

Billings County Weed Control Board

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2020 Noxious Weed Informational Events

The Billings County Weed Control Board (BCWCB) will have a booth at the Medora Grazing Association annual meeting, at 1:30 pm Wednesday May 27th at the AmericInn in Medora. We will address the upcoming spray season, flea beetle collections, chemical, and prairie dog bait cost share programs.

The North Dakota Weed Control Association will be hosting three sprayer schools this spring. The dates are Tuesday May 26th in Carrington, Wednesday May 27th in Minot, and Thursday May 28th in Dickinson. Registration will begin at 8:30 local time at each location. The sprayer schools are held to continue educating the public and commercial applicators on changes made in our state in regards to spray applications and laws. Each year they have presentations on calibration, weed identification, law changes, chemical updates, and first aid. The Billings County EMS has been assisting at the Dickinson sprayer school for a few years and has done a great job educating the participants on basic first aid. More information regarding the sprayer schools will be available online at www.ndweeds.com.

Awareness Corner

In recent years there has been several weed species that have continued to increase and spread throughout Billings County. Weeds that continue to be on our radar include Spotted knapweed, Houndstongue, and Common mullein. Spotted knapweed continues to pop up in areas all over the county. It has been found along I94, Highway 85, Blacktail Road, Old Highway 10, East River Road, Upper Magpie, Tracy Mountain Road and a couple areas east of Highway 85. Common mullein has been found along I94, Old Highway 10, and in several areas along the BNSF railroad. Houndstongue continues to spread throughout the entire county, including but not limited to West River Road, East River Road, Blacktail, Magpie, I94, and Old Highway 10. We would like our local landowner to familiarize themselves with these three species in hopes to gain better control in the coming years. If you find, or think you have found, one of these weeds in Billings County please contact Katie or Jodee with any questions or to have the area inspected or treated.



Spotted Knapweed

In the flowering stage prior to releasing seed.



Houndstongue

Second year plant in early spring prior to making flower and nutlets.



Common Mullein

Second year plant that has flowered and made seed.

Weed Board *Officers*

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~ North Dakota and Billings County Noxious Weed List ~



**Absinth
Wormwood**



**Black
Henbane**



**Canada
Thistle**



**Common
Burdock**



**Dalmatian
Toadflax**



**Diffuse
Knapweed**



**Hoary
Cress**



Houndstongue



**Leafy
Spurge**



**Musk
Thistle**

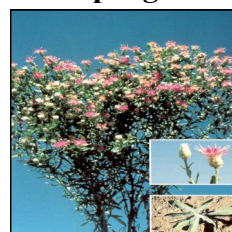


**Palmer
Amaranth**



**Purple
Loosestrife**

For more information on noxious weeds, or help in identifying a plant, please contact BCWCB Office (701)575-2215, NDSU County Extension Service in Dickinson (701)456-7665, or NDSU County Extension Service in Beach (701)872-4332



**Russian
Knapweed**



Saltcedar



**Spotted
Knapweed**



**Yellow
Toadflax**

Weed Watch: Palmer Amaranth

Palmer amaranth has recently been added to the North Dakota Noxious Weed list. There have been ten confirmed cases in nine different counties within North Dakota. Palmer is a member of the pigweed family and is often times hard to identify. It originated in the southwestern and southcentral United States. Palmer is highly invasive in croplands and often times is hard to control due to its size, herbicide resistance, and seed production. The best known form of control in a cropland areas is mechanical, which involves hand pulling and burning of the plants. Identifying this weed can be very difficult because it resembles several of the pigweed species. A key characteristic of Palmer amaranth is petiole length, it has a leaf petiole that is as long or longer than the leaf it is attached to. Leaves of palmer have diamond shape and are wider at the base. Palmer also has a very long slender inflorescence which is easily spotted in crop fields, the plants are much taller than the actual crops, growing anywhere from six to ten feet tall. Please monitor your crop fields this year and contact Katie or Jodee if you see any plants that are concerning or need help in identifying.



Palmer Amaranth (NDSU Photo's) Shown Above.

Flea Beetles for the Control of Leafy Spurge

The BCWCB has been hosting public field days for a number of years. Field days are designed to give landowners and operators a way to receive flea beetles that is cost effective. Field days are open to the public and in recent years we have seen an increase in participants. Landowners from several adjoining counties have come to participate in these collections. Beetles are best collected when they are in the adult stage and usually are ready to collect in mid-summer when plants are flowering. Adult beetles become active in early to late summer, they will mate and lay eggs in the soil several times throughout the growing season. The larvae will hatch and tunnel into the soil to feed on leafy spurge roots. There is only one generation hatched each year. The larvae feeds on the young roots which stunts the stem growth. Adult beetles feed on leaves and flowers which decreases photosynthesis and the plants ability to create sugars for root reserves. Beetles prefer smaller infestations rather than heavily dense areas, they do poorly in sandy soils or soils with a high clay content. Beetles thrive in areas with a good soil composition along with south facing slopes.



BCWCB will have three collection days in 2020 that will be open to the public, participants will need to bring a cooler with ice packs to keep the beetles from overheating during transportation. Participants must assist in sweeping beetles in order to receive beetles at the collections, nets will be provided by the BCWCB. Participants should wear adequate clothing and bring their own sun protections, water, and snacks. BCWCB employees will assist in gathering beetles, and will sort, measure, and transfer beetles to containers. Beetles are placed in county coolers until the collection is finished. Once the collection has ended all collected beetles will be distributed evenly among all participants.

Listed below are our 2020 collection dates. Note: Collections begin at 10:00 a.m. MST.

Franks Creek

June 23rd

June 25th

July 2nd

Dates will be rescheduled if weather is unfavorable and if beetle populations are still flourishing. Please check our website closer to collection dates for site directions and to be sure the collection has not been canceled. You can also contact the BCWCB for additional information. COVID-19 may effect these events.

2020 Cost Share

2020 Estimated Chemical Costs

Gly Star 5 \$14.69/gal	Vista \$87.50/gal
Dye Packets \$4.60 pkt.	Plateau \$101.00 gal
2-4D Ester \$17.61gal	2-4D Amine \$10.40/gal
Milestone \$66.25 qt.	Spret (Surfactant) \$11.58/gal
MSO \$12.10/gal	Tordon 22K \$44.70/gal

The BCWCB will again offer cost share on the chemicals listed to the left. We may also be able to offer assistance on other chemicals at a landowners request including prairie dog bait. Restricted use products require certification to purchase. Anyone planning to purchase restricted use products must be currently certified as a private or commercial applicator through NDSU Extension. The ND Dept. of Agriculture Landowners Assistance Program (LAP) covers 70% of the cost share chemical costs and the landowner is responsible for the other 30%. There is a cap on the dollar amount of one thousand dollars that producer can receive on cost share chemicals. After the cap has been reached landowners will be charged full price of any addition products they purchase.

The BCWCB also offers spraying services on private land within Billings County. Prices for spraying on private land will be \$30.00 an hour for equipment use, half the price of chemicals sprayed, and half of the labor expenses. The remaining cost of applications will be billed through a grant with North Dakota Department of Agriculture. Due to the abundance of spraying requests, we will only be spraying for two days per landowner. Landowners must call yearly to be added to the spray list.

Tank Agitation Benefits

With the spray season just around the corner we wanted to give landowners a few tips and tricks to help improve their spraying accuracy. One aspect of spraying that is often overlooked is properly agitating or circulating tank mixes before spraying. We often find ourselves in a hurry to get spraying projects done as quick as possible, a few extra minutes can greatly improve your spraying results. This starts when a spray unit is being filled with water. Tanks should be filled half ways full with water then herbicides may be added starting with powders, then liquids, and followed by surfactants and dye. The tank may then be filled the rest of the way with water. After all herbicides have been added and the tank has finished filling circulation/agitation may begin. This can be done on the way to a spray site. Driving down a roadway and letting the water slosh back and forth is not an effective way to circulate. Herbicides are either lighter or heavier than water meaning they will either float to the top or sink to the bottom of a tank. This is where agitation is important, it helps to properly mix everything together. Almost all spray units are equipped with a setting to help circulate tank mixes. If unsure if a tank mixture is circulating, we advise to look into the tank and view if the spray mixture is actively moving in a circular motion. Hand sprayers and backpacks are a little more labor intensive to circulate. Water and herbicides can be added in the same order as listed above and once the unit is finished filling with water it should be vigorously shook to mix all the components. If you have any questions regarding circulation, our contact information is listed on the front page of this newsletter.

The Billings County Weed Control Board is focused on providing high-quality service and customer satisfaction. "We take pride in helping our local landowners maintain and control noxious weed populations." We would like to thank everyone involved with the control of noxious weeds in our County!

To find out more about the BCWCB please visit us on the web at www.bcwcb.com