What would you like to see in the next Weed Times?

Send it to us at mwca@mtweed.org
June Education

Every month there are different educational posts that are done from MSU. Check it out below:
Monthly Weed Posts - MSU Extension Invasive Plants | Montana State University (msuinvasiveplants.org)

This month the weed post features resources to help identify invasive grasses in Montana. See the links below:
Identifying Invasive Annual Grasses in Montana - YouTube
Identifying ventenata early in summer - YouTube

If you have follow-up questions for Jane Mangold, please email her at jane.mangold@montana.edu or check out the MSU Extension YouTube channel.

Tech, Tools, Tips and Tricks

Preemergent herbicides can be useful tools to control invasive annual plants that threaten western rangelands; however, herbicides can sometimes negatively impact desirable plant species. Indaziflam, a preemergent herbicide, was approved for use in rangelands in 2020 and shows great promise for control of annual invaders, however more research is needed to understand its impacts to the nontarget plant community and the soil seedbank. One Montana State University graduate student, Jordan Meyer-Morey, recently published research that looked at the efficacy of indaziflam, to control nonnative annual mustards (Alyssum spp.) and evaluated potential nontarget effects on diverse plant communities in Yellowstone National Park. Read more on Jordan’s research here: Cambridge University Press [cambridge.org]
Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC, headquartered in Collierville, Tennessee, is one of the foremost agronomic solutions providers in the United States. Helena markets and sells inputs that improve agricultural productivity for greater customer returns. This includes seed and seed treatments, fertilizer and application services, crop protectants, financial services and precision ag services. Helena also has its own line of products through Helena Products Group, which includes adjuvants, crop protection products, fertilizers, and seed treatments. Helena’s theme of People...Products...Knowledge... reinforces the company’s commitment to helping customers succeed through knowledgeable and dedicated people, useful and unique products and the latest proven technologies.

Across the country, Helena has close to 6,000 employees that work in over 500 branch locations, as well as division offices. In Montana, there are 3 wholesale offices in Billings, Great Falls, and Sidney as well as 8 retail locations throughout the state and one in Wyoming.

Rory Lewis is a representative for Helena with a focus on range and pasture. He was born and raised in Reed Point, Montana on a family cow/calf ranch. His family also managed Farmers Union Trading Co. in Columbus for many years where he would work in the store of the full-service gas station. The retail store sold herbicides which is what lead him to his eventual career at Helena Agri-Enterprises after completing Ag Business degrees at Sheridan College and Montana State University in Bozeman. With his Certified Crop Advisor license, however, he does service growers and ag retailers with agronomic advice and crop protection products. Rory spends his free time bow hunting, fishing, and spending time around cattle with his fiancé Kendra Joyce who runs a self-started, non-profit organization called Cutting Fences, servicing individuals in agriculture who have sustained life altering injuries.
News and Training Resources

The Montana Department of Agriculture and Frontier Psychiatry have partnered to provide free access to counseling for Montanans involved in agriculture. Funded through the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN), this partnership provides a variety of services, including individual counseling, tele-health, and medication management, at no cost to the participant.

The Counseling Access for Montana Ag (CAMA) program was created to address challenges facing those working in agriculture and ensure that farm and ranch families are receiving the support they need when experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, or other mental health concerns.

Montana Student Loan Assistance Program Preserves Family Farms and Ranches

4/8/2022 | Tags: Student Loan Assistance Program, Young Ag Producers, Funding Opportunity, Grants, Director Christy Clark

The Montana Department of Agriculture’s (MDA) Student Loan Assistance Program is now accepting applications. Established during the 2019 legislative session, this program provides student loan assistance to Montana’s college-educated youth pursuing careers in farming or ranching....

Hay Hotline Helps Ag Producers List and Look for Available Forage or Pasture


As dry conditions persist throughout the state, the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) would like to remind farmers and ranchers that they can use the Hay Hotline, an online forum, to list their forage for sale or donation, and/or search listings for a variety of forage or pasture posted by...
Meet a Member

Hello everyone,

My name is Parker Osterloh, I am the new weed coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and am based out of Helena. I have been with department since the middle of March, so I am still very new and am looking forward to getting fully up to speed. Prior to coming to DNRC I worked for MDT as a transportation planner. As the weed coordinator for DNRC I will oversee noxious weed management on state trust lands owned and managed by the department for the benefit of the common schools and other beneficiaries. I am excited to be in this role because proper land management and weed control will have a direct and visible impact on the health of diverse ecosystems both on and off state trust land and will help to facilitate the goals of DNRC. For me to be successful in my role it will be important to create meaningful working relationships with many of you and I look forward to meeting those who I haven’t met already. One of the main goals I have is to develop a weed management plan that would outline how DNRC handles weed control on its approximately 5 million acres of trust land. This plan would allow us as an agency to have standardized procedures for identifying, addressing, and monitoring noxious weed issues on trust land.

Outside of work I enjoy spending time in the outdoors, fly-fishing and waterfowl hunting are some of my favorite pursuits. I enjoy training our black lab puppy, Crash, who will be a duck dog eventually. When I’m not able to be outside I am usually working on renovating our house, doing something with the volunteer fire department, or reading a book. I graduated from and played football at Virginia Tech and still love to support the program whenever their games are on TV. (Go Hokies!) My wife and I are also expecting our first child later this summer and we are excited to grow our family and raise our daughter in such an amazing state.
Montana Invasive Species Education (MISE)

As part of Agriculture in the Classroom, the Montana Invasive Species Education (MISE) project is a K-8 educational curricula aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness about invasive species that are and can be detrimental to Montana’s agriculture, recreation/tourism industry, the economy and our environment. Target grades are 6-8 for the lesson plans but can be adapted for younger or older classes.

Updated in 2020, MISE was revised to include eight new species: white-nose syndrome (which affect bats), 3 species of invasive grasses (including medusahead and ventenata (two species most recently added to the state noxious weed list), 3 species of invasive trees and feral swine, and new curriculum.

To request a MISE packet or updated materials to augment an existing packet, contact Liz Lodman, Montana Invasive Species Council coordinator at liz.lodman@mt.gov or Shantell Frame-Martin, MT Noxious Weed Education Campaign at Shantell.frame@montana.edu.
Montana is fortunate to be one of the few states to host a statewide invasive species council. In 2015 the Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) was established by executive order and written into Montana Statute (80-7-12). The council members are a diverse group of scientists and resource managers charged with developing “a science-based, comprehensive program to identify, prevent, eliminate, reduce, and mitigate the impacts of invasive species in Montana.”

The council includes staff from state agencies (Agriculture, Commerce, DNRC, FWP, and Transportation); and a representative from county weed districts, conservation districts, Montana state university extension service, agriculture, conservation organizations, wildlife organizations, fishing organizations, hydropower utility industry, private landowners, and each of the tribal governments in Montana.

Representatives from federal agencies attend MISC meetings to provide input and help facilitate project coordination but are not voting members of the council.

MISC activities include hosting science advisory panels and rapid response exercises; coordinating education and outreach activities; creating an invasive species law compendium of Federal, State, Local, and Tribal regulations; coordinating on regional invasive species issues like feral swine; and watching for emerging invasive species that pose a threat to Montana’s natural resources, economy, and quality of life.

When first established, an important task MISC undertook was developing the Montana Invasive Species Framework. MISC worked with agencies, natural resource communities and stakeholders to assess the status of invasive species management in Montana and identify goals to prevent the negative effects. The Framework provides a roadmap to improve coordination and guide prevention and manage strategies in our state.

This fall MISC will host a Summit on October 25-26 in Helena. Now that the Framework is 6 years old, it’s time to review and update this living document to best serve the needs of Montana.

MISC is administratively attached to Montana DNRC located in Helena. MISC meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. To learn more about MISC, find reports and resource, or sign up for bulletins, visit the MISC website at invasivespecies.mt.gov or call 406-444-0547.
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Ecologically sound management solutions for agriculture, forestry, mining, and conservation.
How Can MSU Extension Help You and Your Work?

Montana State University (MSU) Extension is gathering feedback to inform and improve its programs for Montanans. Participating in this online survey [mtwatersheds.us3.list-manage.com] will help them determine what classes, resources, and services are most important to the communities they serve. You can also enter for a chance to win a $50 Visa gift card at the end.

MSU Extension [mtwatersheds.us3.list-manage.com] has 94 Extension agents and 26 subject matter specialists serving all 56 Montana counties and 7 reservations. Extension’s mission is to improve the lives of Montana citizens by providing unbiased, research-based education and information that integrates learning, discovery and engagement to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Helpful Articles and Links

- Montana’s rural communities struggle to bring in much-needed federal grants
- NFWF to coordinate with federal and private funders to streamline access to conservation grants
- After wildfires, scorched trees could disrupt water supplies
- FWP seeks comment on several proposals for June 23rd commission meeting
- Montana’s statewide drought management plan being updated
- Watch the webinar ‘Invasive Annual Grasses Management’ and learn about new tools to treat cheatgrass, medusahead, and ventenata
- BLM seeks public input on use of additional herbicides for vegetation treatments on public lands
- Pesticides and pollinators - Seeley Swan Pathfinder (seeleylake.com)
- Noxious Weeds and the Environment: A Bigger Picture - Blackfoot Challenge
- Pesticides and Pollinators - Blackfoot Challenge
- News Archive : USDA ARS

Photo courtesy montana.edu/pollinators.
Some of the common myths about weeds and weed control are debunked. Please forward your contributions to Eric Gustafson (info@wssa.net).

» Myth: Spraying herbicides eventually results in “super weeds.”

Reality: Most resistant weeds have no growth or fitness advantage, and weeds resistant to herbicides with certain modes of action are sometimes less fit.

Adapted from myth submitted by Stephen Duke, USDA Agricultural Research Service: Charles Darwin could have predicted that the continued use of a single herbicide or herbicide class would eventually result in the evolution of resistant weeds. There are many real-world examples that show his theory of evolution in action. But, resistant weeds are not “super weeds.” They usually have only one mutated gene that confers resistance to the herbicide that was the selection agent. The mutation does not give the weed an advantage in the absence of the herbicide. In fact, in some cases it puts the weed at a slight disadvantage to the non-resistant weeds of the same species.

Check out the full article here!
https://wssa.net/wssa/weed/weed-myths/

Check out the Western Farmer Stockman website for different articles on pastures, grazing, and different research that has been done.
Western Farmer Stockman | Northwest farming, ranching news | Farm Progress
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Funding Opportunities

- DNRC Grants & Loans, Conservation District Bureau
- FWP Grant Programs: Future Fisheries, Recreation, Wildlife Habitat Improvement, etc.
- WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Projects
- Montana Department of Agriculture, Grants & Loans
- NRCS Targeted Implementation Program: What’s available in my county?

Upcoming Events

- June 6-10, 2022 Montana Noxious Weed Awareness Week
- June 13-15, 2022 Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference, Fairmont Hot Springs
- June 21-22, 2022 Montana Range Days, Shelby
- June 29-30, 2022 Leopold Conservation Award Winner Tour-Hidden Hollow Cattle & Guest Ranch
- August 30-31, 2022 NRCS-Montana Range Tour, Great Falls
- September 7-9, 2022 MSU Level 1 Invasive Weed Management Class, Jane Mangold
- Sept. 14-16, 2022 Montana Watershed Coordination Council Fall Watershed Tour, Rocky Mountain Front
- September 25-28, 2022 Montana Association of Counties Annual Conference, Billings
- October 14-15, 2022 Montana Farmers Union Annual Conference, Helena
- October 24, 2022 AIS Summit, Great Northern Hotel, Helena
- October 25-26, 2022 MISC Summit, Great Northern Hotel, Helena
- November 7-11, 2022 NAISMA Annual Conference, Fort Meyers, FL
- November 15-17 Montana Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention, Delta Hotel, Helena
- December 13-16, 2022 Innovation in Invasive Species Management Conference, Nashville, TN
Support Noxious Weed Management by Joining MWCA!

To become a new member go to the link below (in red) and push create account. You will then fill out the information and get an email asking to create a login name and password. Once you do that and are logged in, you can click the drop down and chose Membership.

If you are already a member you can go to the link below (in red) and login to your account.

If you need help please contact MWCA’s Executive Director and she will be happy to help.

Click Here to Support MWCA!

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