

Billings County Weed Control Board

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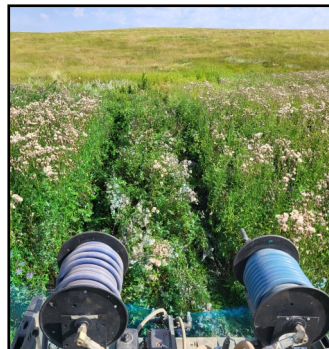
Upcoming Events

The Billings County Weed Control Board (BCWCB) is dedicated to keeping the community informed about valuable resources and upcoming events. This year, two key events include the Medora Grazing Association's (MGA) annual meeting and the Sprayer School organized by the North Dakota Weed Control Association. The MGA annual meeting will take place at the AmericInn Conference Room in Medora on Wednesday, May 28th, at 1:30 p.m., where the BCWCB will be available to assist landowners and allotment runners with any questions. Additionally, allotment runners can request to be added to the 2025 spray list during this meeting. The Dickinson Sprayer School is scheduled for May 27th at the NDSU Extension in Dickinson, starting at 8:30 a.m. For more details and registration for the school, please visit www.ndweeds.com or contact the Stark County Weed Board.

Canada Thistle

Canada thistle has posed a challenge in Billings County for many years. This weed is a long-lived perennial that can spread by both its roots as well by seeds. Its root system contains rhizomes, which are roots that create lateral shoots underground, leading to the growth of additional plants. This is why mowing and cutting Canada thistle can create a larger infestation; cutting the stem of an existing plant encourages more shoots to grow. The seeds are produced by the flowering of the plant. Mature Canada thistle produces pink, purple and white flowers from June to July. Each flower head can produce 40 to 80 seeds. Plants produce between 32-69 flower heads, which will make between 1,280 and 5,520 seeds per plant. Seeds are feather-like and similar to the seeds of dandelions, this makes them easily moved by both wind, animals, and disturbance.

In the summer of 2024, there was a significant amount of ground disturbance on private land and right of ways (ROW) throughout Billings County. It is suspected that there will be an influx of Canada thistle along these ROW in the summer of 2025. Canada thistle is often found in areas where disturbance has occurred to the soil. It will outcompete native grasses and plant species for sunlight, moisture, and soil nutrients. In 2025, we ask that landowners be vigilant about watching areas that have been disturbed as they may become infested with Canada thistle. Treating infestations in the first year of growth decreases populations for future growing seasons. Please contact us if you notice any Canada thistle appearing in the county ROW so we can treat them as soon as possible. We work hard trying to keep all of the ROWs free of noxious and invasive weeds and appreciate everyone who lets us know of infestations that need attention. With the community's help, we hope to control these potential new Canada thistle plants from spreading in the first year of growth.



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North Dakota and Billings County Noxious Weed List



**Absinth
Wormwood**



**Black
Henbane**



**Canada
Thistle**



**Common
Burdock**



**Common
Mullein**



**Dalmatian
Toadflax**



**Diffuse
Knapweed**



**Hoary
Cress**



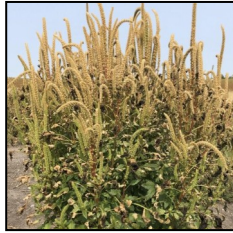
Houndstongue



**Leafy
Spurge**



**Musk
Thistle**



**Palmer
Amaranth**

For more information on noxious weeds, or help identifying a plant, please contact BCWCB, NDSU County Extension Service in Dickinson, or NDSU County Extension Service in Beach.



**Purple
Loosestrife**



**Russian
Knapweed**



Saltcedar



**Spotted
Knapweed**



**Yellow
Toadflax**

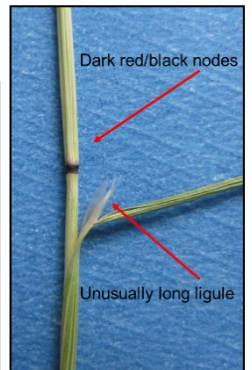
Ventenata

Ventenata is a non-native invasive grass species that originated in South Africa. It has been found in northern South Dakota and is spreading rapidly throughout Montana. Although *Ventenata* has not yet been found in North Dakota, it has been identified in several counties along the eastern border of Montana. Why are we worried about *Ventenata*? *Ventenata* is unpalatable to livestock and wildlife, spreads quickly, and can be detrimental to native grass species. It thrives in many soil types, including clayey soils. Currently, the only effective control method for *Ventenata* is herbicide applications. Early detection is the best way to manage populations once they reach North Dakota. Please be mindful of your grasslands and take note if cattle are no longer utilizing parts of pastures they once frequented. Due to the high silica content of *Ventenata*, it has a texture that grazing animals dislike; it has been described as being similar to eating glass. We urge our local landowners to be on the lookout for *Ventenata* and call the BCWCB if they see any grasses that resemble it.

The BCWCB would like to thank all of our local landowners who attended our Protect Your Pastures event in November 2024. We truly appreciated seeing so many of you there and your willingness to learn about *Ventenata* and expand our knowledge on how to prevent it from becoming established in Billings County. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to this program.



Bent Awns



Pictures above from Jane Mangold, MSU Extension

Flea Beetles

This year, the BCWCB will be hosting two public field days at the Franks Creek location. For dates, directions and more information visit our website at www.bcwcb.com. Attendees must actively participate in sweeping to receive flea beetles at the end of the collection day. We recommend bringing ice packs or frozen water bottles; please do not bring coolers with loose ice, as the melting ice can damage transporting containers and drown the beetles. To prevent beetle loss and achieve the highest control rate, we advise beetles be released the same day they are collected.

2025 Collection Dates
Start Time 10:00 a.m. MST.

Franks Creek

June 17th June 26th

Dates will be rescheduled if weather is unfavorable and beetle populations are still flourishing. Please check our website closer to collection dates for site directions and to be sure the collection has not been canceled. You can also contact the BCWCB for additional information.

What We Offer

The BCWCB provides spray services on federal, state, and privately-owned land within Billings County. To ensure quality service, landowners must contact us annually to be added to the spray list. It is essential for landowners to show our staff around their property and the locations they would like treated. This helps to prevent confusion and ensures the job is completed correctly, meeting all of the landowner's expectations. If a landowner is unavailable, they will be moved back on the spray list until they are able to show our staff their property. Spray days are limited due to the high demand for our services. Landowners may receive up to two days of spraying with one crew per year. Please contact us if you have questions or would like to be added to the 2025 spray list.



Haying County ROW:

Due to recent herbicide labeling changes the BCWCB must inform local hay producers that products containing aminopyralid are being used in our county's rights-of-way (ROWs). If you are haying Billings County ROWs and intend to sell it, you are required to provide the herbicide label for the aminopyralid product to the buyer. These labels can be easily accessed and printed from the BCWCB website for the convenience of landowners.

Cost Share:

The BCWCB will have products available to purchase with cost share throughout the 2025 season. A portion of the products are covered through a grant with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture called the Landowners Assistance Program (LAP). This funding covers 70% of chemical costs, with the landowner responsible for the remaining 30%. The Department now requires the legal description of the land where these cost share products are being applied. Please be prepared to provide the BCWCB with the township, section and range when you pick up or order products. There is a cap on cost share products of one thousand dollars in chemical value, meaning any products purchased after reaching one thousand dollars in value will be available at full price. To purchase restricted use products a current certification as a private or commercial applicator through NDSU Extension is required. If you need herbicide recommendations for areas in your pasture, tree rows, or lawn please contact us for assistance.



NOTICE: BCWCB will not allow customers with outstanding bills to purchase chemical or be provided with spraying services until all bills are paid in full.

Law Changes

It has been brought to our attention that the EPA will be making some changes in 2026-2027 that will affect chemical applicators. Currently, individuals 18 and older visit an NDSU extension office and test for either their private or commercial applicators license using provided study materials and books to assist them on the test. In 2026-2027 the open book testing will be discontinued, meaning anyone wishing to obtain a commercial or private applicators license will have to take the test without the books. This is a big concern for the BCWCB as it will affect both our staff and our local landowners. We would like to encourage producers to obtain either a private or commercial applicators license before these law changes take effect. Once certified, an individual can purchase restricted use products such as Tordon 22K, prairie dog bait, and restricted use insecticides. Licensing is valid for three years, after three years applicators are required to attend a one-day training to renew their certification for another three years. These recertification courses are held yearly throughout the state from December to March. If you or someone you know would like to become certified, please contact your local NDSU extension.



To find out more about the BCWCB please visit us on the web at www.bcwcb.com

The Billings County Weed Control Board is focused on providing high-quality service and customer satisfaction. "We take pride in helping our local landowners maintain and control noxious weed populations." We would like to thank everyone involved with the control of noxious weeds in our County.