

# MD OF RANCHLAND

## AG BULLETIN

News, updates, and information for our community.



### FREEZE-THAW STRESS ON TREES

Unpredictable winter weather can take a real toll on trees. Rapid freeze-thaw cycles interrupt a tree's natural winter hardening, leaving buds, shoots, bark, and fine roots more vulnerable to injury. As temperatures swing, cells can become dehydrated, air bubbles may form in the tree's water-conducting vessels, and expanding ice can create frost cracks that reopen each year. Below ground, frost heaving can lift roots toward the surface, exposing them to cold damage and oxygen stress during saturated thaws.

While we can't control the weather, a few proactive steps can make a big difference. Early spring inspections help catch cracks, dieback, and exposed roots before they worsen. Mulching with wood chips insulates soil and reduces frost heaving, and pruning during dormancy minimizes stress. Watering in fall and early spring supports root health, and choosing locally adapted species improves long-term resilience. Young trees benefit from trunk guards that prevent sunscald, and keeping simple records of winter damage can guide better planting and management decisions in the future.

To discuss further, please contact staff at [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) or 403-646-3131.

### GRANT TO APPLY FOR

<https://www.canadianfga.ca/en/pasture-grazing/farm-climate-action-fund/>

#### Canadian Forage & Grassland Association - On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

The CFGA focuses on forages and grasslands across Canada. Rotational grazing has many benefits for both the environment and the family farm. The OFCAF program is centered on increasing the total acres under a rotational grazing system by providing producer funding;

- To reduce possible financial challenges associated with trying or expanding rotational grazing on your operation.
- To provide you with information and resources so that you can implement rotational grazing.

#### Application intake: Feb 1 - March 15

Contact staff at 403-646-3131 or [ag3@ranchland66.com](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) with any questions.

## WEED TO WATCH

### Meadow Hawkweed

*Hieracium caespitosum*

ID characteristics: stems solitary and 20-70cm tall, Basal leaves oblong to spoon shaped, and 5-25cm long with long hairs. Leaf margins may be toothed. Flowers yellow, flat-topped, and grow in clusters of 20-50.



Source: [meadow hawkweed AISC](#)

### Alberta Weed Control Act & Regulations Update Summary

<p><b>De-regulated</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creeping Bell Flower</li> <li>• Perennial Sowthistle</li> </ul> <p><b>Prohibited Noxious to Noxious</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meadow Hawkweed</li> <li>• Mouse-ear Hawkweed</li> <li>• Orange Hawkweed</li> <li>• Knapweeds (Bighead, Black, Brown, Diffuse, Hybrid, Meadow, Spotted, Squarrose, &amp; Tyrol)</li> </ul> <p><b>Added as Noxious</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingdevil Hawkweed</li> <li>• Queendevil Hawkweed</li> <li>• Yellowdevil Hawkweed</li> <li>• Tall Hawkweed</li> <li>• Whiplash Hawkweed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Added as Prohibited Noxious</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palmer Amaranth</li> <li>• Hawkweeds (Common, European, Polar, Smooth, Spotted, &amp; Wall)</li> <li>• Jimsonweed</li> <li>• Invasive Phragmites</li> <li>• Queen Anne's Lace</li> <li>• African Rue</li> <li>• Alkali Swainsonpea</li> <li>• Black Swallowwort</li> <li>• Pale/European Swallowwort</li> <li>• Field Thesium</li> <li>• Ventenata</li> <li>• Tall Waterhemp</li> </ul> <p><i>For further reading, check out <a href="#">Weed Control Act</a></i></p>
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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](mailto:ag3@ranchland66.com) with the subject line "Bulletin". Thanks for reading and I look forward to your feedback!

## ORGANIZATION HIGHLIGHT

### multiSAR

#### MULTISAR = Multiple Species at Risk.

Our name also reflects the multiple partners we work with to reach our goal of conserving Species at Risk through habitat stewardship, while maintaining viable ranching operations in Alberta's native grasslands. We recognize that many of the species and habitats found in Alberta's grasslands exist because of the positive practices of the ranching community. The MULTISAR program gives ranchers and farmers suitable tools to continue this tradition in modern times. To date, this collaboration between agencies and landholders has resulted in the voluntary stewardship of grassland species on over 382,000 acres in southern Alberta.

