



Weeds to Watch For: Common Range and Pasture

There are several weeds to watch for that can become problematic in range and pasture areas in Saskatchewan. The most common invasive weeds found in pastures are absinthe, baby's breath, common burdock, common tansy, leafy spurge, nodding thistle, oxeye daisy, scentless chamomile, and yellow toadflax.



Baby's Breath

These weeds thrive in pastures as they are hardy, have numerous modes of spread, and are typically avoided by livestock. These weeds often succeed within a pasture, as opposed to cropland, due to the fact the area is not tilled. Tillage that occurs within cropland can pull out small-sized weeds or reduce the energy within deep tap rooted weeds, causing set back or death.

Besides the lack of tillage in range and pastureland, why else are there several weed species that thrive once introduced to range and pasture lands? One reason is that many of these invasive weeds are perennials. The top growth of perennials dies off every year, but the roots survive, which allows these weeds to come back year after year and mature quickly, which contributes to their ability to outcompete native species.



Absinthe



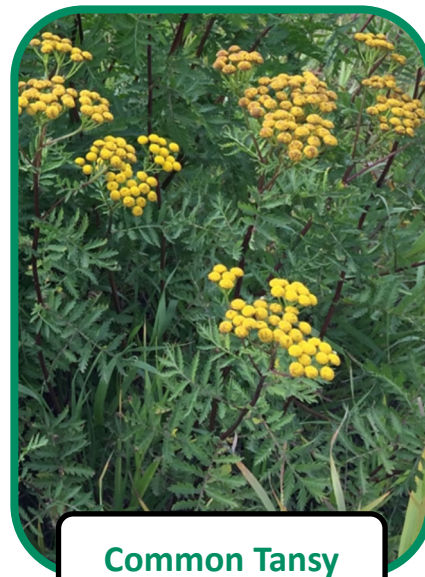
Common Burdock



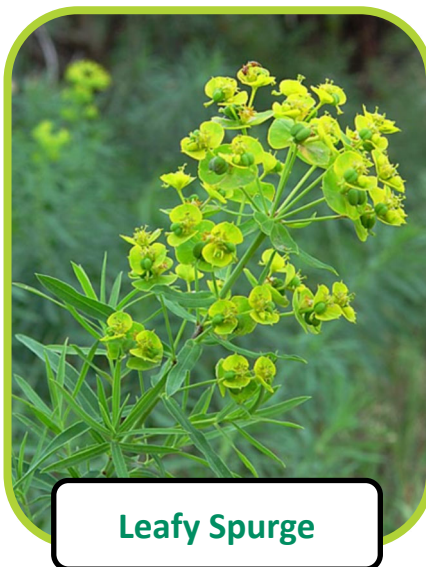
Another reason these weeds thrive in pastures is because they have multiple ways to spread. Common tansy, leafy spurge, oxeye daisy, and yellow toadflax are spread by both seeds and rhizomes (i.e. horizontal underground stems), while baby's breath and scentless chamomile are prolific seed producers. These features allow for weeds to rapidly increase in population.

Some invasive pasture weeds can irritate livestock. Common burdock produces burrs that get caught on animal manes, tails, and hides. Burrs seriously irritate livestock, especially if the burrs get around the eyes of the animals. Leafy spurge has an alkaline sap that may burn the skin and the insides the mouth of cattle. Many weed species such as leafy spurge are not a great feed source, and livestock will often avoid them. This will dwindle the productivity of pastures, while also allowing the weeds to continue to expand through the field.

All these factors can lead to weed populations quickly increasing once introduced into a pasture. Therefore, it is important for producers to watch out and monitor frequently for these weed species. Monitoring and rapid response efforts will keep these weeds from overtaking pasture lands. Management options can include spraying herbicides at the right time, biocontrol agents, and growing a competitive forage crop.



Common Tansy



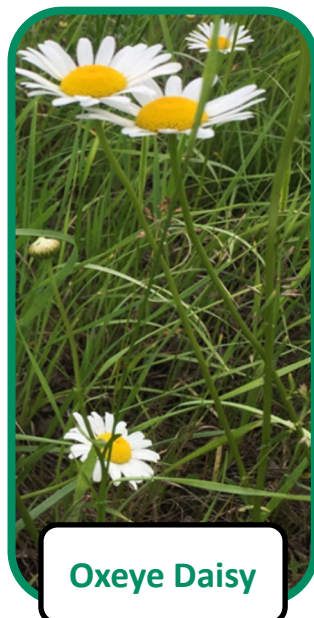
Leafy Spurge



Yellow Toadflax



Nodding Thistle



Oxeye Daisy

Each of these weeds has registered herbicide options and are eligible to be claimed through the Sustainable CAP Invasive Plant Control Program (excluding nodding thistle). Leafy spurge, scentless chamomile, yellow toadflax, and nodding thistle also have biocontrol agents. For more information, please contact your division's Plant Health Technical Advisor.

Reminder - Gopher Control Program deadline July 31!

The Gopher Control Program (GCP) deadline is coming up. Rural Municipalities, First Nation communities and Stakeholders must submit claim forms and invoices for registered gopher control products and/or raptor platform and nest box materials to SARM by July 31st 2023. Stakeholders claiming through their RM or First Nation office must complete and sign claim forms and submit them to their RM or First Nation office prior to the above deadline.

Leafy Spurge Beetle Collection Recap

The 2023 Leafy Spurge Beetle Collection Days was a success this year. 57 people attended the collection day. Groups from RMs, FN communities, Ministry of Highways, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Security Agency, City of Regina and more came out to collect beetles to be released within areas of high populations of leafy spurge. These beetles will hopefully establish and work to control leafy spurge for years to come!

Link to iMapInvasives

Rural Municipalities and First Nation communities are able to receive a rebate through the Invasive Plant Control Program for monitoring efforts of prohibited and noxious weeds in their jurisdictions completed by an appointed or authorized Weed Inspector. To receive the rebate Weed Inspectors must enter findings into iMapInvasives. Login here: <https://imapinvasives.natureserve.org/imap/login.jsp>

PHTA Attended Tradeshows in June

The Plant Health Technical Advisors attended two conferences in June. The PHTAs hosted a booth at the Saskatchewan Indigenous Livestock Producers Conference and the Saskatchewan Pest Control Officers Association, where they promoted the Sustainable CAP programs and networked with attendees of the conferences.

Divisional Invasive Weed Field Training Events

Each SARM Plant Health Technical Advisor hosted individual Invasive Weed In-Field Training events in July within each of the SARM divisions. These events had a great turnout with 128 individuals attending between the eight training events. With a mix of Weed Inspectors, Rural Municipal council members, First Nation community staff, village employees, Saskatchewan Aboriginal Land Technicians staff, pasture managers and ratepayers these events provided education on invasive weed identification, biosecurity, iMapInvasives training, and the Sustainable CAP Invasive Plant Control Program. It was amazing to be able to get together in the field to network and learn. We look forward to putting on more training events like these next year!

Please contact your Division PHTA for more information, to answer any questions, or suggest content for future newsletters.

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