




MD OF RANCHLAND AG BULLETIN


News, updates, and information for our community.

Poisonous Plants of Alberta

Unpalatable to toxic plants are commonly found throughout Alberta's pastures. As with anything the poison is in the dose and different animals may have vastly different consumption tolerances. Knowing the potential of plants is half the battle to managing them effectively. Plants are variable and many may look similar but behave in completely different ways (like people!). While no plant can force you to eat it, make sure to only eat what you are 100% sure about, livestock can be another story! Similar looking plants can have drastically different attributes. For instance a death camas may easily be mistaken for a chive which has similar shapes and colors. **Can you ID the poisonous vs. edible plants for cattle below (answers on the next page)?**

There are resources available online these days to help ID plants but we often think the best place to start is with neighbors, local staff (contact us), and distinguished resources. There are plenty of plants to know in the MD of Ranchland No. 66!

Alberta Government Poisonous Outdoor Plants PDF - 
[https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex13348/\\$file/666-2.pdf](https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex13348/$file/666-2.pdf)

For Horses, American SPCA Toxic/Non-toxic Plant List - 
<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/horse-plant-list>


Grant To Apply For

MD Ranchland No. 66, Producer Weed Assistance Program

Often when controlling weeds, it is more effective when the plants are in the early growing stages. Older plants will be more resilient to control because they are hardier with more vegetation development to survive pest, drought, and chemical aggression.



To assist local producers the MD of Ranchland asks producers to apply for financial assistance, in the form of rebates, to help with the cost of invasive weed control within the MD. You may qualify for between 60% to 100% of \$3,000 worth of weed control! Conditions and terms apply. Biocontrols are accepted! Watch for updates from the Alberta Invasive Species Council in the future to place orders!

Complete the form via link below - 
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/7fbb2eb4454a4a629e7617f970c93c87> or email ag3@ranchland66.com to get started with an application.



A



B



C



D



E



F



G

Weed to Watch

Blueweed

Echium vulgare

ID characteristics: One of the first weeds to emerge, it's unpalatable to livestock. Typically a biennial with narrow, hairy leaves, a mature plant's height may reach 80 cm. Many small flowers can form on a single plant and are reddish-purple, becoming bright blue upon opening.



Find out more on AISC's website - <https://abinvasives.ca/fact-sheet/blueweed/>

Updated Weed Management Plan for MD of Ranchland

The MD of Ranchland No. 66 understands that healthy plant communities are extremely valuable and are to be protected from invasive species, regulated or not. Municipal weed management plans and programs have evolved considerably over time. Many of the programs, such as the aggregate and equipment inspection, are unique to the MD and not found in other jurisdictions. The Producer Weed Assistance Program paired with the use of contract weed control is another example of a progressive and efficient strategy to mitigate the spread of invasive weeds.

To provide the greatest impact of finite resources and therefore the most benefit to our ratepayers and the environment, invasive plant species were grouped and prioritized based on their current distribution within the municipality. The municipality was also divided into weed management zones. Expenditures on the Producer Weed Assistance Program directly correlate with priorities identified by the grouping of weeds to align with our goal of providing the greatest benefit to our ratepayers and the environment. To find out more information, please reach out to us!

Waterton Biosphere Region Funding Opportunities

The Waterton Biosphere Region is a special place where people work together to support resilient landscapes and communities, where our cultural and natural diversities are valued. Find local programs that best fit the needs of your land and operation in a simplified way. Check out MD of Ranchland specific information at - <https://watertonbiosphere.com/stewardship-hub/ranchland/>

Find us online!

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 <https://mdranchland.ca/>

If you would like to contribute to this bulletin by writing an article, submitting a photo to be featured, recommending an organization, regulated weed, or grant, or any other suggestions, please send an email to ag3@ranchland66.com with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and we look forward to your feedback!

Organization Highlight Alberta Community Bat Program



This charitable organization started in 2015 and is part of the Wildlife Conservation Society in collaboration with the Alberta Bat Action Team. Resources include everything bat related from bat houses, BMPs, etc.

There are at least 9 bat species found in Alberta. Bats benefit cattle and human health by consuming biting insects, which helps to improve yields and may reduce the transmission of insect-borne diseases Biting insects can cause: Western Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, and Bovine Leukosis Virus.

In addition to being disease vectors biting insects can influence cattle growth rates, weight gain, and milk output.



History Bits Corner

- Throughout the 1980s, Highway 22 was paved, with all but a small section near Chain Lakes Provincial Park being completed by 1990.
- The MD of Ranchland No. 66 was incorporated in 1995 from the Improvement District No. 6.



Till next time...

Ranchers Corner

Events and Information

- **Alberta Invasive Species Council** - [Invasive Plants in Alberta: Understanding the New Weed Regulations](#). Virtual, June 3 at 6:30 pm.
- **Alberta Environmental Farm Plan** - Walk through the first 2 chapters of your EFP workbook. Virtual, 9:30 am, on [June 10/26](#)
- **Nanton Nite Rodeo** - June 20, at 7 pm, at the Nanton Rodeo Grounds, tickets at the door.
- **Waterton Biosphere Region** - [AGM](#) on June 22, at the Waterton Community Center, at 6:30 pm.
- **Foothills Forage and Grazing**: [Celebrating Pastoral Stewardship, Research and Ranching Together at the Stavely Community Centre](#) on Wednesday, July 8, from 9 am - 4:30 pm.

