

Billings County Weed Control Board

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Upcoming Events

Every year, the Billings County Weed Control Board (BCWCB) strives to inform the community with new information and upcoming events to further their noxious weed knowledge. Two upcoming events this year are the Medora Grazing Association's (MGA's) annual meeting and sprayer school hosted by the North Dakota Weed Control Association. MGA's annual meeting is being held at the AmericInn in Medora on Wednesday May 24th at 1:30 pm. The BCWCB will be present to assist and answer any questions that landowners or allotment runners might have. Allotment runners can also ask to be put on the 2024 spray list at this time. The Dickinson sprayer school will be on May 31st. The school will be held at the NDSU Extension in Dickinson starting at 8:00 am. For more information and to register for this school, visit www.ndweeds.com or contact the Stark County Weed Board.

County Right Of Ways

BCWCB takes pride in the work we do to control noxious and troublesome weeds in our County right of ways (ROW). Managing invasive plant species helps decrease the spread of nuisance plants throughout Billings County and neighboring counties. It also is beneficial to landowners and renters that run adjacent to these ROW's, along with producers that make hay in them. By treating these non-desirable plants, the BCWCB is improving the quality of forage and hay in our ROW's. There have been some labeling changes made that require the BCWCB to inform local hay producers that we are using products containing aminopyralid in our county ROW's. If you are haying Billings County ROW's and plan on selling the hay made in those ROW's you are required to provide the hay purchaser with the herbicide label of the aminopyralid product. Aminopyralid labels are located on the BCWCB website for landowners to easily access and print for hay purchasers.

Aminopyralid products are used by the county to control broadleaf weeds, such as Canada thistle, Absinth wormwood, and Common burdock. Producers that hay road ditches and use the hay on their own farm or ranch are not bound by these restrictions. They can use the hay on their private land, how they see fit in accordance with the herbicide label.

Field Bindweed

It has been brought to the Weed Board's attention that Field bindweed populations have been increasing in our County ROW's. Though it is no longer listed on our county noxious weed list, we will still treat these infestations if asked by our Road and Bridge Department or by local landowners. If there is an infestation of Field bindweed in a county ROW that is a nuisance to you, please contact the BCWCB and we will work with you to get it under control.

County used Herbicides Containing Aminopyralid

Milestone
HERBICIDE

ALLIGARE
WHETSTONE
HERBICIDE
Specimen Label



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**

Flea Beetles for the Control of Leafy Spurge

Each summer the BCWCB hosts public field days that are open to the public to collect flea beetles to assist in controlling Leafy spurge. In 2024, the BCWCB plans on hosting two public field days; dates will be listed below. Event dates, times, and directions are posted on our website www.BCWCB.com. Be sure to check our website the day of the collection in case we are forced to reschedule due to weather or low beetle populations. 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 the 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. However, if unable to release the same day, the beetles can be stored in a refrigerator for up to forty-eight hours.



2024 Collection Dates
Start Time 10:00 a.m. MST.

Franks Creek

June 20th

June 25th

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 products listed will be available for purchase with cost share throughout the 2024 season. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture Landowners Assistance Program (LAP) covers 70% of the chemical costs and the landowner is responsible for the remaining 30%. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture now requires us to send in the legal descriptions of the land that these cost share products are being applied to. Please be ready to provide the BCWCB with the Township, Section, and Range for the areas you plan on



spraying when you come to pick up your chemical. Landowners can utilize this 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. To purchase restricted use products, a current certification as a private or commercial applicator through NDSU Extension is required.

Cost Share Chemicals

Whetstone

**Tordon 22K
(Restricted Use)**

Surfactant

Plateau

MSO

Dye

**Glyphosate
(Limited Amount)**

2-4D Amine

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

Black Henbane

Black henbane is a biennial plant that is listed on the Billings County noxious weeds list. Some characteristics that help in identification of Black Henbane are its distinctive leaves. They grow alternate to one another, are grayish green in color, and the edges are coarsely toothed. During the second year of growth, the plant often reaches heights of three feet or greater and produces a brownish yellow flower with dark purple veins. The plant produces flowers from late June into July and begins making its seeds during the month of July through August. Each flower turns into a seed head that contains hundreds of tiny black seeds. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for five or more years. All parts of the Black henbane plant are poisonous if consumed by humans or livestock. Though all parts of the plant are poisonous, the seeds are the most toxic part of the plant. Livestock find this plant undesirable and, in most situations, will not consume it unless palatable forage is unavailable. Humans that consume small amounts of the plant have experienced hallucinations and delirium (madness), and those who consumed larger amounts may go into coma or lead to death.

Black henbane is commonly found along roadsides. Both chemical and mechanical control methods can be used to control it. Commonly used herbicides that control this weed are Milestone, Tordon 22K and 2,4-D amine. For ultimate control, it is advised to treat this plant in the first year of growth, before the plant makes a flower. Applying herbicides at this time will ensure that the plant is diseased before it is able to produce viable seeds. Black henbane is one of few plants that can be controlled with mechanical methods. Hand pulling, cutting or digging up Black henbane will stop the growth cycle entirely. Whenever a person is dealing with this plant, they should wear gloves and have any skin that may come into contact with the plant covered. In order to continue our efforts in controlling the Black henbane populations within Billings County, we ask that you notify the weed board if you see any Black henbane infestations. If you happen to find a couple plants you can easily control them yourself by severing the stem with a shovel or other tool. If larger infestations are found, please let the weed board know and we will provide our best efforts to get the infestation under control.



Grasshoppers

The past couple growing seasons there has been a substantial increase in grasshopper populations in southwestern North Dakota. The BCWCB board has had several inquiries about how to manage these pests. Though we are unable to provide cost share on insecticides, in 2023 we were able to order Bisect L to help manage grasshopper populations around homes and farmsteads. This product is not labeled for range and pasture use. Landowners that used this product around their homes reported that it decreased grasshopper populations significantly. The BCWCB will carry Bisect L again in 2024 to help our local landowners.

Landowners that are looking into controlling grasshoppers in range and pasture land will need to contact an outside source to order insecticides. The BCWCB is not aware of any grant assistance or funding available for insecticides in 2024. Some local landowners have been working with William Walker with Nutrien Ag Solutions on how to decrease infestations on their farm or ranch. Grasshopper control is time sensitive. For peak control grasshoppers should be treated during the third and fourth instars when they are between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long. When they reach sizes larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, management and control decrease significantly. If you are worried about grasshoppers being a nuisance in 2024, consider looking into control methods now. Keep in mind that some insecticides are restricted use and require a private or commercial applicators license to purchase.

William (Bill) Walker (605) 645-1636
Nutrien Ag Solutions



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

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