



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOL. 26 NO. 2

website: www.ndweeds.homestead.com

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June, 2016

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- Industry: Bill Walker (605)642-3800
- Gov.: David Hirsch (701)527-7820
- Past Pres: Derrill Fick (701)720-2436
- Ex. Sec. Merlin Leithold (c) (701)527-6544
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Upcoming Meetings

June BOD Meeting - June 28th, Ramada Inn, Bismarck - 9:00 am.

Annual Meeting and Commissioner Forum
January 9-12, 2017 Ramada Inn, Bismarck

****NEWSLETTER****

In order to cut costs with rising printing costs and higher postage prices, we asked for your email addresses to send you the newsletter via email. For those who have not yet signed up, we are asking you to send an email to ndwca@westriv.com and you will be put on the list. As many of you heard at the annual business meeting, the paper version of the newsletter will cease to exist after November edition, 2016. Please begin to make arrangements to continue to receive the newsletter.

Also, as weed boards get new members, please let us know, so we can update our list. We find where former members continue to receive the newsletter, and new members do not. Unless we are notified, we have no idea the comings and goings of board members.

Presidents Message

We are officially into the Noxious Weed season! I hope everyone has a great plan in place and is ready to control their cumbersome enemies. In Cavalier County the Leafy Spurge has risen and I have begun to wage my war. As I am sure every county is doing the same. If anyone has questions on how to control a Noxious Weed you're having trouble with I encourage you to reach out to an Area Director or any Board Member. We would be happy to share our knowledge or work tirelessly finding the answer you're looking for.

Sprayer Schools went off without a hitch last week! We had an awesome turnout and the knowledge flowed from our speakers into the eager ears of our attendees. Most of the curriculum was the same but there were also added twists to keep everyone on their toes. I would like to thank Mike Schalla from **Dow**, Bill Walker from **CPS** and Scott Ohnoutka from **Bayer** for sponsoring the NDWCA Sprayer Schools and all the counties who helped host them. And last but not least, Derrill Fick and the Education Committee for their tireless work to make it all happen (especially Derrill). If anyone has any suggestions for next year's sprayer schools please contact Derrill Fick or a member of the education committee.

I know everyone will be busy this summer but please do not forget to start planning for your area meetings in October. I would like to see our record breaking attendance to continue into the area meetings. All area meeting dates and times are posted on the NDWCA website.

Thank you for all your hard work in controlling noxious weeds and ensuring North Dakota's prairies are beautiful for our friends, family and the generations yet to come!

NDWCA President Leon Pederson

(701)370-8927 or email... lepederson@nd.gov

Area Meetings Scheduled - Mark Your Calendars

- Area III - October 24th - Minot
 - Area I - October 25th - Devils Lake
 - Area II - October 26th - Valley City
 - Area IV - October 27th - Mandan
 - Area V - October 28th - Amidon
-

Poster contest winner

Thank you to Stan Wolf for presenting Paige Handly of the Hatton school district with a plaque for winning the poster contest for this year. Paige and her sixth grade class were also presented with t-shirts that had the poster printed on them.



Sprayer Schools

The Sprayer Schools have been held and we had a very, Very good turnout this year. They were held in Carrington at the NDSU-Carrington Research Center, the Ward County Weed Control Office and the Stark County Weed Control Shop. I was very pleased to see that many people interested in staying up to date with the current activities of noxious weed control. A new demonstration we had at each school location this year was the use of Personal Protective Equipment; where on the label it explains what you are suppose to wear, what you are to have when an inspector does a use inspection in the field and why it is so very important to be wearing this type of clothing while spraying.

Thank you to all who helped organize these schools and a big thank you to each presenter and to DOW, Bayer and CPS for the meals.

Derrill Fick
Education Committee Chairman

North Dakota Department of Agriculture Report

LAP/TAG Deadlines

Deadline for LAP and TAG reimbursement requests is July 8, 2016 for all expenditures between July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Chelsey's new contact information: Mailing Address: NDSU Dept. 7610, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Physical Address: 811 Second Avenue North, #410, Fargo, ND 58102 (Phone) **Cell only: (701) 226-4321**

Biological Control Update

It continues to warm up around the state and with that we see growth all around. On the 3rd of May, NDDA received biological control agents for combating Yellow Toadflax from the USDA. NDDA received 4 releases of 100 individuals the stem-mining weevil *Mecinus janthinus*. First established in North Dakota in 2015, *M. janthinus* has shown to be a successful tool in the control of Yellow Toadflax. Yellow Toadflax continues to be a growing problem in many different landscapes throughout North Dakota. With the assistance of Ward county and Barnes county, these insects were released in problematic areas found in each county. The goal is to continue to monitor these sites for establishment, harvest new insects from these sites, and redistribute to other troublesome areas infested with Yellow Toadflax to reduce the population of this state-listed weed species.

Please continue to monitor leafy spurge infestations for the emergence of the leafy spurge flea beetle bio-agents. As with all bio-agents, we encounter a time sensitive issue with the leafy spurge flea beetles. On average, there is about a 2 week window from emergence to egg laying during which these bio-agents can be redistributed (mid-June to early-July). NDDA is available to assist counties in hosting public field collection days. Please contact me when you see the flea beetles emerging and feeding on leafy spurge plants. We have nets, bug sorters, sweepers, and information to pass along to the public on how to start an insectary, monitoring, collecting, and redistribution of these leafy spurge bio-agents. Again, the goal of biological control is to reduce unwanted infestations to a manageable level.

Thank you for your continued interest in weed control, especially the use of biological control. Please contact me, Lane Kozel, with any comments or questions. 701-328-2250.

WEED OF THE JUNE NEWSLETTER



COMMON ST. JOHNSWORT *Hypericum perforatum L* (Goat Weed)

The numerous flowers (roughly 25–100 per stem) are symmetrical around a central point, determinate, in flat-top clusters. The short-stalked flowers are about 1 in across, with five yellow to bright yellow-orange flowers. The petals are peppered with black dots around the edges.

Stems are often reddish and woody at the base. There may be several stems (up to 30) from the base of the plant. St. Johnswort has a tap root and vertical roots extending to 5 ft. First-year seedlings do not produce flowers or seeds.

St. Johnswort tea is used as a folk remedy for bladder ailments, depression, anxiety, nervous tension, dysentery, diarrhea, and worms. The tea is also commonly used to treat tuberculosis; as a mild sedative for disturbed sleep; and as a treatment of stomach cancer, herpes, and hemorrhoids.

Common St. Johnswort has small black glands that contain the photodynamic pigment hypericin. Hypericins are found in the flowers, leaves, and buds of the plant. If digested by livestock, hypericin can cause photosensitization, blisters, and lesions; especially in light-skinned animals. More severe symptoms include loss of appetite, diarrhea, blindness, convulsions, coma and death. Symptoms are often delayed. Light-colored animals are most affected by photodynamic properties. The exposed skin of horses may also be affected when the plant comes in contact with the skin. No hybrids are known to occur in North America.

Repeated cultivation has been found to destroy the weed. Colonies can also be controlled by mowing several times before maturation. Additionally, a covering of grass litter may be used to reduce germination and shoot extension of St. Johnswort. Vegetative propagation is encouraged by grazing or fire.

Pests and Potential Problems

Although St. Johnswort has been reported in the United States since the 1800s, it did not spread to the western United States until the early 1900s. Since the 1940s, biological control efforts have used Klamath weed beetles (*Chrysolina quadrigemina*), and (*Chrysolina hyperici*), St. Johnswort root borer (*Agrilus hyperici*), and the St. Johnswort midge (*Zeuxidiplosis giardi*) to control populations. These beetle populations are limited by climate.

Winter warming and summer droughts increase herbivory. Insect herbivory has a strong negative effect on populations and when treated with insecticide, treated plots have twice the seedling survival rates as untreated plots. There is a high degree of phenotypic and genotypic variation between St. Johnswort populations, and herbivore resistance is also variable.

Herbicide treatment: Milestone at 5 –7 ounces before bloom

For those of you receiving the newsletter in paper, please go on the association website at www.ndweeds.homestead.com to view the weed in color.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CORNER

Well here we are in June, and we all should be busy controlling weeds. Noxious weeds are loving this time of year. Here is hoping that the moisture in your part of the state is plentiful. June 28, your board of directors will be meeting in Bismarck. If you want to be on the agenda, let me know, and you can be added.

Also, a handful of you have not paid your dues for 2016. Please be mindful that your dues help fund the association. Legislatively, without the association, noxious weed laws and funding would not be at the level they are today. Educationally, booths, poster contests, recently held sprayer workshops, and much more. And don't forget the annual conference. Reminder notices will be going out later this month. Have a good, safe summer.

Did You know?

Hoary Cress is capable of producing up to 455 shoots in one year.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, purple loosestrife now occurs in every state except Florida. And is still available for purchase!

Weed control legislation for Canada Thistle was passed in 1795 in Vermont and 1831 in New York.

Socrates (condemned to death) was allowed to administer his own sentence by drinking a potion of Poison Hemlock.

Weeds are the little vices that beset plant life, and are to be got rid of the best way we know how.

- *Farmer's Almanac, 1881*

North Dakota Weed Control Association
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