



PLANT HEALTH NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

Recap on the 2024 Sprayer Calibration

The Plant Health Technical Advisors (PHTAs) successfully hosted two dynamic one-day sprayer calibration clinics on May 22nd and 23rd, 2024, tailored for weed inspectors, land managers and pesticide applicators. Renowned speaker Tom Wolf enriched the sessions with his insights into small



sprayer calibration, spray drift, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and more. We were happy to host 51 engaged attendees and got valuable feedback expressing a desire for future events like this one. Thank you to the RM of Corman Park No. 344 and the RM of Lumsden No. 189 for the use of their shops. We also thank the Meewasin Valley Authority and John Langford for supplying the sprayers for the demonstration.

Weeds to Watch For - Leafy Spurge

Leafy spurge is an aggressive invasive weed regulated under *The Weed Control Act* in Saskatchewan that should be promptly eradicated or controlled upon detection due to its persistent nature. Once established, eliminating a population can be a lengthy process. This weed poses significant challenges in pastures, rangelands, and roadsides. As a perennial plant, leafy spurge dies back annually after seed production, but its roots can survive from year to year. It spreads through seeds and creeping rhizomes, with seeds remaining viable for up to eight years. Key identifying characteristics include greenish-yellow bracts and a milky latex sap from damaged leaves or stems, which can cause severe skin reactions in humans is toxic to most livestock, except sheep and goats.



Leafy Spurge Control Options: For optimal results, employing an integrated weed management approach is recommended. This strategy involves combining various methods that complement each other without conflict such as:

- **Chemical** - You can claim a rebate on eligible herbicides used to control leafy spurge through the [Invasive Plant Control Program \(IPCP\)](#).
- **Grazing** - Sheep and goats can tolerate consuming leafy spurge.
- **Biocontrol** - Leafy spurge beetles (*Aphthona spp*) feed on leafy spurge, acting as a biological control agent for the noxious weed. They are ideal for established infestations larger than 12 acres per quarter section and sensitive areas. It can take 3-5 years to see an impact on the population.

Here is a list of weed identification resources that you may find useful:

- [Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council](#) – website with fact sheets on some invasive weeds as well as the invasive plant species identification guide document
- [Saskatchewan Wildflowers](#) – website with over 600 plants described in Saskatchewan
- [PictureThis](#) – A plant ID app that can help you identify weeds when you are out in the field
- [iMapInvasives](#) – An app to help you record and share findings of invasive weeds

UPCOMING EVENT - 2024 Leafy Spurge Beetle Collection Days

When: July 2-5, 2024, 10 am-3 pm

Where: Besant Campground (west of Caronport on Highway #1)

[Click here for more information.](#)

The SARM Plant Health Technical Advisors (PHTAs) will be present to provide information and assist in packaging leafy spurge beetles for landowners, RMs, and First Nation communities to take back to their property for release.

REMINDER - The Gopher Control Program deadline is July 31, 2024

- Through this program, RMs, First Nation communities and stakeholders can claim up to 50% rebate on **registered gopher control products** used, raptor platforms and nest boxes purchased & installed (max \$125 each) up to July 31, 2024.
- To claim, stakeholders must submit completed claim forms and invoices through their RM or First Nation office before the deadline to be signed by the administrator or land manager. RMs and First Nation communities must submit all claim forms and invoices to SARM by the deadline.



Scan the QR code or visit the SARM website: <https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/gopher-control-program/>

Please contact your SARM Division Plant Health Technical Advisor for more information, to answer any questions, or to suggest content for future newsletters.

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