July 2011

Volume 5, Issue 4

Municipal District of Wainwright No.61

The Municipal Agricultural Connection

CANADA DAY!!
Friday July 1st

Partners in Rural Conservation
www.mdwainwright.ca

Wainwright Seed Cleaning Plant

Canola Plot Partnership Pancake

The M.D. of Wainwright along with Wainwright Seed Cleaning Plant, Eastern View Farms, Pare Seed Farm (Raymond Pare), Dalton Seed Farm (Dennis Dalton), Wainwright Viterra (Brad Birn), A.G.S.I/ V.I.P. Agro (Neil Pugh) will be firing up the pancake grills for the annual Pancake Breakfast and Plot Tour!

This year, the plots (located 4 miles west of Wainwright) are showcasing 7 different varieties of RR Canola of Pioneer, Dekalb and Nexera types. Thank you to all the partners!

7345RR (Pare Seed)
45H29RR (Dalton Seed)
9553RR (Viterra)
7265RR (Pare Seed)
45S52RR (Dalton Seed)
Nexera 1014RR (Viterra)
7355RR (A.G.S.I./V.I.P.)

Watch the Wainwright Seed Cleaning Plant road sign for date information (end July to mid-August). See you there!

HORTICULTURAL GARDEN TOUR, July 19

On Tuesday July 19th, 2011, the M.D. of Wainwright is proud to host in partnership with the County of Vermilion River, **the Horticultural Garden Bus Tour!** There will be 5 gardens visited during the day; 2 within the M.D. of Wainwright. One exquisite garden on the tour is that of Marylee and Blake Prior, north of Irma. Marylee showcases her extensive farmyard by utilizing large boulders that are found from the surrounding area. She loves working with rocks and boulders, and incorporates the larger boulders into the style of garden by positioning them in ways to attract attention of creative form and functionality.

The second garden located in the M.D. of Wainwright is that of Barb and Dennis Teeters, near Gilt Edge Hall. Barb has an extensive collection of perennials, utilizing blooming times, colours and depths to create a symphony of summer long waves of change. She has also been able to slightly adjust the "mini-ecosystem climate" of her garden with the help of a healthy mature shelterbelt of pine and spruce. The trees act as a protection agent allowing Barb to choose more tender and delicate perennials to grow. She can grow perennials above zone 2 and is always surprised at what she can over-winter in her yard! The other 3 gardens to be visited are located within the County of Vermilion. There is a $35 per person charge, that covers both a lunch and a BBQ supper. The Bus tour will be an all day event, so make sure you wear comfy shoes, bring some bug spray and a camera.

"Dry" river rock beds are a popular garden project that is functional and once complete, low maintenance!

To ensure your spot, call the M.D. of Wainwright office at 780-842-4454.

"Old Farmers never die, they just go to seed."

Needle Cast on Pine Trees

June 17 TREE PEST FOUND IN THE M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT

The M.D. of Wainwright has many treasured shelterbelts found in rural farmyards. One of the most beautiful shelterbelts is located NorthEast of Gilt Edge, comprising of both Colorado Spruce and Scots pine.

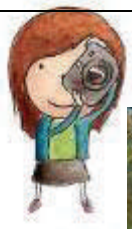
Unfortunately, this 25 year old, mature belt has been under attack the past few seasons, by an unknown agent, causing defoliation of the needles, only specific to the pine (the spruce seem unharmed).

After some investigation, and ruling out other coniferous tree pests and diseases, and with the assistance of the Shelterbelt Center Headquarters, Indian Head SK; the trees may have new hope!

It has been determined that a type of fungus is attacking the trees, causing a condition known as "Needle Cast" (*Lophodermium*). Infection occurs in late summer on the current year's needles. The infection does not become apparent until the following spring when small brown spots develop on the needles. During the spring, the spots enlarge and the infected needles begin to turn yellow, then die and turn brown by early summer. The dead needles may stay attached to the twig or fall to the ground. Small, black, elongated fruiting bodies develop on the dead needles in late summer. During moist weather these fruiting bodies erupt through the epidermis of the needle, split down the middle, and release spores. The spores are dispersed by the wind and rain splash and re-infect the current year's needles.

Infection causes the premature loss of needles and heavy infection rates may result in the death of seedlings and saplings. Loss of foliage causes reductions in growth and vigour, which lead to stunted seedlings and saplings. In larger trees the infection level is generally more severe on the lower branches, but the fungus can infect foliage throughout the entire crown. Spraying high value plantations with a registered fungicide is an effective form of control. The spray must be applied before and during the peak sporulation period in the late summer. Infected seedlings should never be outplanted because of the possibility of introducing the fungus into new areas.

MUNICIPAL PHOTO CONTEST!



Send in your photos before Friday, August 12. There are 13 chances to win $100 and have your photo in the 2012 municipal calendar. Stop at the M.D. office for contest forms and details!

Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter? An idea for a municipal meeting? Let me know! Suggestions to Asst.Agricultural Fieldman Aimee Wonsik,
asb@mdwainwright.ca or 780-842-4454

Aphids on Spruce Trees

June 23 TREE PEST FOUND IN THE M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT

Aphids lay eggs and give birth to live young, allowing them to build up their numbers rapidly. One yard that Aimee Wonsik, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman for the M.D., visited in June was starting to fill up of black aphids! The aphids were eating the maple trees, however more concerning were the white spruce trees the aphids were gathering on. It was determined quickly that the aphids had been first attracted to the older (not as healthy) maple trees, and then had moved over to the 20 year old spruce, as aphids will eat pretty much anything green in the yard! (The landowner was quite upset, and ready to cut down all the trees, but after some encouragement from Aimee, she decided to try and control them first.) Signs of aphids include large masses of bugs, almost colonies of different sizes (young and older, little and big). Also, aphids have very soft bodies, and will smear/ squish quite easily (as the landowner frantically tried to wipe them off of Aimee).

Various stages of life for the Ladybug! Yes these are all ladybugs, and they are very beneficial to your yard!

You will find beneficial bugs, such as ladybugs and (the ugly but good) ladybug larvae helping out, eating from the "pile". Aimee found this quote from Jim Hole of Hole's Greenhouses & Gardens, "Aphids are basically harmless. It's a minor pest," he says — they'll stunt a tree's growth and cause a sooty black fungus on branches, but that's about it. You can blast the bugs with insecticidal soap if they annoy you. You don't have to eradicate every last aphid, as other bugs, such as ladybugs, will eat them for you as well."

Ant eating an adult aphid

Ants are also a telltale sign as they feed on "honeydew" that is secreted by the aphids as they are feeding (which causes the black fungus.) A blast of insecticidal soap, or even a mixture of dishwashing soap and a strong stream of water from your garden hose will help control aphids. Aphids can have 6 generations per year, so if you are using the garden hose trick, you will have to hose at least once a week, if not more frequently.

Prevention is the best form of Pest Control, monitor…

Rural Routes Supper

Date: Friday, August 5, 2011

Location: Wainwright Elks Hall

- ***Doors Open at 5:30 p.m. (Cash Bar)***
- ***BBQ Steak Supper at 6:30 p.m.***
- ***100 Year Farm Family Awards at 8:00 p.m.***
- ***$500 draw, to be used at a local agricultural dealer of your choice***
- ***Following the Awards is the entertainment of comedy duo "Big Daddy Tazz" (showcased at the Lloydminster Cattlemen's Corral).***

Registration by July 29th is required by everyone attending, which enters your name in the $500 draw. There will also be draws especially for the kid's in the audience!
Call the M.D. Office at (780) 842-4454 to register, as available space is limited.

2011 Honoured Families of the 100 Years of Family Farming Award:

1. McAfee Farms (1910)
2. Wilkinson Farms (1908)
3. Petrie Farms (1911)
4. Pawsey Farms (1907)
5. Swanson Farms (1911)
6. Johnson Family Farm (1911)
7. PorterLake Farms (1911)
8. Turnbull Family Farm (1911)
9. Jones Family Farm (1908)

Gypsophila paniculata

Baby's Breath

If you have a pasture that is being "taken over" by Baby's Breath, now is the time to take action!

Early July is the best time to utilize the leaf ratio each plant has, making it the most effective time to apply a chemical application. As the season gets later, Baby's breath will turn more "woody" and the leaves of the plant will not readily absorb chemical.

July, Baby's Breath

August, Baby's Breath (gone to seed)

...for suspicious pests!

"RedLeaf" of Rhubarb!

June 22 GARDEN PEST FOUND IN THE M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT!

Gardeners! Have you been seeing certain changes on your garden Rhubarb this year?

- Yellow, green circles on Rhubarb leaves that turn to white or tan
- Red patches on Rhubarb leaves
- Plant has curled leaves, loss of vigour and eventual death after a few growing seasons

If you have, you may be experiencing the only major disease that affects rhubarb in Alberta. Redleaf (or leafspot) is a fungal disease which first appears as small, greenish-yellow areas on the upper surface of the leaves. These change to circular spots having white or tan centers with wide reddish margins. In severe cases. The red colour becomes very prominent so that the plant soon loses vigour and leave drop to the ground. Eventually, the crown will die, usually in the 2nd or 3rd season after infection occurs. To control leaf spot, remove all infected leaves during the growing season and destroy by burning. If symptoms continue to appear, dig up the crown and burn all infected tissue. The disease is spread by wind, splashing rain and also aphids feeding on infected plants and then subsequently feeding on healthy neighbouring plants. The disease is often confused with natural leaf dieback that occurs quickly at the end of the season. Redleaf-like symptoms occur in fall in response to low temperatures. True redleaf fungus symptoms appear in June and July, slowly beginning with a few leaves showing symptoms and progressively getting worse each season.

One sure way to keep your rhubarb healthy, is make use of the stems and make some rhubarb-pie or crisp (while discarding the leaf in a separate area of course)! Always keep in mind the leaf is poisonous and is not edible.

http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm2543#cycle

Red Backed CUTWORM

Farmers within the M.D. of Wainwright have been experiencing some damage to their canola crops from the Red Backed Cutworm *(Euxoa ochrogaster)*.

Insect Life Cycle

Host plants =Red backed cutworm is primarily a pest of cereals, sugar beet, canola, mustard, and flax in the Prairie Provinces. It also feeds on most vegetables, sunflower, sweetclover, alsike, alfalfa, various tree seedlings and garden flowers.

Overwintering =Red backed cutworm moths usually lay their eggs just below the soil surface in weedy summer fallow and in weedy patches in crops. The eggs overwinter.

Spring appearance =Eggs usually hatch in April as soil temperatures increase. Larvae begin feeding immediately on any nearby plants and feed for six to eight weeks with most of the damage occurring in June. Larvae generally remain inactive during the day, but at night either come to the surface or move underground in search of food plants.

Number of generations =There is one generation per year.

Natural enemies = Parasites - Natural enemies suppress outbreaks and presumably contribute to the relatively low populations that usually occur in the two or three years following outbreaks. Parasitism must be sufficiently low to permit an infestation of red backed cutworms to develop. No parasites were found in one severe outbreak and parasite numbers were low in the year preceding an outbreak year. Pathogens - Heavy mortality of the larvae from disease occurs in outbreaks. In British Columbia, this pest is attacked by 18 species of parasitic insects, five species of fungi and three other kinds of microbial pathogens.

Damage done from night feeding

Redback cutworm-Larvae

Damage Assessment

Economic importance = Red backed cutworm frequently causes serious damage on the Prairies and produces infestations of two to four years duration followed by a minimum of two years of relative scarcity.

Damage description = Damage by young larvae is characterized by small holes and notches in foliage. Older larvae eat into stems and usually sever them at or just below the soil surface. Infestations in cereal crops are characterized by areas of bare soil that gradually enlarge until anywhere from one to two acres to complete fields are affected. Damage is often patchy and occurs on knolls and in light soil areas. These bare areas of exposed soil are often confused with areas of poor germination or moisture stress. The presence of cutworms is characterized by severed, dead, dried plants.

Sampling and monitoring methods = Red backed cutworm moths have been monitored with pheromone traps since 1978 in southern Alberta. In 1985, a province-wide pheromone monitoring system was established for this and other cutworm species. Sample for of larvae as for other subterranean cutworm species. Mark an area of soil 50 cm x 50 cm. During the day, larvae are within the top 5-7 cm of soil. Count the larvae within each 0.25 square metre. Repeat the process in different areas of the field. Calculate an average number of larvae per square metre for the field.

Economic threshold = Economic thresholds are not firmly established but five to six cutworms per square metre may justify control. Well established fall-seeded or spring-seeded crops with good moisture conditions can tolerate higher numbers. Infestations may be patchy within fields. Examine the edges of bare patches to determine the cause of uneven plant distribution.

Management Strategy

Effects of weather = Augusts that are hot and dry provide the best conditions for moth feeding on flowers. Egg production and egg laying depend on the nutrition obtained from flowers. The same weather conditions promote the loose, dry soil surfaces necessary for egg deposition. Cold weather may be detrimental to larvae and pupae. Wet, warm weather promotes plant growth and fungal diseases in the larvae. Warm, dry weather can increase the severity of damage from cutworm attack.

Cultural practices = Tillage Practices - Crusted soils on summer fallow help prevent egg deposition from late July until late September. Destroy weed growth that develops in August, because red backed cutworm moths usually lay their eggs in weedy summer fallow. They also lay in weedy patches in cereal crops and in fields of canola, peas. To starve young cutworm larvae before spring seeding, allow volunteer growth to reach 3 to 5 cm, cultivate and then seed 10 to 14 days later. Locate cutworms by digging 2 to 3 cm below the soil surface at the edge of the damaged area.

Chemical Practice—Ensure you choose a product that will suit your needs. Some insecticides have residual where others do not. You will want also want to time your spray application appropriately in order for more successful outcome. Cutworms are more active at night, therefore evening applications are more preferred.

Biological control = Because parasite numbers tend to increase after an increase in abundance of the host, very few parasites are found during the first year of an outbreak. However, after two years, parasites are numerous enough to reduce the outbreak and keep cutworm numbers low for at least two years.