

Billings County Weed Control Board

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The Billings County
Weed Control Board

(BCWCB) will have a booth at the Medora Grazing Association meeting, at 1:30 pm Wednesday May 29th 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. Tuesday May 28th in Carrington, Wednesday May 29th in Minot, and Thursday May 30th in Dickinson. More information regarding the sprayer schools will be available online at www.ndweeds.com.

2019 Noxious Weeds Informational Events

Weed Watch: Houndstongue

Houndstongue has been a problem weed in Billings County for a number of years. It has been added to the North Dakota State Noxious Weed List and is found in numerous counties throughout the state. Houndstongue is hard to control because it often grows in wooded areas and spreads very easily by wildlife and livestock. Houndstongue is a biennial meaning it does not produce seed until its second year of growth. Alkaloids found in houndstongue are poisonous to cattle and horses, making it dangerous to have around in the ranching industry. Houndstongue is best managed using two methods of control: chemical applications in the spring/fall and summer followed by hand pulling in the fall of the year. We will continue spreading awareness to local landowners in hopes of having better control of Houndstongue in Billings County in coming years.



The Houndstongue pictures shown above were taken on an allotment Southwest of Medora.

~ North Dakota and Billings County Noxious Weed List ~



**Absinth
Wormwood**



**Black
Henbane**



**Canada
Thistle**



**Common
Burdock**



**Dalmatian
Toadflax**



**Diffuse
Knapweed**



**Field
Bindweed**



**Hoary
Cress**



Houndstongue



**Leafy
Spurge**



**Musk
Thistle**



**Purple
Loosestrife**

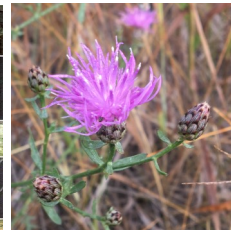
For more information on noxious weeds, or help in identifying a plant, please contact BCWCB Office (701)575-2215, NDSU County Extension Service in Dickinson (701)456-7665, or NDSU County Extension Service in Beach (701)872-4332



**Russian
Knapweed**



**Salt
Cedar**



**Spotted
Knapweed**



**Yellow
Toadflax**

2019 Cost Share

The BCWCB offers programs to assist local landowners with cost share on the chemicals listed to the right. Spraying services are available on private land. 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 a producer can receive on cost share chemicals. After a landowner receives one thousand dollars' worth of chemical through the county, they will be billed the full price of any additional chemical purchased through the BCWCB. Prices for spraying on private land will be \$30.00 an hour



for equipment use, half the price for chemicals sprayed, and half of labor expenses. The remaining cost of applications will be billed through the Land Owners Assistance Program. Due to an abundance of spraying requests, we will only be spraying two days per landowner. We hope to provide services to more landowners by making these changes.

2019 Estimated Chemical Costs

<u>Gly Star 5</u> \$14.12/gal	<u>Vista</u> \$164.95/gal
<u>Dye Pack-ets</u> 4.60/pkt.	<u>Plateau</u> \$101.00 gal
<u>LV-6</u> \$18.60/gal	<u>2-4D Amine</u> \$10.40/gal
<u>Milestone</u> \$70.75/qt.	<u>Spret (Surfactant)</u> \$11.58/gal
<u>MSO</u> \$10.49/gal	<u>Tordon 22K</u> \$42.49/gal

Flea Beetles for the Control of Leafy Spurge

The BCWCB has hosted field days for several years. Several organizations, county weed boards, and landowners participated in the 2018 field days. Using flea beetles for the control of Leafy Spurge is effective and beneficial to the environment. Beetles take several years to establish in heavily infested areas. We recommend using beetles along with chemical methods to speed up the process of getting Leafy Spurge under control. Collections are open to the public, participants need to bring a cooler with ice packs to keep the beetles cool during transportation. Participants must assist in sweeping beetles in order to receive beetles at collections, nets will be provided by the BCWCB. Participants should wear adequate clothing and bring sun protection and water for themselves. BCWCB employees 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 collections have ended all collected beetles are distributed evenly among all participants.



Listed below are our 2019 collection dates. Note: Collections begin at 10:00 a.m. MST.

Franks Creek

June 18th

June 20th

June 26th

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 see if there are any changes. You can also contact the BCWCB for additional information.



Each year we receive reports of Saltcedar trees found in Billings County. Reports received are followed up by an inspection. If a tree is found, it is sprayed and evaluated again the following year, to be sure the treatment was effective. Saltcedar trees establish rapidly along lakes, rivers, creeks, and dams. They damage the environment by releasing a high salt content liquid which makes soils around the plant to become saline. These trees are also known for choking out waterways, they have dried up entire lakes. The BCWCB would like landowners and operators to become more familiar with the plant and immediately report any plants seen. Even if you are unsure but find something that looks suspicious we would be happy to come take a look in hopes of preventing future infestations.

Salt Cedar

Keep In Mind

The BCWCB will have two spray units going up for bids in April. Bids can be mailed to the Billings County Courthouse Auditor's Office, P.O. Box 168 Medora, ND 58645 or dropped off at the Courthouse. Be sure to mark the envelope "Equipment Bid" bids. Bids must be turned in by May 7, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Description of units: 75 gallon low profile UTV tank, Gx160 Honda Engine with recoil start, 6:1 gear reduction, 7650 C-R-8 Roller Pump, with 300 maxi psi and 18 GPM max, double 1870 boominator nozzles, electric left/right control of each boomless nozzle from the cab, hydraulic agitation for suspension/dilution of materials, 1 manual hose reel with 75ft blue 1/2" pesticide resistant hose, 1 JDPT adjustable handgun. If you have any questions about the units you can contact Katie by calling the weed board office or her cell phone. Units will be sold as is.



Aerial Spraying

The Billings County Weed Board began spraying U.S. Forest Service land with a helicopter in the fall of 2016. We have since continued performing these applications each fall. Between seven and eight hundred acres of Leafy Spurge have been treated each year. Dakota Helicopters, Beulah, has been hired to perform these applications. The BCWCB, along with the Forest Service, monitors and tracks each application. BCWCB tracked and timed spray applications by monitoring and recording wind, temperature, and humidity every half hour. The time the helicopters landed and departed the fill truck while filling the spray tank was recorded. Aerial applications are inspected the following spring by both the U.S. Forest Service and BCWCB. To date we have seen significant improvements in the treated areas in reduced leafy spurge populations. The BCWCB plans to continue aerial spraying in the fall of 2019. Allotments have been approved by the Forest Service for aerial spraying. There are several requirements that need to be met for an area to qualify. If you have an area you would like to suggest please contact the BCWCB. We look forward to moving treatments to multiple areas throughout Billings County.



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