

# SPECIAL AREAS BOARD



## Notes from the Field — August 2017

### SEE IT? KILL IT! COMMON TANSY & YOU

Common tansy is a perennial forb that reproduces by both seed and short rhizomes (underground horizontal roots). **It is legislated as a noxious weed under the *Weed Control Act* and must be controlled.**

Introduced from Europe in the 1600's, its pungently aromatic foliage has been used medicinally, as an insect repellant, and for embalming. Common tansy forms dense stands and the plants contain alkaloids that are toxic to both humans and livestock if consumed in large quantities. Cases of livestock poisoning are rare because tansy is unpalatable to grazing animals.



The easiest way to identify this noxious species is by its yellow button-like flowers that occur in dense, flat-topped clusters at the top of stems. The leaves occur alternately on the stem and are deeply divided into numerous narrow, individual leaflets with toothed edges. Common Tansy is a common culprit along riparian areas and roadsides.

***The best control of this species is prevention.***

Because of its ornamental value, this plant may still be available for purchase in garden stores. Once established, repeated mowing followed by chemical control and encouraging competition from native plants is the best option. Cultivation should not be used as it will only encourage regrowth from severed rhizomes.

### Baby's Breath & Hay—What you need to know

Common Baby's Breathe is a naughty noxious weed that appears throughout the Special Areas.

**Under the *Weed Control Act* this species must be controlled. A person shall not use or move anything that, if used or moved, might spread the weed species. This includes bales harboring baby's breathe.**

Caution should be taken when purchasing any feed so you are not introducing weeds onto your property. Common culprits include baby's breathe, white cockle, scentless chamomile, knapweed, leafy spurge and more.

If you have these weed species in areas you are haying, it is your responsibility to

prevent seed movement. In terms of baby's breathe, it is best to cut and bale the weed to prevent the stem & seeds from breaking off and becoming a tumble weed of seeds in the fall. Once cut and baled, the baby's breathe containing bales should not be removed from the infested field. Any equipment used to cut/bale noxious weeds must be properly cleaned to prevent weed spread.



Situations may warrant feeding the bales on site: having a long term control program planned or burning or burying bales, depending on the infestation.

***It is the landowner's responsibility to control noxious weeds on their property.***

In severe cases, a weed notice may be issued that requires the landowner to destroy the crop/bales with the noxious weed species present.



## Notes from the Field — August 2017

### Scout Canola for Diamond Back Moths

Diamond Back Moth outbreaks are happening more often in canola fields in southern Alberta, according to Alberta Agriculture & Forestry insect management specialist, Scott Meers.

The larvae of the Diamond Back Moth do the most damage to your brassica crops, feeding on the leaves, buds and flowers. This can result in delayed plant maturity, damaged pods, pod shatter and potentially severe yield losses. These yellowish-green caterpillars are easily identified by their peculiar reaction to being disturbed. They will wriggle backward violently and may drop from the plant, suspended by a silken thread. After several seconds the larva will climb back onto the leaf to continue feeding.



Larva eating leaf.  
Photo by Lloyd Dosdall

You should be doing your scouting now. Use a sweep net to give you an idea of the general abundance of the pest. If a high population count occurs in the sweep net, you perform more accurate counts to determine the average population per unit area.

The action threshold is 20-30 larvae/ 0.1m<sup>2</sup> (about a 12" square). This works out to about 2-3 larvae/plant in a plant population of 100 plants/ m<sup>2</sup>. The decision to spray an insecticide may be greatly influenced by the quality of the crop, especially in years like this. With the drought conditions present throughout the Special Areas, you will have to weigh the cost of insecticide application against the value of struggling crops.

For more information visit: [www.canolacouncil.org/canola-encyclopedia/insects/diamondback-moth/](http://www.canolacouncil.org/canola-encyclopedia/insects/diamondback-moth/)

### There Are Good Grasshoppers?

Not all grasshoppers are bad grasshoppers. Of the 80 species of grasshoppers found on the prairies, only about 10 of them cause damage for producers. It is very important to identify species correctly as it will make [pest control decisions](#) easier and reduce costly management mistakes. Your Agricultural Service Boards will be out in the field in August surveying for grasshopper populations. This data is used to make a forecast map for the following year. You can see the [2017 forecast](#) at [Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network](#).

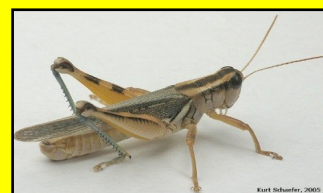
Grasshoppers tend to increase rapidly during years of warm, dry weather, similar to the conditions Special Areas is facing this year. With climbing grasshopper populations in 2016, Special Areas producers will need to be on the lookout.

#### IS THIS GRASSHOPPER A PEST?

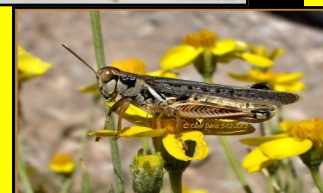
- ◆ Any grasshopper with hind wings highly visible in flight (red, yellow, orange or black) is **NOT** a pest.
- ◆ Any grasshopper that sings, calls, clacks, clatters or makes other similar sounds, either in flight or on the ground are **NOT** pests. Pest species are silent.
- ◆ Any grasshopper that inhabits a crop on a warm day without feeding on vegetation may be a temporary resident that is moving on to more preferred vegetation. **NOT** a pest.
- ◆ Grasshoppers that remain in rangeland, headlands or other grassland without moving into crops likely are **NOT** pests.
- ◆ Grasshoppers that appear lethargic and hang on vegetation in mid or late summer may be infected with naturally occurring pathogens that will help reduce their numbers.

For a more comprehensive look at grasshopper identification visit the [Grasshopper Identification and Control Methods to Protect Crops and the Environment](#) by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

THESE 4 GRASSHOPPER SPECIES DO THE MOST DAMAGE TO FORAGES AND CROPS IN SPECIAL AREAS. WATCH OUT FOR:



Packard's



Lesser Migratory



Clear Winged



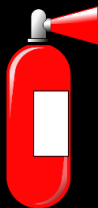
2 Striped



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## Notes from the Field — August 2017



### BE READY FOR A GRASS FIRE—CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT

With drought conditions comes increased risk of grass fires. Be sure to check all of farm equipment for fire extinguishers, brooms, shovels and/or water tanks. Review what to do in case of a fire and ALWAYS call 911 immediately. Know the legal land location where you are working or your blue road sign for emergency personnel to respond as fast as possible.



Here's what's coming up  
at CARA

Head to their website to  
learn more and check out  
their upcoming events.

<http://chinookappliedresearch.ca/>

### Soybean and Cover Crops Field Day

10:00 am to 2:00 pm **Monday, August 14**

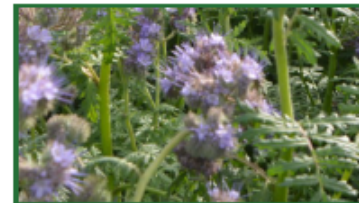
NW 34-31-01-W4 (NE of Loverna)



Come see how 35+ crops of Brassicas,  
broadleaves, cereals and legumes plus

several varieties of soybeans have fared  
in July's heat. Learn how to put your  
own cocktail mix together.

**Lunch at Loverna Hall \$10/person**



### Canadian Beef Industry Conference

August 15-17, 2017—Calgary, AB

**REGISTRATION  
OPEN NOW**

The 2nd Annual Canadian Beef Industry Conference  
"Sharing Common Ground"  
August 15-17 2017 at the BMO Conference Centre in Calgary, Alberta



Western Canada Conference on  
Soil Health & Grazing

**PROFIT ABOVE  
WEALTH BELOW**

Edmonton, AB  
December 5 - 7, 2017

### Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing

December 5-7, 2017—Edm., AB

For more information, go to [www.specialareas.ab.ca](http://www.specialareas.ab.ca) or visit us on our Facebook page and Twitter @SpecialAreas.

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## Notes from the Field — August 2017

### Upcoming Events in the Special Areas

**Hanna Ag Society**  
Children's Games! Face Painting!  
Raffles! Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Elizabeth King Door Prizes!

**51<sup>st</sup> Bench Show & Fall Fair**  
**August 10, 11, 12, 2017**

August 10:	Registration for Fall Fair Hanna Pioneer Museum Scarecrow Competition - Open to all Ages	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
August 11:	Horse & Pony Show Bench Show & Fall Fair Parade	9:00 am Start 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm 7:00 pm Start
August 12:	Bench Show Open Raffle Draws	10:00 am - 4:00 pm 4:00 pm

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY 8 AUGUST 18 & 19 2017**

**UP IN SMOKE**  
4TH ANNUAL BBQ COMPETITION

BBQ & BEAN COMPETITION  
**CAMPING**  
BBQ SUPPER  
BOUNCE HOUSE  
INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE  
**CALCUTTA**  
KID'S TREASURE SANDBOX

**TICKETS**  
ADVANCE \$30 - 13 years & up  
\$5 - 2-12 years  
AT THE GATE \$45 - 13 years & up  
\$10 - 2-12 years

**JENNER RODEO GROUNDS**

For More Information Contact:  
Gwen 403.848.2415 -- 403.502.3054 -- jennerbq@gmail.com

**UP IN SMOKE BBQ COMPETITION** @jennerbq

Join us November 8 & 9 for BeefTech — a interactive beef industry learning event.

Explore and experience emerging technologies and innovative management practices. Learn how to implement technology in your beef operation to improve production and increase profitability.

- Hands-on workshops and labs
- Technology demonstrations
- Technical learning sessions

**Featured Keynotes**  
Robert Saik, Agri-Trend - "The Agriculture Manifesto"  
Andrew Campbell, Fresh Air - "Stand Up for Your Industry!"

## Your Agriculture Fieldmen

JESSE WILLIAMS



SA2

(403) 854-5625/(403) 854-1114

DON HOGAN



SA3

(403) 664-3618/(403) 664-5585

JUSTINE SIMPSON



SA4

(403) 577-3523/(403) 575-5525

We offer support for programs including:

- ◆ Plant identification & noxious weed control
- ◆ Grazing management & strategies
- ◆ Pest management & controls
- ◆ Growing Forward 2
- ◆ Environmental Farm Plans
- ◆ Shelterbelt programs & planning
- ◆ Animal predation concerns
- ◆ Equipment rentals including RFID tag readers & pest traps
- ◆ Concerns related to *Soil Conservation Act*, *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act*, *Animal Health Act*, and other legislation.

### Special Area No. 2

Hanna District Office  
(403) 854-5600

### Special Area No. 3

Oyen District Office  
(403) 664-3618

### Special Area No. 4

Consort District Office  
(403) 575-3523