



PLANT HEALTH NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

2025-26 S-CAP Pest Biosecurity Programs at SARM.ca

For all the eligibility details, deadlines and how to claim, scan the QR code or visit <https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/>



GOPHER CONTROL PROGRAM (GCP) – DEADLINE COMING SOON: July 31, 2025

- Program funding is cost-shared for [registered gopher control products](#) used January 1 to July 31, 2025 and up to \$125 for new materials to build raptor platforms and nest boxes.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM (IPCP) - Deadline: October 31, 2025

- Expenses are eligible to claim January 1st to October 31st.
- Program funding is cost-shared for eligible herbicides (outlined in Appendix A) used to control all prohibited and specific noxious weeds. Application costs can be claimed for when controlling prohibited weeds. RMs and FNs can also claim approved expenses related to monitoring noxious and prohibited weeds and costs related to training their appointed weed inspectors.

NOTE for the 2025-26 IPCP: Data entry into iMapInvasives is not required in 2025. However, weed inspectors or third parties are encouraged to keep records of invasive weed findings. *In subsequent years, it will be mandatory to enter findings into the chosen platform to claim expenses under the program.*

RAT CONTROL PROGRAM (RCP) - Deadline: December 31, 2025

- Program funding is cost-shared for rat control bait and Pest Control Officer/licensed pesticide applicator expenses.
- Rat Control Technical Advisors are available to provide support, ongoing mentoring and provide technical guidance to new and existing appointed Pest Control Officers (PCOs) and licensed pesticide applicators in the field on a case-by-case basis.

BEAVER CONTROL PROGRAM (BCP) - Deadline: February 15, 2026

- Program funding is cost-shared for the removal of adult nuisance beavers by licensed fur trappers, as well as the purchase and installation (to a maximum of \$500) of pond levelers and/or beaver deceivers.

PLANT HEALTH NETWORK (PHN) - Plant Health Technical Advisors (PHTA) are here to:

- Assist with Pest Biosecurity programming
- Help navigate role and duties under *The Plant Health Act* and *The Weed Control Act* in Saskatchewan.
- Organize free in-person and online training each year for PCOs, WIs, Land Managers, Councillors, Administrators, and support staff.
- Monitor pests and invasive plants in the province.

Weeds to Watch for: Russian Knapweed



Photo: Russian Knapweed
(Credit: Betty Johnson, PHTA Div. 3)

Russian Knapweed is a noxious weed under the Saskatchewan *Weed Control Act* and it's a persistent perennial reproduce by seeds and creeping roots. It can form dense colonies from root buds and one plant can spread 12 m² over 2 years. The entire plant is covered with fine hairs and shows a grey appearance from a distance. The flowers are pale pink to pale purple and fade at later growth stage. Distinct features include scale like bracts that form flower buds, which are greenish to papery white at the base. The roots are black and appear scaly.

Poisonous to horses; the chemical content of Russian Knapweed can cause a neurological disorder called "chewing disease". This knapweed survives well in crops and range land and can cause severe losses. Recently, this weed has been found on many roadsides and ditches in the southwest of the province.



Photo: Russian Knapweed (Credit: Betty Johnson, PHTA Div. 3)

Russian Knapweed can be controlled through repeated removal by exhausting the root reserve and chemically. This weed is one of the eligible noxious weeds under the Invasive Plant Control Program (IPCP).

Upcoming Events & Reminders

Mark your calendars! Leafy Spurge Beetle Collection Days are set for **July 7–10, 2025**, from **10 AM to 3 PM daily** at the scenic **Besant Campground**, just west of Caronport on Highway #1.

This hands-on event is a fantastic opportunity to help manage leafy spurge using nature's own solution—beetles! The SARM Plant Health Technical Advisors will be on-site to guide you through the collection process and help package beetles for release on your land. It's free to attend, but be sure to bring lunch, wear long pants (watch out for poison ivy and ticks!), and plan your beetle release site in advance for best results.

The Gopher Control Program deadline is July 31, 2025. This is a popular program available to producers, RMs and First Nations so don't miss the opportunity for rebates!

Please contact your SARM Division Plant Health Technical Advisor for more information, to answer any questions, or to suggest content for future newsletters.

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