

MD OF RANCHLAND

AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



WHIRLING DISEASE IN ALBERTA

Whirling disease is a significant concern for the salmonid fish populations in Alberta. The disease is caused by a microscopic parasite called *Myxobolus cerebralis*. The parasite has a complex lifecycle and requires two hosts: a salmonid fish and an aquatic worm called *Tubifex tubifex*. The susceptible species for this disease include rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and whitefish. The impacts of the disease vary among fish species and the waterbodies they are found in. Young fish are most vulnerable to the disease with mortality rates up to 90%. Infected fish may exhibit symptoms like a “whirling” swimming behavior due to parasite invasion of cartilage and nervous system impairment. Physical abnormalities may include a crooked tail, sunken head cartilage, a shortened gill cover and a blackened tail. Whirling disease has been found in four major watersheds in Alberta; the Bow River, North Saskatchewan River, Oldman River, and Red Deer River. Whirling disease is not harmful to humans or other mammals but poses a threat to salmonid populations. To prevent the spread of aquatic diseases and invasive species be sure to clean, drain, and dry your boats and gear! If you witness a fish you suspect has whirling disease, please email aep.whirl@gov.ab.ca with the location, date, time and a photo, if possible.

If interested in discussing further, please contact Erika at ag3@ranchland66.com or 403-646-3131.

Source(s): 1) <https://www.alberta.ca/whirling-disease>

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf>

On-Farm Climate Action Fund

The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) is a program that provides financial support to accelerate implementation of on-farm Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). The areas of focus for OFCAF are on improving nitrogen management, increasing adoption of cover cropping and expanding adoption of rotational grazing. The eligibility for this program require you to be an active producer, work with a PAg or CCA to develop a BMP action plan, be headquartered in Alberta, have a project minimum of \$2500 and pay all the upfront costs.

If interested, contact Erika at 403-646-3131 or ag3@ranchland66.com.

WEED TO WATCH

Scentless Chamomile






Tripleurospermum inodorum

ID characteristics: Small daisy like heads composed of yellow disk flowers in the center and surrounded by white ray flowers, are borne singly at the ends of branches. The leaves are alternate and finely divided.

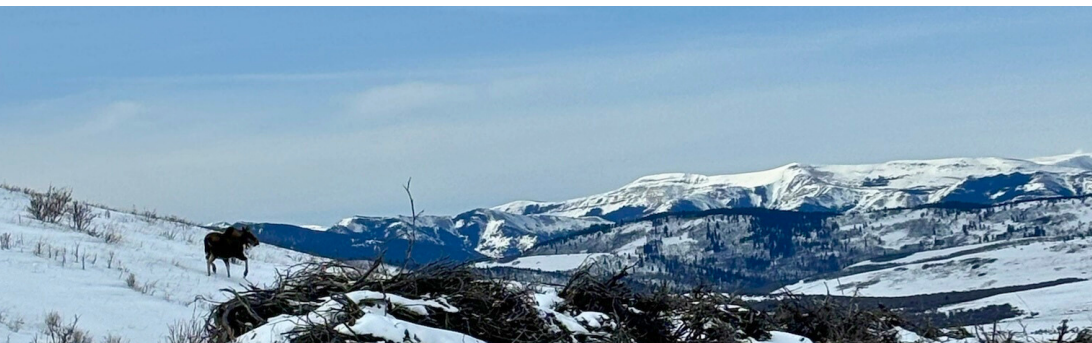


Source: <https://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/scentless-chamomile/>

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If you would like to contribute to this bulletin by writing an article, submitting a photo to be featured, recommending an organization, noxious weed, or grant, or any other suggestions, please send an email to ag2@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!



Bulletin Content Written by MD of Ranchland Agriculture Staff

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP

the Southwest Invasive Managers presents:

Early Detection & Rapid Response



18 APRIL
8:45 A.M - 3:30 P.M.
301 - 25TH STREET,
FORT MACLEOD, AB
 Lunch and Refreshments Provided



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ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Trout Unlimited Canada

<https://tucanada.org/>

Trout Unlimited Canada is a registered Canadian not for profit organization. Their mission is to conserve, protect and restore Canada's freshwater ecosystems and their cold water resources for current and future generations. All of the work Trout Unlimited Canada does is directed toward achieving this mission. The work is guided by science and research and fueled by the unending passion of our volunteers and professional staff. Trout Unlimited's work includes stream restoration, scientific research and education.

Trout Unlimited Canada



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