



### Weeds to Watch For: Common Burdock

Common Burdock is a biennial that grows into large, stout flowering bolts with many branches up to 3 meters tall. Distinct features include the large alternate wavy or toothed-shaped leaves that are woolly on the undersides, purple flowers, and clinging burrs. The weed reproduces by seed, producing up to 16,000 seeds per plant. Its prickly seed heads, often called burrs, are designed for seed dispersal by attaching to animals that brush by the plant. These thick-stemmed plants may still be observed in winter standing above the snow allowing for identification year-round.



Photo: Common Burdock  
(Credit: PHTAs)



Photo: Common Burdock  
(Credit: Joanne Kwasnicki,  
PHTA Division 2)

Common Burdock is designated as a noxious invasive weed under *The Weed Control Act* in Saskatchewan. It can be a serious issue in areas where the soil has been disturbed – but not cultivated, and in riparian areas. These weeds outcompete other plants by blocking light with their large leaves, leading to dense patches of common burdock.

Burdock can be controlled through cultivation, grazing of sheep/goats, and chemical control. This weed is one of the designated noxious weeds covered under the [Invasive Plant Control Program](#).

#### Did You Know Your PHTA Can Help Update Your Weed Management Plan?

As we are approaching a new year, Rural Municipalities' [weed management plans](#) are due for their yearly update. The Plant Health Technical Advisors are happy to help you update these documents every year. We can provide insight into weeds to watch for, weeds encroaching into the area, and weed control options. A detailed weed management plan will aid in the prevention and effective management of invasive weeds by allowing RMs to track and evaluate invasive weed issues, as well as outline the goals and priorities of the RM.

If your RM does not have a weed management plan but would like to develop one as you intend to utilize the Invasive Plant Control Program in 2025, feel free to reach out to your division's PHTA, and we can help you to put together the weed management plan for the RM.

## DEADLINE REMINDERS:

- **Rat Control Program** deadline is **December 31, 2024**
- **Beaver Control Program** deadline is **February 15, 2025**
- **2025 annual appointments** of Weed Inspectors & Pest Control Officers
  - Reminder to send signed appointments to [crops@gov.sk.ca](mailto:crops@gov.sk.ca)



If you require assistance with your claims, feel free to contact your PHTA. Guidelines and claim forms are available on the <https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/>. Scan the QR code for more information.

## Upcoming Training for Appointed Officials:

SARM and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture have partnered to deliver **free webinars and training workshops for Pest Control Officers, Weed Inspectors, and Land Managers in 2025**. Do not miss an opportunity to attend the training sessions to gain knowledge and utilize networking opportunities with other appointed officials.

### In-person Workshops for Pest Control Officers *(watch for registration coming soon)*:

SARM and the Plant Health Technical Advisors invite you to join us for a one-day workshop that will provide continuing education and training to Pest Control Officers.

- **February 4th, 2025 – Regina**, The Atlas Hotel (4177 Albert Street, Regina, SK)
- **February 5th, 2025 – Saskatoon**, Western Development Museum (2610 Lorne Ave, Saskatoon, SK)

### Upcoming Events:

- Weed Inspector & Land Manager Webinar: Weed Control Act Enforcement
  - **February 19th, 2025 at 12 PM – 1 PM**
- Pest Control Officer Webinar: Integrated Pest Management
  - **February 20th, 2025 at 12 PM – 1 PM**

Watch your email for more information about these events. Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for licensed pesticide applicators will be applied to Saskatchewan Polytechnic for approval.

## Looking for Training Resources?

Past webinars put on by the SARM PHTAs can be found on the **Plant Health Network** page under **Events**. Five years of past webinars are available, which are great for training newly appointed officials or providing a refresher.

<https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/plant-health-network/>

**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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