

The Municipal Agricultural Connection



2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE CONCENTRATE AVAILABLE FOR 2014

The M.D. of Wainwright will be selling 2% liquid strychnine concentrate in bottles for the 2014 season. This concentrate is for farmer's use only, to mix with their own grain; to thereby have fresh product on hand for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrels.

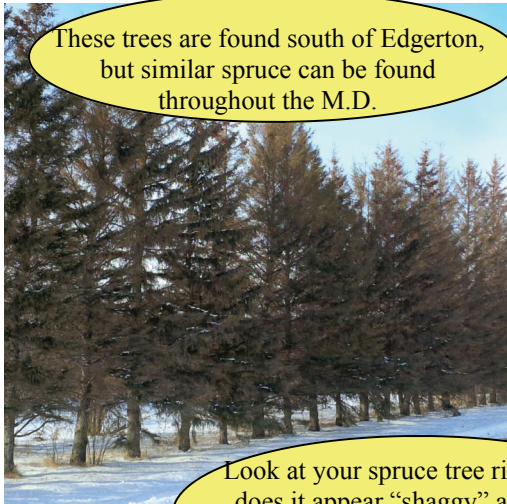


Call the M.D. Office (842-4454) for more information on initial sale day start (dependent on weather); which afterward during the season will be on Tuesday afternoons. Sales will be at the M.D. of Wainwright Rec Shop (located west of Wainalta motors). 2% LSC will be priced the same as last year, \$7.00 per bottle. (1 bottle treats 2.2 lbs of grain). With the potential for short supplies, there is a 2 case maximum order per farmer, per sale date.



Up-close look at the Yellow Headed Spruce Sawfly, who's head is more red-dish orange than yellow; looks to be a Hab's fan!

SHAGGY SPRUCE SHELTERBELT, YHSS the (stoppable) CULPRIT



These trees are found south of Edgerton, but similar spruce can be found throughout the M.D.

Look at your spruce tree right now, does it appear "shaggy" and dull. Trees are losing life from partial defoliation, and drying out.



YHSS actually looks like a fly in its mature "sawfly" form (which is difficult to see and identify), and can quickly fly around to the next host spruce tree. The easiest and

most efficient time to manage the pest is during the larvae or caterpillar phase in early July. This is when YHSS can be economically controlled with insecticide. If you have shaggy-looking spruce in your yard right now (March) be sure to check on them again this July. YHSS is easy to spot on your spruce tree with the naked eye; just grab a limb and look for worms. Once you see them, you will know what to look for, and easily spot them every time.



YHSS - Yellow Headed Spruce Sawfly, during it's caterpillar stage (early July) can ravage spruce trees; predominately White Spruce, however will attack Colorado variety as well. **The M.D. of Wainwright does have localized hot spots of this pest.** This pest can obliterate spruce shelterbelts; are you willing to loose your treeline, that has taken many years to mature?

Key tip- spruce missing needles at top 1/3 of tree.



YHSS are attracted to younger spruce 5 to 10 years old; however once established, they are not selective and can kill

entire spruce shelterbelt lines after successive seasons of defoliating. It takes a long time to grow a majestic spruce, plus the difficulty of getting trees established in our sandy soil M.D.; never mind the huge beneficial role spruce have for wind protection, so being diligent and doing what you can to ensure the health of your spruce is important. Some infested spruce will take multiple July insecticide sprays to wipe out the worms, but it is well worth the time and money spent.

REMINDER: DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR TREE SEEDLINGS FOR 2014 SPRING PLANTING, MOST TREE ORDER SUPPLIERS WILL BE STARTING TO RUN LOW OF SPECIAL STOCK AND QUANTITIES!



MAKE YOUR OWN TREE CUTTINGS



can be used for all types of plants to help them root, just add a cut piece of willow to your watering can!) Find a “specimen” tree in your yard that you like the mature size and shape of (as there

With the absence of the PFRA free seedling program (which no longer exists), the M.D. office continues to answer inquiries from people wanting information on tree seedlings. You can stop by the office, and pick up a “tree information package” with very good reference material on how to plant shelterbelts, plus planting space recommendations for different varieties, and also what different types of trees look like and their uses. In this package, there is also alternate tree supplier contact information, however at this time of year most suppliers are running low of popular choices. You should also consider local greenhouses for tree seedling stock as they may also offer growing guarantees with their products (which is also something important to consider).

Another option would be to make your own seedlings! It is not difficult to do, plus it is economical, and the existing parent tree that you would be using for seedling cuttings has already proved its worth of sustaining itself and thriving in our M.D. of Wainwright climate zone; so will it’s clones!

I have added this article to the newsletter in previous years as it is a popular topic, and I have been approached by people that have had mixed success with this process, so I’m adding more tips to this article for a more personal success approach.

This method can be used with either poplar or willow trees; if available utilize cut willow with your poplar cuttings as willow has a natural enzyme/hormone to help the rooting process (this hormone

are different varieties of both poplar and willow, and you will be in fact “cloning” the exact same plant, so pick something that is working for your function). Before bud break (when tiny leaves pop out of growing points) cut sections off the ends of branches of your poplar or willow tree (of last years growth only). You will want to cut nothing larger than half inch diameter of the branch, as the larger diameter will take longer to sprout and may not be as successful. Also, smaller “end of branch” cuttings have the tendency to dry out at the tip; they can still be used but may not yield the best results. Keep all your cuttings the approximate same size diameter and length = 1/4inch diameter and 1ft long. Also, try to have at least 2 buds on each cutting. Now~March is a good time to make cuttings, however since the ground is frozen you can not plant them; so store your cuttings either in the crisper of your fridge, or in a gunny sack or cardboard box, filled and covered with snow and placed in a snowbank on the northside of an outside building (the point is keeping cuttings cold and dormant until able to plant). When the soil has thawed and warmed enough to push a spade shovel in the ground and other trees have started to break bud and leaf out, is when you will want to place your cuttings into pails of water for 3 days, to allow them to absorb and swell with water. After the 3rd day, remove your



cuttings from water and plant them into the ground. It is very important to not keep your cuttings in water more than 3 days, as this wrecks the integrity of the plant and your success rate goes down. It must be mentioned to plant your cuttings the “right side down”, ensuring that the buds are pointing upward, think of how the tree grows naturally. After that, all you have to do is keep your cuttings watered while they establish their root systems underground.



It is critical the cuttings are not allowed to dry out (especially during June and July hot spells); one easy way to do this, is to add a small layer of mulch at the base of the planting, to keep

the moisture when and where it is needed most. Remember these cuttings have to establish roots underground, before they really start pushing growth on their tops! A.L.

FARMERS, WHAT TO DO WITH EMPTY GRAIN BAGS?

Any grain farmer that utilizes grain bags for storage of last years harvest before being marketed and shipped

bags for proper disposal (as the alternate method of burning plastics is not recommended).

unload it, stretch it out inside their shop, cut the plastic to the appropriate length, then feed it into their baler. The Wainwright Regional Waste to

Energy Facility, located at 1201 – 4th ave operates Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday’s from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information contact Carol at the Waste to Energy Facility at 780-842-4051.



The Waste-to-Energy facility has a baler (which is different than a roller); and compacts the plastic into bales of consistent size, to



be stored and picked up at a later date. If you bring in a grain bag (as clean as possible), the facility will help you

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TIME TO PRUNE OUT the “dog poop” ...

“Black-Knot” affects genus *prunus*, such as chokecherry bushes, and many other related cherry trees such as Nanking, Sour, Sand, plus plum and Saskatoon bushes and flowering May Day trees. It is a fungal disease (that happens to look a lot like dog poop!) These fungal growths girdle branches restricting nutrient supply, killing off the branch, and growths can re-infect the same tree and continue spreading to other susceptible plants in your yard.

The best thing to do is prune out the diseased branch (now is a good time, as the plant is still winter dormant), making a cut 6 inches below the infected growth with hand nippers or a small saw. Ensure that your cutting tool is disinfected with a bleach solution, between each cut as to not re-infect and spread the fungus. Do not leave the cut branches on the ground, or put into a compost pile, as these fungal bodies will be a source to re-infect your tree once spring comes with the first rains. Cut branch pieces should be burned to effectively destroy the fungus. If you live near a nature area with native wild chokecherries or Saskatoon bushes, you may choose to trim some of those too; to help protect ornamental, delicate (and expensive) greenhouse stock in your own yard.



Black-Knot is a commonly found fungal disease, that spreads quickly by spores in the air, girdling branches, killing them.

Why does your nose run when it's cold?
In trying to warm up cold air on the way to lungs, extra blood flow within nostrils leads to more mucus production.

Why do we shiver?
Muscle contractions produce heat, so when we get cold we shiver.

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Eyes
Eyeballs won't freeze because they are contained within the head, which your body works hard to keep warm. Also, tears are salty, which reduces the freezing point.

Ears
At greatest risk because there are no major muscles to produce heat.

Checkes
Turn red when surface blood vessels dilate as skin temperature falls below 10°C.

You gotta go:
You need to urinate more when you get cold. Exposure to cold causes reduction in blood flow to skin's surface, which reduces overall blood volume. Body's response is to reduce fluid volume by urinating.

Mother Nature's antifreeze!
Urine's temperature is about 37C – the temperature can't drop fast enough to freeze within the second it takes to hit the ground.

Finger control
12°C is the critical air temperature for good manual dexterity. 8°C for touch sensitivity.

Fingers, toes
The body will preserve heat by favouring the internal organs, thus reducing the flow of blood to the extremities, such as hands and feet.

Sources: ccohs.ca; Environment Canada
SUSAN BATSFORD, GRAPHICS EDITOR, TWITTER @SBATSE; INFOGRAPHIC BY MEGAN DINNER/QMIAGENCY

The Canadian Temperature Conversion Chart

- 50 Fahrenheit (10 C) Californians shiver uncontrollably. Canadians plant gardens.
- 35 Fahrenheit (1.6 C) Italian Cars won't start. Canadians drive with the windows down.
- 32 Fahrenheit (0 C) American water freezes. Canadian water gets thicker.
- 0 Fahrenheit (-17.9 C) New York City landlords finally turn on the heat. Canadians have the last cookout of the season.
- 60 Fahrenheit (-51 C) Santa Claus abandons the North Pole. Canadian Girl Guides sell cookies door-to-door.
- 109.9 Fahrenheit (-78.5 C) Carbon dioxide freezes makes dry ice. Canadians pull down their earflaps.
- 173 Fahrenheit (-114 C) Ethyl alcohol freezes. Canadians get frustrated when they can't thaw the keg!
- 459.67 Fahrenheit (-273.15 C) Absolute zero; all atomic motion stops. Canadians start saying "cold, eh?"
- 500 Fahrenheit (-295 C) Hell freezes over. The Edmonton Oilers win the Stanley Cup!

WAINWRIGHT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address 921-3rd Ave
Wainwright, AB T9W 1C5

Call (780)842-2673

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per 100 cows,
at 30ft length =
4 windbreaks.

\$10,000 AVAILABLE ON 50/50 COST SHARE FOR PORTABLE WINDBREAKS & CALF SHELTERS, NEED ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN



Need a
completed
Environmental
Farm Plan,
"EFP".

| ELIGIBLE ACTIONS/ITEMS | INELIGIBLE ACTIONS/ITEMS |
|--|--|
| Construction materials and supplies for portable windbreaks/shelters | Annual maintenance and repair costs |
| In-kind labour (\$25/hr). NOTE: Costs are eligible to a maximum of 120 feet per 100 cows | Permanent shelters and windbreaks |
| Alberta Ag-Info Centre: 403-310-3276 Diana Bingham: 780-632-5487 | In-kind costs associated with use of welder |
| • You must be an active producer operating in Alberta | Purchase of welder or welding materials |
| • You must have completed an Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) | Costs for transportation and moving of shelters and windbreaks |
| • You must submit a copy of your EFP Certificate or Letter of Completion along with your Application | Any type of feed bunks/feed storage |
| | Portable livestock corral panels |



Yes, the MD of Wainwright does offer EFP workbooks. It is a binder with approx 20 chapters that cover all environmental risk situations on farm (fuel tanks, chemical use and storage, silage storage, cattle operations\management~ grain and cattle production) all basically in relation to water sources on the farm (location to water wells, or distance to run off\ potential risk for groundwater and also surface water). The workbook is straight forward in questions (just answer what you are currently doing on farm) no right or wrong answer. Some guys find it takes long\large binder but if you take a couple afternoons it can be completed (approx 8hrs, depending on farm operation). Once finished, you return the binder back and it goes for review (to insure its complete and for consistency). Once your workbook passes review, you receive "completion letter" plus a reference letter of info that your workbook showed could be helpful with suggestions for minimizing farming risks to the environment. The workbook\ program is easy to access through MD Wain, plus it is a step to enter into some programs for Growing Forward2 grants. Overall, it is a very good environmental awareness tool for a farmer. It is straight forward environment\ ag- operations procedures that are usually already being done on farm.

Properly placed portable shelters and windbreaks help minimize the impact of livestock on the environment by reducing livestock density and spreading out feeding and bedding areas in the winter months. This approach decreases manure nutrient build-up and protects water sources and sensitive areas.