



County
MAY 2021
Connector



GOOD FOOD BOX

Fresh Produce at a fraction of the Cost!

The Good Food Box program was established to encourage healthy eating while making it affordable for individuals and families alike. The program has been in our area since the fall of 2014 and offers fresh fruits and vegetables to its clients.

The program is available to anyone who is interested in taking part; no restrictions to numbers of boxes purchased or eligibility of participants.



Boxes can be purchased in three different sizes:

SMALL which offers 25-30 pounds of food= \$27
MEDIUM which offers 35-40 pounds of food= \$32
LARGE which offers 45-50 pounds of food= \$37

**There is a \$2 handling/shipping fee which is also added to the initial cost.*

Each box contains the basic produce staples: potatoes, carrots, onions, apples and oranges with additional seasonal fruits and vegetables rounding out the weight.

The program is made possible because the Community Kitchens Program of Calgary (with whom we partner) bypasses the retailers and goes directly to importers and produce handlers in the province.



Participants pre-order, pay and pick up their boxes at Wheatland FCSS, Wheatland Administrative Office at the corner of Range Road 243 and Highway 1.

Upcoming 2021 order and delivery dates:

Order before 3 p.m. on:

April 27

May 25

June 15

Summer Break

September 21

October 19

November 23

Pickup your box on:

May 7

June 4

June 25

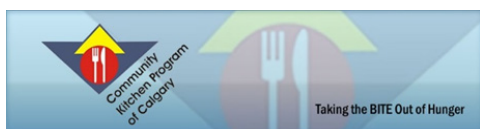
October 1

October 29

December 3

Christmas Break

Note: payment must be received two days prior to delivery date.



For additional information or to order your box, please call Wheatland FCSS at 403-934-5335 or visit www.wfcss.org



Wheatland County VOTES!

Nominations for Councillors will be accepted by the Returning Officer Tracy Buteau from **Monday, January 1, 2021, until 12 p.m. on Monday, September 20, 2021.**

Prospective candidates filing their nominations must schedule an appointment with the Returning Officer. Further information on nomination requirements is available within the Nomination Information Package which can be found on the Wheatland County website.

The information provides a brief introduction of the requirements for running for office in Wheatland County. Candidates are responsible for understanding all legislation concerning elections, including nomination, eligibility, campaigning restrictions, campaign finance and disclosure, election offences and prohibitions at voting stations.

[wheatlandcounty.ca/
municipal-election](http://wheatlandcounty.ca/municipal-election)



COMPASS for
the Caregiver
Online

Caregiving can be a stressful, isolating, and overwhelming experience. And Covid-19 adds to the stress level and anxiety. The COMPASS for the Caregiver program helps caregivers balance their own well-being with the challenges of caregiving. Join our trained facilitators as they walk us through a 4-week virtual course. Sessions will run:

Monday, May 31st	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Monday, June 7th	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Monday, June 14th	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Monday, June 21st	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Monday, June 28th	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm – if needed

If you are a resident of Wheatland County / Strathmore please contact Joanne Simpson (Ph: 403-361-7277) or Lynn Walker (Ph: 403-934-5335) for more information and to register. Wheatland FCSS will absorb the cost of registration for local residents. Residents outside of Wheatland County will pay \$45 for registration fee and manual.

Payment Options During COVID-19

While Wheatland County's administration office remains closed due to COVID-19, we encourage you to take advantage of our various alternate payment methods to pay for tax and utility bills, permits, and other services.



Pay at your Financial Institution (Bank)

Pay your tax and utility bills in person at your financial institution. However, please be aware of modified hours and restrictions due to COVID-19.



Online Banking

Tax and utility bill payments can be made online with your financial institution. Please allow 3-5 business days for processing. Visit our website for more information.



By Mail

Cheques or money orders, including remittance slips, can be mailed to: Wheatland County
242006 Rge Rd 243, Hwy 1 RR 1
Strathmore, AB, T1P 1J6



Debit or Cash

Residents can visit the Administration Office to pay for bills and services with cash and debit. Front office staff must limit visitors within the lobby and wait times may vary.



By Credit Card

Visit us in person or complete the online credit card authorization form to pay for services. Refer to the [PaySimply.ca](https://www.paymentsimply.ca) method for utility or tax bill payments.



By Drop Box

An overnight drop box is located to the left of the main doors of the administration office. Please deposit cheques or money orders, do not leave cash.



NEW PaySimply.ca

PaySimply is an approved payment method for the Canada Revenue Agency. Please note, that the user pays a 2.5% convenience fee at the time of transaction. Please allow 3 business days for payment processing.



TIPP or Autopay

The Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) is a popular program that allows you to pay your property taxes by monthly installment. An auto-payment program is also available for utility bill payments.

Wheatland County Mailing Address Change

Wheatland County
242006 Range Road 243
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4



Many of our residents have or will receive a letter from Canada Post regarding a mandatory change to their mailing address as part of their rural readdressing program. This readdressing also directly affects us, Wheatland County, as our office is rurally located.

Thankfully, to ease this transition, Canada Post will continue to deliver all items bearing the former mailing address and postal code for a period of one year, however, we ask that all mail directed to Wheatland County be sent using our new mailing address, after April 19, 2021, to prevent any delays.

Effective April 19, 2021, Wheatland County's new mailing address is:

Wheatland County
242006 Range Road 243
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

You may continue to see our old address as we phase it out in the coming months, however, should you need to mail us anything, please be sure to use our new address as mentioned above.

We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.



Pollinator Projects

Putting the Buzz in Agricultural Production

The value of pollinators and the benefits of establishing pollinator projects on your farm

The pollinator species that live on your farm are not limited to just to bees, but also include butterflies, moths, beetles, and birds. These species are so important, they play an essential role in plant reproduction and seed production for many of our food crops. Many of these species are also considered pest suppressing and can help to control insect pests. The economic value of the services that pollinators provides to Canadians is in the billions of dollars each year.

When considering plant species for your pollinator project, it is important to include many different species to ensure that there are flowers blooming from May to October (or as long as possible). It will also be important to manage grazing rotations carefully (ie. single pass, late season) to maintain forage production and the function of your project.

Pollinator projects can be established on marginal farmland such as field edges, corners, eroded lands, hill tops, saline areas and riparian streambanks. Pollinators will often benefit from having a nearby water source (i.e. wetland) and winter habitat can be provided in shelterbelts or ecobuffers that could also include flowering species (ie. Saskatoon, Lilac, Chokecherry, or Prickly Rose). Avoid disturbing the soil in your project area as many as 80% of insect pollinators burrow in the ground.

If you build it, they will come. Alberta studies show that the number of pollinator species will increase once a project has been established.

Visit www.awes-ab.ca/publications/native-pollinator-friendly-plants

Forage species selection, establishment & management

There are benefits of both native and agronomic plant species for a pollinator project, native plants may have a more beneficial relationship with pollinators, whereas agronomic species will have a more palatable cost-benefit. Which species you choose will depend on your goals, budget and time commitment.

Establishment can be difficult due to spring moisture deficits and competition from weeds. It will be important to deal with any weed issues in advance of seeding. Consider planting bunch grasses or other non-aggressive grasses to diversify your forage species, and especially if planting bloating legumes. Although native species don't require fertilizer, it will benefit the agronomic species. Soils that are deficient in Phosphorus will hinder seedlings establishment. Once established (in a biodiverse mix) legumes will be better able to liberate unavailable P from the soil.

Funding options for pollinator projects

The Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship Program (WASP) will fund pollinator projects on agricultural land at 50% up to \$5000.

ALUS Wheatland provides annual financial support to producers, applicants to the WASP program are eligible for up to \$300/acre/year.

For more program information contact

Sarah Schumacher Ph:403-333-6943 or
Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca



ALUS





Agronomic Species

These nitrogen fixing plant species have potential for managed grazing and also benefit pollinators

Species	Characteristics	Grazing Management
Sainfoin <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Good establishment, early bloomer and also good for late season grazing because of leaf retention. Not tolerant of salinity or saturated soils, shorter lived than alfalfa.	Excellent high quality and high yielding forage (~30% protein), non-bloating, can reduce bloat when grown with alfalfa. Requires longer for re-growth after grazing.
Purple Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i> Yellow Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i>	Long lived with deep taproots, tolerant of drought and wide variety of moisture conditions.	Excellent forage value, requires careful management to reduce the risk of bloat. Graze yellow blossomed species early and lighter (1/3 removal) and it will have a long blooming period and regrowth yields close to most other alfalfa varieties.
Alsike Clover <i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	Short lived (but a 2 year establishment will increase plant longevity), not tolerant of drought conditions, but will tolerate standing water and waterlogged soils.	Do not graze if there are black spots on the leaves, fungi can cause photosensitization in cows and horses, also potential for bloat in cattle. Best used for grazing.
Bird's- Foot Trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Good establishment, short lived (1-3 years), good tolerance of drought, salinity, heavy clay soils and can tolerate standing water and saturated soils.	Good for grazing, palatable, fair for haying, 20-25% protein, lower production compared with other agronomic species. Potential to become invasive but can also be outcompeted by aggressive grass species.
Red Clover <i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Hardy but short lived, poor tolerance to salinity and dry soils.	Good protein and palatability, good for hay, grazing and silage. Requires careful management to reduce the risk of bloat and fungus.
Cicer milkvetch <i>Astragalus cicer</i>	Long lived and tolerant of a wide range of conditions, but can be difficult to establish (may take 2 growing seasons).	Non-bloating, good for late season grazing because of leaf retention, requires careful management; overgrazing will cause this species to decrease but there is also potential for it to become invasive.

Grass Species Companion: Bunch grasses or non-aggressive grasses, discuss locally appropriate options with your seed supplier

Native Plant Species

Native plant species that benefit pollinators and have potential for managed grazing

Species	Characteristics	Grazing Management after flowering
Milk Vetch <i>Astragalus canadensis</i> , <i>Astragalus americanus</i>	May do better in moist soils, <i>canadensis</i> has good, but slow establishment. Both are nitrogen fixing.	Good grazing potential. Short lived, overgrazing will cause this species to decrease. Other milk vetch species may be toxic to livestock.
American Vetch <i>Vicia americana</i>	This is an early successional species, establishes better with moisture, tolerates medium to coarse soils. Used for soil stabilization and erosion control. Nitrogen fixing.	Good to excellent grazing potential, palatable with 20% protein. Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Hedysarum spp. <i>Hedysarum americanum</i> , <i>alpinum</i> , <i>boreal</i>	Tolerant of poor soils and a wide variety of conditions. Nitrogen fixing.	Fair to excellent grazing potential, overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Sticky Purple Geranium <i>Geranium viscosissimum</i>	Good to excellent establishment, palatable. May establish better in moist soils. Actively mycorrhizal.	Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Fireweed <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Tolerant of a wide range of soil and moisture conditions (including alkaline).	Fair to good grazing potential, high in nutrients and palatable from summer to fall (more palatable earlier in the season). Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Purple Peavine, <i>Lathyrus venosus</i> Cream Colored Peavine, <i>Lathyrus ochroleucus</i>	Not really considered a prairie plant, its has creeping rhizomes and establishment can be difficult.	Excellent grazing potential in the summer, very palatable and up to 30% protein. Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease.
Tufted White Prairie Aster <i>Aster ericoides</i> Showy Aster, <i>Aster conspicuous</i>	Grows well in moist open prairie. Actively mycorrhizal.	Good grazing potential. Overgrazing will cause this species to decrease
Northern Bedstraw <i>Gallium boreale</i>	Grows well in moist open prairie. Actively mycorrhizal.	Excellent grazing potential. May increase with overgrazing.

Grass Species: Include native or agronomic bunch grasses or non-aggressive grasses that are good for grazing, suggested species such as June Grass, Canada Wild Rye, and Plains Rough Fescue (which is rhizomatous but not aggressive).

Note: These species may be difficult to source, there are many other native species that benefit pollinators, we have only included the species that have potential for grazing.

References: Alberta Agriculture (2009) Alberta Beef Forage Manual; Alberta Agriculture (1996) A guide to using Native Plants on Disturbed Lands; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (2018) Sainfoin for Western Canada; Alberta Agriculture (2016) Alberta Range Plants and Their Classification; Majak, W. (2008) Stock-poisoning Plants of Western Canada; Grant Lastiwka **Photo Credit:** Sonja Bloom, FFGA



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

This is FREE income tax preparation for Indigenous Peoples, those who are disabled, those with a modest income, newcomers, seniors, and students.

You are eligible if:

- You are not able to prepare tax return on your own.
- It is a simple tax situation.
- You meet the income threshold guidelines:
 - Individual - up to \$35,000
 - 2 persons - up to \$45,000
 - 3 persons - up to \$47,500
 - 4 persons - up to \$50,000
 - For each additional person in the family - add \$2,500 to the family income
 - Business income within box 048 on a T4A slip is less than \$1,000
 - Interest income less than \$1,000

Excludes: self-employed or have business expenses; rental income and expenses; mileage claims; have capital gains or losses; returns for those who are deceased.

CONTACT

The Wheatland Family and
Community Support Services
at Ph: 403-934-5335 to book an
appointment!



REGISTER NOW!



Is a permit required to change the use of a building?

A change in a building from one approved use to a different use may trigger the need for a building permit, if the occupancy under the Alberta Building Code changes. The change in classification is determined by a Safety Codes Officer in accordance with the National Building Code, Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)) 2019

For example, a home does not have the same code requirements or restrictions as a gas station



Let us know if you have any questions!



WHEATLAND & AREA *Hospice Society*

Life and Death Matters

What a dying person needs at the end of their life (palliative care) is not what a living person needs to stay alive (acute care). Palliative and end of life care provide comfort and dignity. During the palliative journey, which may take months to years, patients want their families to be present and comfortable; but they don't want to be a burden to them. Palliative care's holistic approach provides emotional and physical comfort, but also caregiver support and education, spiritual care, and bereavement support.

Recognizing death as a part of life, Wheatland & Area Hospice Society (WAHS) aspires to provide this type of quality, rural palliative care in our community. WAHS has been working with Alberta Health Services (AHS), local physicians, nurses, pharmacies, other caregiver stakeholders, and a dedicated group of volunteers to provide a number of programs and services that enable palliative patients to stay in their home or community longer, and with less stress.

WAHS Bedside Respite volunteers could spend time in home, or hospital with a palliative patient so that caregivers may take a break. These volunteers can decrease caregiver burnout and promote positive palliative care principles. They are also able to provide end of life vigil called "No One Dies Alone" in hospital if the family is unable to attend.

A very special WAHS service is *Palliative Navigation* which helps integrate and coordinate palliative care from a patient and caregiver's perspective. Phone calls, visits, and improving access to resources are just a few of the ways the Palliative Navigator can lighten and make sense an overwhelming and ever-changing amount of information and expectations put upon patient and family.

Unfortunately Covid -19 has postponed WAHS's Dying2Learn lecture series. Timely and topical information is shared by palliative experts, but more importantly communal support and a sense of "we're all in this together" happens. Eventually, WAHS would like to have a network of specifically trained grief support volunteers.

As you can well imagine, providing specifically focused rural palliative care by a not-for-profit organization is a huge undertaking. WAHS has partnered with Strathmore Library, Golden Hill School Division, a number of Lions Clubs, and even local quilting guilds for support and assistance. WAHS is very appreciative of everyone's enthusiasm and compassion in chipping in any which way they can.

Our biggest partnership to date is with Wheatland Housing Management Body. While some palliative patients may choose palliative care at home or in hospital, others may choose hospice which they need to leave family, friends and community to access in Calgary. By joining WHMB in a brand new lodge facility, a three to six bed hospice can be built and enable Wheatland to take care of our own family and friends, in our own community. Following worldwide hospice practices, there will be no charge to patients for these services. Like all hospices, funding models will be a combination of AHS and community contributions. And with this partnership, caring for seniors who made valuable contributions to our communities in the past, and caring for the dying who leave behind the lost future potential of their lives seems a genuine and compassionate approach to care in our community.

Watch for community fundraising projects such as Hike for Hospice or (post-covid) Steering Towards Hospice Gala. Farming for Hospice, with very generous support from Nutrien and other input sponsors, is WAHS's newest project and has a unique rural flavour. Buy an acre of canola with us! Finally, WAHS is also appreciative of third-party fundraising, big or small, that brings Wheatland one step closer to its hospice facility dream. With hope and hard work, anything is possible.

www.wheatlandhospice.ca



MANAGEMENT of RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRRELS

Richardson's ground squirrels are a native prairie species that play an important role in the ecology of Alberta as a source of food for predatory species. They are a burrowing species that live in large colonies, they eat a wide variety of food which include grasses, flowering plants, shrubs, and insects. Males emerge from the burrow from late February to mid March depending on the year and location; females follow approximately 2 weeks later. While establishing their territory they continue to survive on body fat until the last 2 weeks of March to the middle of April. Spring is the optimum time for implementing management options, before vegetation greens up when there are no other food sources available and before the young are born.

Richardson's ground squirrels are a problem for producers because they can create rough land surfaces which may damage equipment and injure livestock, they can also damage crops or reduce yields. With Strychnine being phased out in 2021 there are other options to consider for the management of this species. Remember when using any pesticide products to always follow a product's label.

An **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy** consists of many components that include a wide variety of input considerations to produce an overall beneficial effect with minimal environmental effect and risk to human safety. The greatest IPM benefit occurs when several techniques or strategies are used in conjunction and on a continuous basis. The IPM model is designed to produce long term, sustainable management of ground squirrel damage, and it requires a variety of inputs.

BAITING

Control with poisoned oats, wheat or barley is the most practical method for removing ground squirrels from large area. Poisoned grain baits must be placed within the burrow entrance or in a safe and secure bait station. Directions on the label should be strictly followed. About one tablespoon of bait should be placed in each burrow. Each burrow will usually have several entrances, so not every hole needs to be baited. Baited entrances need not be closer than 8 to 10m apart.

An alternative to hand baiting or spot baiting is a bait station. Most farm retailers carry a wide variety of commercially manufactured bait stations that are affordable, durable and work very well.

ROZOL READY-TO-USE (RTU)

A ready to use product made with feed-grade grain, this bait is a moisture-resistant formulation that contains the active ingredient chlorophacinone.

RAMIK GROUND SQUIRREL BAIT

The Ramik Green bait system uses food processing technology to produce an unusually palatable and highly-attractive bait that retains its freshness, sweetness and effectiveness in a long-lasting nugget form. The active ingredient is diphacinone.



FUMIGANTS

Ground squirrels can be eradicated from their burrow systems by using one of several toxic gases called fumigants. However, fumigants are only effective if ground squirrels are present in their burrows, so fumigation should only be done early in the morning or late in the day or when the rodents are not aboveground (i.e., during cool, cloudy or rainy weather).

PHOSTOXIN

Phostoxin produces a lethal gas through the slow sublimation process of the pellet similar to that of a mothball. Phostoxin produces an almost odourless phosphine gas that quickly enters the animal's bloodstream causing death by asphyxiation.

Note: Wheatland County hosts a Farmer Pesticide Certificate course annually which is required for the use of this chemical.

ZINC PHOSPHIDE

Metal phosphides can be used as rodenticides where a mixture of food and zinc phosphide is used as a bait. The acid in the rodent's digestive system reacts with the zinc phosphide to form poisonous phosphine gas, which can eliminate a rodent after a single feeding.

GIANT DESTROYERS

An easy-to-use Gasser that eliminates tunnelling rodents and animals. Entrances are to be covered to restrict rodents escaping before igniting the fuse to produce the asphyxiating gasses in their burrows.

ROCON

RoCon starts as a liquid concentrate and is mixed with water inside an application tank. Before application a plastic cone is inserted into the burrow entrance(s). The cone acts as a physical barrier that prevents the rodent from escaping. The mixture is then pumped from the tank through an aeration nozzle. This causes the mixture to foam. During application, the foam is pumped through the plastic cone and into the rodent burrow. The foam expands and completely fills the holes. The air inside is displaced and the rodent is forced to inhale the foam, causing it to quickly asphyxiate.

TRAPS

Although trapping is labour-intensive, it can be highly effective, particularly in small areas or where rodent numbers are few. Trapping can be conducted any time of year, but the best results will be achieved soon after adult ground squirrels emerge from winter hibernation. Always place leghold traps as deep within the burrow as possible to avoid capturing non-target animals such as birds, skunks or pets. Check traps regularly and quickly dispatch and dispose of captured animals.

NATURAL CONTROL

Richardson's ground squirrels are prey for many ground and avian predators that include coyote, fox, badger, skunk, weasel, crow, magpie, raven, owls and most large birds of prey. Many predators rely on ground squirrels as an intermediate food source while some, like the ferruginous hawk, depend almost entirely on this single food source to fledge their chicks.

Juvenile male ground squirrels make up most of the available food source for predators; up to half are lost to predation alone. Although females are also eaten by predators, their mortality rate is somewhat lower than males due to their differences in territorial behaviour. While natural attrition accounts for a good portion of ground squirrel mortality, the overall effect in reducing damage is not significant. Even so, encouraging natural predators onto or near ground squirrel colonies is worthwhile.

Retaining isolated patches and corridors of vegetation for ground nesting birds and mammals as well as erecting artificial platforms for aerial nesters will always help. Promoting vegetation growth around or near watercourses, fence lines, sloughs and other natural locations will also encourage natural predators.

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Some research has been conducted on the effects of tall vegetation (over 30 cm) on ground squirrel movement. The data, while limited, indicates that squirrels avoid tall vegetation stands, preferring more open grass fields. This finding means that medium to high vegetation could be useful in preventing or slowing down ground squirrel invasion.

Studies have shown that grazing practices that favour taller grass stands may reduce the number of RGS because of their preference for short grasses. Whenever possible maintain vegetation on pastures or forage at a height greater than 15 cm.

For more information about managing Richardson's Ground Squirrels

Contact Wheatland County's Agriculture and Environmental Department

Ph: 403-934-3321 or

agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca





NOT SURE WHICH PERMIT YOU NEED?

Call us at 403-934-3321 or send an email anytime to safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca. The Safety Codes Technician is available to assist with questions or application submissions on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Completed Safety Code Permit applications can be submitted anytime by email to safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca.

WHEN DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT?

Generally speaking, whenever building a structure, you will require a building permit.

WHAT OTHER PERMITS DO I REQUIRE?

Depending on the nature and scope of your project, you may also require electrical, gas, plumbing, and sewage permits.

DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR MOVING A MOBILE OR MODULAR HOME?

Yes. Your home was built off-site, however, the on-site work such as foundation/or blocking still requires a permit.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE PERMITS I NEED?

All of the Safety Code application forms and development permit applications can be found on the Wheatland County website at: <https://wheatlandcounty.ca/document-category/forms/>

INSPECTIONS

Park Enterprises Ltd. is Wheatland County's Safety Codes Inspection Agency. They complete inspections for building, gas, electrical, plumbing, and private sewage permits. If you require an inspection, please contact Park at 1-800-621-5440 or send them an email contact@parkinspections.com.

The conversation around shipping containers is frequent and we have experienced a lot of confusion and frustration around shipping containers and how they impact safety codes. We hope to clarify what is required from a code perspective when it comes to relocating a shipping container for storage purposes.

The Alberta Building Code does not exempt shipping containers from permitting requirements and recognizes these structures as a relocated structure therefore, the code requirements for relocation apply.

Any modifications to the shipping container to create a new use will require engineer involvement.

Is a building permit required to relocate a shipping container to use it as storage?

YES The Alberta Building Code requires a building permit for relocated structures and shipping containers fall into this category.

If you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to our Safety Codes Technician

safetycodes@wheatlandcounty.ca

For more information please contact
Development Officer Suzanne Hayes or
Safety Codes Technician Cindy Ramsay

Wheatland County WEEDUCATION

Phragmites



Invasive Phragmites

Phragmites australis, subsp. australis
also known as Common Reed, and Canada's Worst Weed
Alberta Weed Act Designation: None

Phragmites is an invasive perennial grass that was introduced from Eurasia. Spread of this weed has had serious consequences for wetlands in North America.

Impacts of Phragmites:

- Crowds out native vegetation and decreases biodiversity
- Changes hydrology and nutrient cycling
- Provides poor habitat and food for wildlife
- Grows very quickly and is difficult to control
- Increases fire and road safety hazards
- Negatively impacts recreational activities such as swimming, boating and angling



Visit www.abinvasives.ca
For Weed Factsheets

Phragmites is an invasive species that is of significant concern in some eastern provinces, and there have now been a few locations in Southern Alberta where it has become established.

1. Plant

Earlier in the season the flower looks purplish-green, turning tan as it dries, it is full and highly branched (15-50cm long). The stem is green turning beige or tan up to 5m tall. The leaf is large, linear, 2-4 cm wide, blue-ish and green. It can be spread by seed, dispersed by wind and water.

2. Infestation

Phragmites forms very dense colonies. There are some similar native species which are not as tall or densely populated.

3. Habitat

It is mostly found in coastal or freshwater wetlands and river riparian areas and in ditches.

4. Root

Phragmites is spread by large underground creeping roots (that can grow up to 3m in a growing season, it can regrow from just a small segment).

To help prevent the spread of Phragmites in Alberta, contact George (below) if you spot something that fits the description (very tall and dense); avoid bringing in soil from unreliable/unknown sources on to your land; sanitize equipment coming onto your land; and don't purchase from a plant nursery. Controlling invasive Phragmites before it becomes well-established will reduce the environmental impacts, time, and significant costs. The use of a single control measure will likely not be effective.



Contact George Bloom, Agricultural Services Officer for information about invasive species management in Wheatland County at Ph: 403-934-4949 or George.Bloom@wheatlandcounty.ca



ROSEBUD WATERSHED FUNDING PROGRAM

100% Funding for Livestock Producers for off-site watering systems and streambank fencing

Ranchers play an important role in protecting riparian streambanks and improving water quality in the Rosebud Watershed. These projects also benefit livestock health and flood and drought resiliency on a farm.

The Rocky View County and Wheatland County agricultural departments are excited to work with producers in our region over the next few years on streambank projects.

Applicants to this program may also be eligible for ALUS funding which pays landowners annual per acre payments for conservation projects.

Program Contacts



Wheatland County

Sarah Schumacher
PH: 403-333-6943
Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca



Rocky View County

Matthew Chilakos
PH: 403-478-8277
Email: MChilakos@rockyview.ca



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
Cultivating Communities



**WHEATLAND
COUNTY**

Where There's Room to Grow



ROADSIDE HAYING

Applications are now being accepted!

**Landowners wishing to hay municipal Right-Of-Way must
make an application by May 31, 2021**

To apply, fill out an Access and Work Agreement
For more information or to fill out an agreement, visit our website or contact
Gay Mowat, Administrative Assistant to Agriculture and Environment at
Ph: 403-361-2166 or Gay.Mowat@wheatlandcounty.ca





WE HAVE A NEW ADDRESS!

Wheatland County
242006 Range Road 243
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

T: 403-934-3321 F: 403-934-4889
www.wheatlandcounty.ca
[@wheatlandcounty](https://twitter.com/wheatlandcounty)