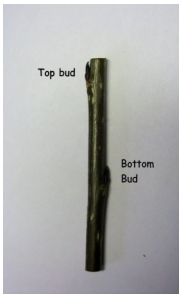
In addition several cultural practices will help to reduce the risk of future problems with Rhizosphaera needle cast. When planting new spruce trees choose Norway spruce or white spruce instead of Colorado blue spruce because they are more resistant to the disease (however white spruce may not be as drought resistant.) Reduce moisture on spruce needles by controlling weeds around the base of the tree and redirecting lawn sprinklers to avoid wetting the needles. Reduce stress on spruce trees by mulching the soil around the tree and providing trees with water during periods of drought. Avoid planting new spruce trees near old infected spruce trees.

Making Your Own Tree Cuttings

The M.D. of Wainwright still has tree information packages available to rate payers. These packages are full of great reference material on how to plant shelterbelts, planting space recommendations for different varieties and what different types of trees look like and their uses. In the package, there is also tree supplier contact information from nurseries around the province and in Saskatchewan. A good time to order trees is in January/February as most suppliers start selling out of trees by March/April. Another option would be to make your own seedlings. It is not difficult to do and the existing parent tree that you would be using for the seedling cuttings has already proved it can thrive in the M.D. of Wainwright climate zone.

This method can be used with either poplar or willow trees. First find a "specimen" tree in your yard that you like the mature size and shape of (as there are different varieties of both poplar and willow, and you will be in fact "cloning" the exact same plant, so pick something that is working for you).

1. Just before bud break (when tiny leaves pop out of growing points) cut sections off the ends of branches of your poplar or willow tree (of last years growth only). You will want to cut nothing larger than half inch diameter of the branch, as the larger diameter will take longer to sprout and may not be as successful. Also, smaller "end of branch" cuttings have the tendency to dry out at the tip; they can still be used but may not yield the best results.
2. Keep all your cuttings the approximate same size diameter and length, 1/4inch diameter and 1ft long. Also, try to have at least 2 buds on each cutting. March is a good time to make cuttings, however since the ground is still frozen you can not plant them; so store your cuttings either in the crisper of your fridge, or in a gunny sack or cardboard box, filled and covered with snow and placed in a snowbank on the north side of an outside building (the point is keeping cuttings cold and dormant until able to plant).
3. When the soil has thawed and warmed enough to push a spade shovel in the ground and other trees have started to break bud and leaf out, is when you will want to place your cuttings into pails of water for 3 days, to allow them to absorb and swell with water. After the 3rd day, remove your cuttings from water and plant them into the ground. It is very important to not keep your cuttings in water more than 3 days, as this wrecks the integrity of the plant and your success rate goes down. Plant your cuttings the "right side down", ensuring that the buds are pointing upward.
4. After that, all you have to do is keep your cuttings watered while they establish their root systems underground. It is critical the cuttings are not allowed to dry out (especially during June and July hot spells); one easy way to do this, is to add a small layer of mulch at the base of the planting, to keep the moisture when and where it is needed most.



Remember these cuttings have to establish roots underground, before they really start pushing growth on their tops!

M.D. of Wainwright NO SPRAY & ROADSIDE HAYING AGREEMENTS

Deadline is May 1, 2020!

If you are interested in participating in the program this year, application forms are available online at www.mdwainwright.ca. You can fax applications forms to 780-842-2463 or drop off at the M.D. office. The roadside spray program will commence June 1st and go until completed. Roadside mowing will begin July 15th and will be completed by August 31st.

Spring Clean-Up 2020

Spring Clean Up Waste Disposal Coupon

FOR RESIDENTIAL ONLY

This coupon entitles the holder to ONE FREE DUMP LOAD, up to a 3/4 ton truckload at the Wainwright Regional Landfill.

Valid Only May 11-15 and 19-22, 2020

Coupon must be presented upon arrival and has no cash value.
M.D. of Wainwright residents only.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Proof of residency may be requested. Refrigerators, deep freezers, air conditioners, toxic and hazardous material will not be accepted. Please sort your wastes to facilitate disposal.

WAINWRIGHT REGIONAL LANDFILL

Regular Business Hours

Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

DISPOSAL

To facilitate disposal, wastes should be sorted into the following categories:

- Tires
- Metals
- Burnables (lumber)
- Clean Concrete
- Compostables (leaves etc.)
- Tree Branches

E-WASTE

You can dispose of the following electronics at no cost:

- Televisions
- Computers including monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables and speakers
- Printers and printer/scanner/fax combination

RECYCLABLES

Visit the Town of Wainwright Website @www.wainwright.ca/municipal/recycling or pick up a brochure at the Town Office.

For further Information contact the Wainwright Regional Waste to Energy Facility at 842-4051

In order to minimize exposure of staff and public to COVID-19 the **Wainwright Waste To Energy Authority (Landfill) will be closed to the public on Saturday's** until further notice. Regular hours of operation will continue from Monday to Friday.
Please also be advised the **annual paint, electronics and household hazardous round-up that was scheduled for May 2, 2020** at the Wainwright Waste to Energy Authority has been **cancelled.**

The M.D. of Wainwright is once again providing a Spring Clean—up Initiative in your area. Details and locations below. For more information please contact M.D. main office, 780-842-4454.

Hamlet of Greenshields (Public Works to pick up)
Pick up days will be Monday and Thursday each week. Schedule of May 4, 7, 11 and 14, 2020. Municipal employees will collect material properly packaged in clear plastic bags placed out in front of your house. Dark or coloured bags will not be picked up. Acceptable materials are grass clippings and tree trimmings.

Clear Lake Area & Hamlet of Fabyan (Bin Provided)
A garbage roll-off bin will be supplied, and placed at the Clear Lake main beach area and also at the East end of Fabyan, for one week period over the long weekend in May; from Wednesday, May 13 to Wednesday, May 20. This provides the opportunity to dispose of yard cleanup materials and household materials that are not hazardous.

Ascot Heights, Ascot Estates, Silver Willow and Banjo Estates (Bin Provided)
A garbage roll off bin will be supplied, and placed at the Ascot Heights garbage compound for a one week period over the long weekend in May; from Wednesday, May 13 to Wednesday, May 20. This provides the opportunity to dispose of yard cleanup materials and household materials that are not hazardous.

Unacceptable materials are tires, appliances, furniture, construction materials, metal and paint.