

# Billings County Weed Control Board

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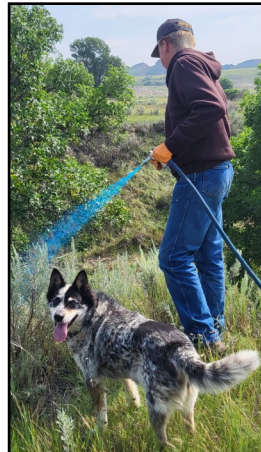
Email: [kdillman@nd.gov](mailto:kdillman@nd.gov) 2026

## Upcoming Events

The Billings County Weed Control Board (BCWCB) is dedicated to keeping our local community informed about valuable resources and upcoming events. This year, two important events include the Medora Grazing Association's (MGA) annual meeting and Sprayer School, organized by the North Dakota Weed Control Association's Education Committee. The MGA annual meeting will take place at the AmericInn Conference Room in Medora on Wednesday, May 27th, at 1:30 p.m. The BCWCB will be present to assist allotment runners with questions and concerns for the upcoming spray season. Producers will be updated on what the funding outlook is for 2026, and address any concerns that may be of interest to local producers. Additionally, allotment runners can request to be added to the 2026 spray list. The Dickinson Sprayer School is scheduled for May 29th at the NDSU Extension in Dickinson, starting at 8:30 a.m. For more details and registration for the school, please visit [www.ndweeds.com](http://www.ndweeds.com) or contact the Stark County Weed Board.

## When is it too hot to Spray?

Most herbicide labels list a range of temperatures that are safe for application; often, the cutoff temperature is 85 degrees. Why is it important to stop spraying when temperatures reach 85 degrees and above? The effectiveness of many herbicides diminishes when temperatures exceed 85 degrees. Applying these products in such conditions can increase the potential damage to desirable plants, such as native grasses and forbs. It also increases the chance of volatility, which occurs when a liquid formation turns into a gas and can drift onto non-target plants. Low humidity and dry conditions enhance volatility. Herbicides that often have volatility issues include 2,4-D and Dicamba products, although other products can also experience similar occurrences. During high temperatures, it is crucial to monitor herbicide application on the weeds. If the chemical is evaporating quickly, the plant will not have enough time to absorb the product before it turns to a gas, which will prevent effective control. Also, be aware of where you are spraying; temperatures can be significantly higher in draws than on hills, so while it may not be 85 degrees at the top, it could exceed 85 degrees in lower areas with less airflow. To prevent damage to desirable plants, but also control invasive and noxious plant species, it is important to read the label of the products you are using. If the label suggests not spraying after temperatures reach or exceed a certain level, follow those guidelines. This will save producers time and money while allowing for better control of targeted plants.



## Weed Board Officers

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## Weed Board Members

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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**

### Cost Share

As always, the BCWCB will have cost share on herbicides available for purchase in 2026. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) has a program called the Landowners Assistance Program (LAP), which covers a portion of herbicide costs to assist the local landowners of North Dakota. LAP covers 70% of the costs and landowners are responsible for the remaining 30%. As part of the agreement, the BCWCB must send the NDDA the legal description of the land that the herbicides purchased through this agreement are applied on. Please inform the BCWCB of the Township, Section, and Range of the areas you plan on spraying when you come to pick up your chemical. Billings County landowners can utilize cost share up to one thousand dollars in chemical value per year. After one thousand dollars has been reached, producers will be charged full price for any additional products purchased. To purchase restricted use products, a current certification as a private or commercial applicator through NDSU Extension is required. If you have a special project such as brush control and need assistance finding the proper herbicide(s), please reach out to us for help. We have several resources we can utilize to find products that will work for specific species and plants on privately owned land.



### Haying ROW

Due to herbicide labeling changes, the BCWCB must inform local hay producers that products containing aminopyralid are being used in our county's rights-of-way (ROWs). If you are haying Billings County ROWs and intend to sell the hay, you are required to provide the herbicide label for the aminopyralid product to the buyer. These labels can be easily accessed and printed from the BCWCB website for the convenience of landowners.

## Leafy Spurge

In 1909, leafy spurge was first identified in North Dakota, and in 1935, it was added to the North Dakota Noxious Weed List. Since then, it has continued to spread throughout the state. The BCWCB has noticed in recent years that some of the leafy spurge within Billings County is becoming resistant to herbicides. Spurge patches that once required a single application per year to remain under control are now being treated several times within the growing season. We hope that new chemical formulations can help address this resistance issue. Things you might not know about leafy spurge: unless sprayed in the first year of growth, chemicals cannot kill a leafy spurge plant permanently. Herbicide applications will be required every 12 to 24 months once the roots are established after the first year of growth. The only permanent method of control for leafy spurge is biological control agents, such as beetles.



Due to decreased beetle populations, BCWCB will not be hosting public field days in 2026 to collect flea beetles. We have decided to give our sites a break this year and allow them to rebuild in order to help increase populations in 2027. If requested, we will host a field day for the landowners of Billings County if enough people are interested in attending.



With several large fires occurring in the last decade, we gained new knowledge regarding leafy spurge within Billings County. When fires go through large areas with known leafy spurge populations and a potential seed bank, we often see that some of the first plants to begin growing after the burn are leafy spurge. If sprayed in the first year of growth after a fire, leafy spurge can be effectively controlled with herbicides. If allowed to establish a viable root system, leafy spurge is less susceptible to chemical applications in the long term.

In 2021, there were many large fires that swept through Billings County. A year after those fires, large infestations of leafy spurge grew. The before picture below is taken in the summer of 2022, after the Medora fire occurred. An herbicide application was applied to control the new leafy spurge infestations after the picture was taken. Every year, this site has been revisited, and no leafy spurge has grown since, with no additional herbicide application. The after picture below shows three years after application, where grass and sweet clover has grown in place of the leafy spurge.

If you notice a new patch of leafy spurge within Billings County and are unable to spray it, please notify the BCWCB so we can take care of it. The BCWCB greatly appreciates the involvement of our local landowners; they play a key role in preventing the spread of noxious weeds and informing us of new weed populations.

### 2022: One Year After Fire



### 2025: Three Years After Herbicide Treatment

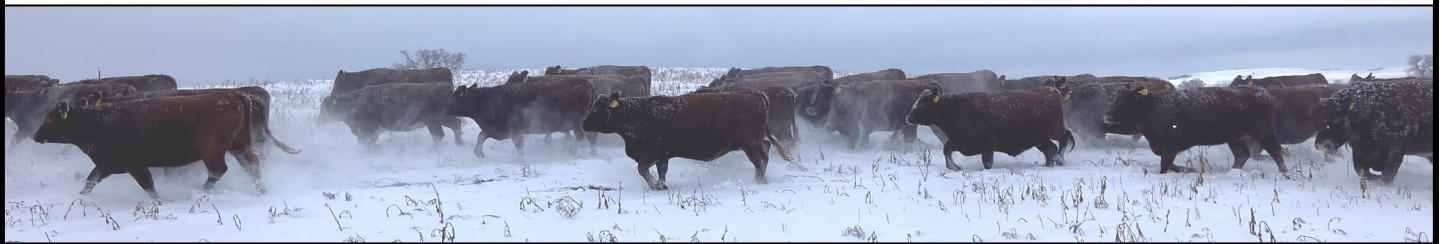


## Things to Remember for 2026

Landowners are required to call annually to be added to the spray list. This ensures the BCWCB does not forget anyone, and lets us know you still need our help. We have noticed in recent years that landowners who take our crews out and show them what they would like done have better results than the producers that do not. We will be recommending that landowners take time to guide our crews around their property. This will allow the crews to familiarize themselves on what you would like done and give them a better understanding of the landscape. Landowners that call first get put on the top of the list, but spray dates may vary depending on the type of weed species you have. The BCWCB is still implementing the two-day rule to ensure we have enough time to assist all the local landowners in need. If we are able to finish the spray list and know a landowner needs more time, we will call them and return if weather is still favorable and we have the staff to do so.

# LAST CHANCE

The BCWCB recommends landowners obtain their private or commercial applicator's license in 2026. The tests are administered through your local NDSU extension, and applicants must be 18 years or older. The NDSU extension agency has stated that in 2027, the tests will change to closed book. Currently, test takers use provided study materials and books to assist them during the test. Once the test is taken and passed, the license is valid for three years. After three years, the license holder will need to attend a one-day recertification class either in person or online to renew their certification and avoid having to retake the tests. Why obtain a certification? Once certified, a landowner can purchase restricted-use products such as Tordon 22K for leafy spurge control, as well Rozol and Kaput for prairie dog control, along with many other restricted-use herbicides. Without a commercial or private license, the BCWCB cannot sell restricted-use products to a producer. A commercial license also makes it legal for producers to perform spray applications for a profit on land other than their own. For assistance with certification, please reach out to your local NDSU extension or the BCWCB.



*To find out more about the BCWCB please visit us on the web at [www.bcwcb.com](http://www.bcwcb.com)*

*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.*