

MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE IN ALBERTA

In Alberta, the Mountain Pine Beetle is considered a destructive tree pest. The beetles typically attack Lodgepole Pine, Jack Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Scotch Pine, Whitebark Pine or Limber Pine. The first signs of attack being dust and resin on the bark of the trees. Small groups of red-topped trees can also indicate an infestation but a ground inspection must be conducted to confirm the occurrence. Adult beetles will transmit a blue stain fungus to the tree. The fungus and the beetle then act together to kill the tree. The fungus obstructs water transport in the tree stem, eventually killing it.

Without proper management the Mountain Pine Beetle could decimate Alberta's pine forests. Alberta has a Mountain Pine Beetle management program that includes long and short term strategies. These strategies include single tree control treatments and reducing Mountain Pine Beetle habitat through targeted timber harvest.

Mitigation strategies include removing infested trees, monitoring and maintaining tree health to reduce susceptibility, thin out pine stands and diversify with other species as well as the use of repellants such as Verbenone.

If interested in discussing further, please contact Shayna at ag2@ranchland66.com or 403-646-3131.

Source(s): 1) <https://www.alberta.ca/mountain-pine-beetle-in-alberta>
2) <https://tidcf.nrcan.gc.ca/en/insects/factsheet/2816>

GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=896458EC7CD6E-EC0F-66BF-F7298AF038FFA259>

2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance

The governments of Canada and Alberta are expanding drought livestock assistance eligibility to help producers maintain breeding herds.

The 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance initiative is expanding eligibility to 23 new regions and extending the application deadline. Funding for this joint AgriRecovery initiative is provided through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

If interested, contact Shayna at 403-646-3131 or ag2@ranchland66.com.

WEED TO WATCH

Field Scabious

Knautia arvensis

ID characteristics: Purple florets clustered to resemble a single flower. Stems are hairy and can be up to 1.5 meters tall. Leaves are opposite and pinnate.



Source: <https://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/field-scabious/>

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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!

ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

Alberta Invasive Species Council

<https://abinvasives.ca/>

AISC is dedicated to informing Albertans about the destructive impacts invasive species have on the environment, economy, and society. They foster partnerships with jurisdictions and groups to develop integrated collaboration and long-term management programs. The goal is to empower people to prevent, detect, and take action against invasive species. They host several educational campaigns and have credible information resources for invasive species management on their website.

