



# Welcome!

## Weed Inspector 101 Series Webinar #2



# Field Skills and Tools for Weed Inspectors

Weed Inspector 101 Series  
Webinar #2

# Record Keeping

- Why do I need to keep records?
  - Annual Reports (Required under the *Weed Control Act*)
  - Memory isn't always perfect
  - If there isn't a record, did it even happen?
  - Professionalism
  - Protects yourself and your RM

- How do I keep records?
  - Can be as simple as a notebook and pen
  - Cell phone (typed notes or voice recording)
- What do I record? **5 Ws**
  - Who** (Complainant/complaine, or routine inspection)
  - What** (Weed or issue, note density, stage of growth)
  - When** (Time and date of each event/interaction)
  - Where** (Location – LLD, Directions, Address)
  - Why** (the reason you are there)

**\*\*Take Pictures!\*\***

# Due Diligence

- Definition – The care that a reasonable person exercises to avoid harm to other persons or their property
- Follow through, complete all work necessary, ensure that you have covered all the bases



# Photography Tips

Taking photos of plants for ID  
and documentation

- **Tip #1 – Use a good background**

Use what you've got:

- hood of vehicle
- truck tailgate
- gravel road
- cardboard
- plywood
- Dark clothing (jacket, pants)



- **Tip #2 – Use your camera well**
  - Clean the lens
  - Use settings to enhance photo
  - Avoid shadows or glare from sun
  - Be clear about what you're looking at
  - Focus, focus, focus!!



# Focus, Focus, Focus!!

- Do this:



- Not this:



- **Tip #3 – Pay attention to detail**

- Photograph the important parts close up (leaves, stem, flowers)
- Photograph the entire plant, then the entire infestation
- Reference for size (tape measure, pop can, loonie, etc)
- Don't "lose" your plant in the background



# Lost in the background



Suggestion-

Remove the entire plant, and place on a solid background to photograph

**OR** place a mobile background behind the plant (cardboard)



# Avoid...







Spotted knapweed



Pepperweed



# Biosecurity and Field Supplies

Your Field Kit

# What is Biosecurity?

- A set of management practices used to **minimize the introduction and prevent the spread of pathogens, invasive plants, and other organisms.**
- For Weed Inspectors/RM Staff: prevent the movement of weed seeds/plant parts and soil particles (clubroot)

# Biosecurity Tips

- Don't drive into fields/pastures!!
- After inspection is complete, check for weed seeds, plant parts, and soil.
- Shoelaces, inside boots, pants, clippers, trowel, vehicle tires, hands, gloves, jacket
- Collect used boot covers, gloves, etc in garbage bags, and burn or dispose of properly. Double-bag if necessary.



# What goes into a biosecurity/field kit?

- Nitrile gloves
- Disposable boot covers
- Garbage bags
- Bleach solution (2% Sodium hypochlorite)
- Paper towel
- Sanitizing wipes
- Hand trowel
- Clippers
- Paper bags
- Ziplock bags
- Bug spray/sunscreen
- Scrub brush
- Utility knife
- Tape measure
- Rubber boots
- Weed ID Books
- Plant press
- Binder containing:
  - RM Map, pens, notebook, highlighter, WI appointment notice, copy of the WCA

# How to make a two per cent sodium hypochlorite solution disinfectant



Product (original concentration)	Amount of bleach to add	Amount of water to add	Final volume
Clorox disinfecting bleach (6% sodium hypochlorite)	250 mL	500 mL	750 mL
President's choice disinfecting bleach (8.25% sodium hypochlorite)	182 mL	568 mL	750 mL
Regular bleach concentrated (8.25% sodium hypochlorite)	182 mL	568 mL	750 mL

Look on the label or consult the product's safety data sheet to find the original sodium hypochlorite concentration.

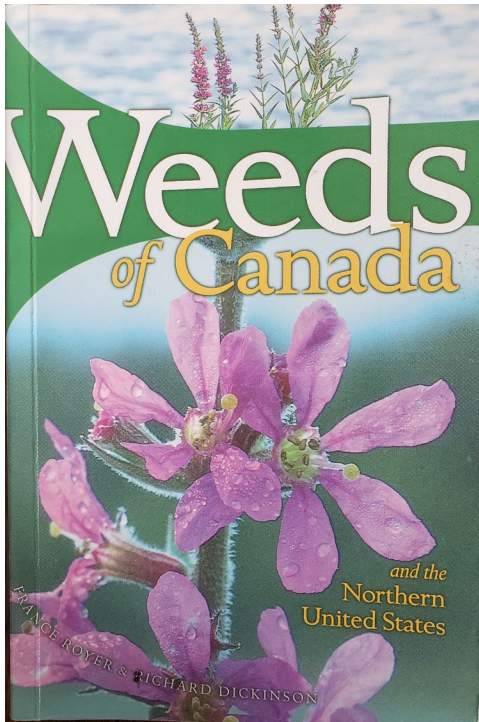
## Key considerations when using bleach

1. The concentration of sodium hypochlorite will decrease during storage.
  - Purchase bleach in small quantities and use it relatively quickly (within a few months).
  - If you are storing bleach, store it in a cool, dry location.
2. Organic matter will inactivate the sodium hypochlorite
  - If using a two per cent sodium hypochlorite solution to disinfect foot wear or other equipment, refresh the solution frequently or as it becomes dirty to maintain a the two per cent solution.





# Good Weed ID Reference Materials

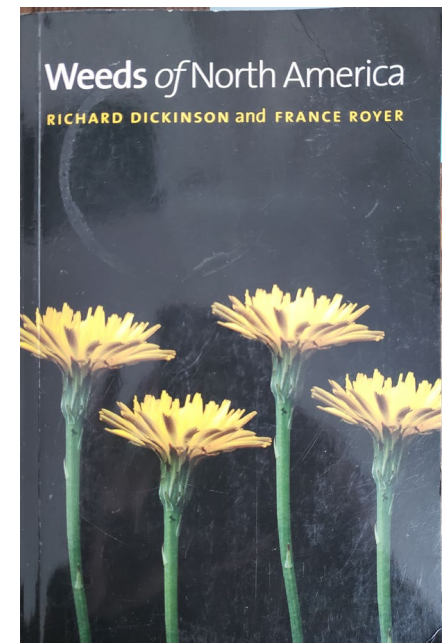


Available here:

<https://www.uap.ualberta.ca/titles/736-9780888643117-weeds-of-canada-and-the-northern-united-states>

or on Amazon

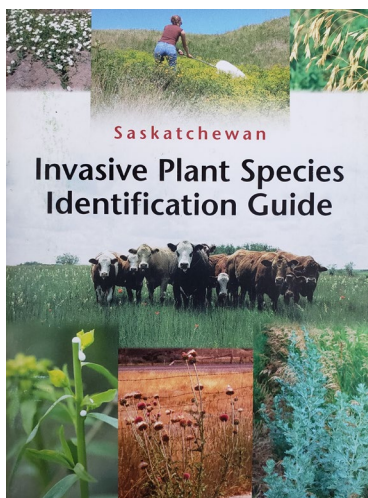
\$29.95



Available here:

<https://www.amazon.ca/Weeds-North-America-Richard-Dickinson/dp/022607644X>

\$45.00



Available through the Saskatchewan Forage Council – [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca) or call: 306-966-2148

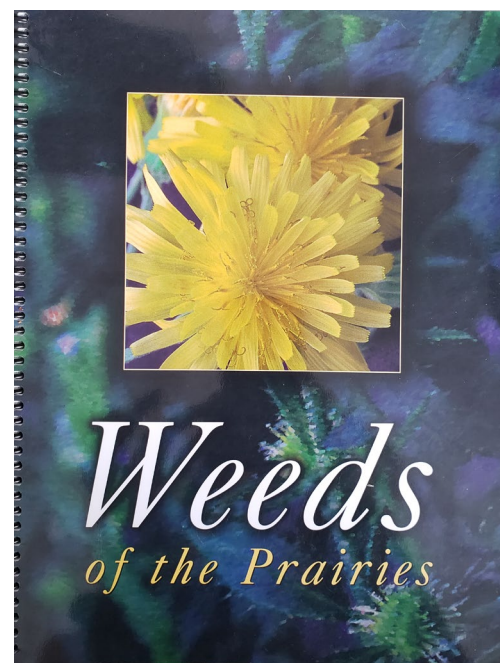
Digital version: [https://www.pcap-sk.org/rsu\\_docs/documents/saskatchewan-invasive-plant-id-guide.pdf](https://www.pcap-sk.org/rsu_docs/documents/saskatchewan-invasive-plant-id-guide.pdf)

Weeds of the Prairies

Available here:

<https://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app08/ppslogin?plD=297>

\$25.00



## More references:

- <https://www.saskwildflower.ca/native-plant-photos.html>
- Most important: building a good network of contacts
  - Your PHO
  - An experienced Weed Inspector
  - Remember that WIs can send plant samples in to the SK Crop Protection Lab free of charge



# Thank You!

# Questions?

Our next webinar is March 11<sup>th</sup>,  
2021

Common Issues and Frequently  
Asked Questions