

Billings County Weed Control Board

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Upcoming Events

The Billings County Weed Control Board (BCWCB) will have a booth set up at the Medora Grazing Association's annual meeting. This meeting will be held at the AmericInn in Medora on Wednesday May 25th at 1:30 pm. We will be available to answer questions about the upcoming spray season, flea beetles collections days, along with information about Billings County's cost share program.

The North Dakota Weed Control Association will be hosting a sprayer school at the Stark County Weed Board on May 26th with registration beginning at 8:00 am. These schools are held yearly to educate the public on identification and control of noxious weeds, law changes, new or upcoming herbicides, equipment calibrations and safety. For more information about the sprayer school or to register please visit www.ndweeds.com.

Managing Feed Sources

With the severe drought in 2021, a majority of cattle producers in southwest North Dakota were forced to purchase hay and feed from outside sources. This was a major inconvenience and expense for cattle producers. Our concern for 2022 is invasive and noxious plants that may have been brought into Billings County from these feed sources. We hope to spread awareness and encourage cattle producers to monitor where they fed and stored these products, in order to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and obtain plant populations that are profitable for cattle producers.



Winter pastures have a tendency to be in the back of our minds during the summer months. We recommend producers revisit areas that they winter-fed, throughout the growing season and monitor for any new plant species. A suggestion to consider would be to mark your calendars and check these areas periodically throughout the summer. If assistance is needed to help identify any new plant species, please contact the weed board, we may also be able to assist with control efforts.

Awareness is key in managing the spread of any new species. There was a high volume of hay hauled through Billings County this past year. Which raises concerns for the potential of seeds to be spread along highways, roadsides, and land adjacent to them. We appreciate calls reporting infestations seen in our County right of ways. It aides in managing existing populations and regulating new ones. Operations that did not purchase outside feed could still have acquired new infestations. We advise all producers to be vigilant and monitor their property along with roads leading to it.



Did you know that many weed seeds are strong enough to withstand the rumen in cattle? Seeds often have a strong outer layer that protects them from being digested. Roughly, 27% of seeds remain viable after cattle digestion. Seeds can be spread when manure is passed, creating a new infestation of unwanted plants the following growing season. Some seeds remain viable within the soil for several years before they germinate.

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North Dakota and Billings County Noxious Weed List



**Absinth
Wormwood**



**Black
Henbane**



**Canada
Thistle**



**Common
Burdock**



**Common
Mullein**



**Dalmatian
Toadflax**



**Diffuse
Knapweed**



**Hoary
Cress**



Houndstongue



**Leafy
Spurge**



**Musk
Thistle**



**Palmer
Amaranth**

For more information on noxious weeds, or help identifying a plant, please contact BCWCB, NDSU County Extension Service in Dickinson, or NDSU County Extension Service in Beach.



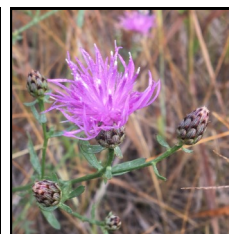
**Purple
Loosestrife**



**Russian
Knapweed**



Saltcedar



**Spotted
Knapweed**



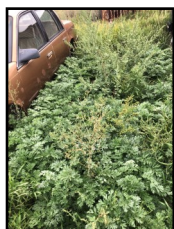
**Yellow
Toadflax**

Absinth Wormwood

Absinth wormwood has been increasing in numbers throughout North Dakota for several years. It is commonly found along roadsides, overgrazed, abandoned, and disturbed areas. It is a perennial weed that spreads primarily by seed. Plants commonly grow between 3 to 6 feet tall and have a woody base. Its leaves are a pale greenish blue in color and resemble the color of sagebrush. It is a member of the sagebrush family and produces a very strong sage odor, which is a key tool in identification. It flowers in late July and early August producing a yellow flower head, that holds the seeds. A single plant can produce around 50,000 seeds per stalk and each plant produces several stalks.

Control methods are limited with Absinth wormwood as there are no biological control agents available. Cultural methods have been proven ineffective and livestock will not graze it unless there is no other available forage. Chemical control methods have been proven to be effective and yield the best results. Applications can be performed throughout the growing season. However, we recommend applications be done before the plant flowers in order to reduce future populations and achieve maximum control.

Absinth wormwood can be spread and transfer to new locations in multiple ways. It is a good idea to monitor any material that comes from a location that is known to have wormwood. The seeds are small and can easily be moved by wind, vehicles, and animals. Some examples of objects that have carried Absinth wormwood seeds to new locations include rock, cattle guards, wood posts, hay, culverts, and pipe. The sooner Absinth wormwood is identified at a new location, the better the chances are of controlling and eradicating it.



Flea Beetles for the Control of Leafy Spurge



Flea beetles are an effective biological control agent that control Leafy spurge. They are small black or brown beetles that are similar in size to a flax seed. The adult flea beetles feed on the foliage, which reduces photosynthesis and the plant's ability to make sugars. They lay their larvae in the soil beneath the Leafy spurge. The larvae then feed on the young roots and root hairs, which hinders root activity and stunts stem growth.

When releasing flea beetles there are many variables to consider when choosing a release site. Beetles prefer south-facing slopes with little shade. Areas that are heavily covered in Leafy spurge are less desirable than moderately sized patches. Soil type is another aspect to consider when choosing a release site; most of the beetle species found in North Dakota prefer loamy or sandy soils. They are less productive in soils with heavy clay content. Release sites need to be above the floodplain in order to ensure maximum survival for the following growing season.

Each summer the BCWCB host public field days that are open to the public to collect flea beetles. If interested in attending one of these public field days please visit our website at www.BCWCB.com for more details. Billings County employees will be there to assist in gathering, sorting, measuring and transporting beetles to

containers. To receive flea beetles, the participant must be actively sweeping during the collection. Nets and containers will be provided, but participants may bring their own nets if they have them. Participants need to bring ice packs and coolers to transport the beetles from the collection site to their release site. It is advised not to bring coolers with loose ice as the melting ice can damage transporting containers and drown the beetles. Once the collection has ended, all collected beetles will be distributed evenly amongst all participants. For best results release beetles the same day they are collected to prevent beetle loss.



2022 Collection Dates
Start Time 10:00 a.m. MST.

Franks Creek

June 21st

June 28th

Dates will be rescheduled if weather is unfavorable and 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.

Cost-Share

The BCWCB will have cost share products available in 2022 through the North Dakota Department of Agriculture Landowners Assistance Program (LAP). LAP covers 70% of the chemical costs and the landowner is responsible for the remaining 30%. Landowners can utilize cost share up to one thousand dollars in chemical value. After that amount has been reached, landowners will be charged full price for any additional products they purchase.

Listed below are the cost share chemicals available for purchase. Prairie dog bait is also available for purchase, however, please be aware there are restrictions and requirements that must be met in order to acquire it. To purchase restricted use products a current certification as a private or commercial applicator through NDSU Extension is required. Billings County offers spraying services for private landowners within the County. Prices vary depending on the type of work and equipment needed for the project. If you have questions or would like to be added to the 2022 spray list please contact the weed board.

NOTICE: The BCWCB will not allow customers with outstanding bills to purchase chemical or be provided with spraying services until all bills are paid in full.

2022 On Hand Chemical

2-4D Amine

Dye Packets

Milestone

Plateau

Tordon 22K

Whetstone

Glyphosate

MSO

Surfactant

Vista

Billings County Emergency Notifications

Automatic Emergency Notifications are sent out at the request of the Billings County Sheriff/Emergency Manager. These notifications will only go out when there is an emergency situation in an identified geographic area located within Billings County. All land-lines are automatically registered for Emergency Notifications.

We encourage citizens to register their mobile phone numbers. Please scan the code on the right using the camera on your smart phone. Enter your name, phone number, and physical address for the Billings County 911 Citizen Notification database. If you have any questions, please contact the Billings County 911 office at 701-623-4810.



SIGN UP BY SCANNING THE QR-CODE



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