



PLANT HEALTH NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership 2024-25 Program Guidelines & Forms Now Available Online

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

All rebate programs are cost-shared up to 50%.

GOPHER CONTROL PROGRAM (GCP) \$750,000

- **Deadline:** July 31, 2024
- Program funding is cost-shared for [registered gopher control products](#) used January 1 to July 31, 2024 and up to \$125 for raptor platforms and nest boxes.

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM (IPCP) \$856,000

- **Deadline:** October 31, 2024. 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 weed inspectors.

RAT CONTROL PROGRAM (RCP) \$1,200,000

- **Deadline:** December 31, 2024
- 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 technical expertise and training.

BEAVER CONTROL PROGRAM (BCP) \$450,000

- **Deadline:** February 15, 2025
- 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 Pest Control 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: Scentless Chamomile

One of the earlier flowering weeds in Saskatchewan is the noxious weed scentless chamomile. Scentless chamomile reproduces by seed and a single plant can produce up to one million tiny seeds.

What to look for:

- Flowers are daisy-like with white petals that surround a yellow central disk
- Highly branched stems with alternate, finely divided leaves
- Plants can grow to 1 m tall
- Leaves are odourless when crushed



Photo: Scentless Chamomile
(Credit: Lynne Roszell)



Control Options:

- Mowing, aim to mow before the plants flower and the seeds become viable. The plants will re-bloom below the cutting height, so repeated mowing at increasingly shorter lengths is required.
- Hand pulling is effective on small patches, pulled plants should be removed and burned, or bagged and sent to the landfill.
- Biocontrol – there are 2 biocontrol agents for scentless chamomile that have been released in Saskatchewan – a gall midge and seedhead weevil. Reach out to your PHTA for more information.
- Herbicide - scentless chamomile is an eligible noxious weed under the IPCP and herbicide options are listed in Appendix A.

Photo: Scentless Chamomile Affected by Gall Midge Biocontrol (Credit: Joanne Kwasnicki, PHTA Division 2)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

PHTAs are hosting sprayer calibration clinics for Weed Inspectors, Land Managers, and pesticide applicators from 1:00 – 3:00 pm each day. Check emails for the clinic poster - RSVP required.

- **May 22, 2024** – RM of Corman Park No. 344, Location: Lutheran Shop (52.2612924, -106.7758783)
- **May 23, 2024** – RM of Lumsden No. 189, Location: Lumsden RM Shop (50.6599751, -104.9277293)

SAVE THE DATES

The PHTAs will be hosting Leafy Spurge Beetle Collection Days again this year at Besant Campground. The dates are tentatively scheduled for **July 2-5, 2024**. Come out and collect some leafy spurge beetles to release on your property to help control leafy spurge populations!

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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