

Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards
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Volume 14 Issue 4

Know Your Watershed

June 2020

Invasive Weed Management

When the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards met with stakeholders, one of the priority areas they identified for SCCWS was the management of

invasive species that impact our watershed. One of the most widespread invasive species in our watershed is leafy spurge. As the infestation spreads on farm and ranch land in our watershed the negative economical and environmental impacts increase. The SCCWS is committed to assisting landowners and municipalities control the spread of leafy spurge. One control method especially in environmental sensitive areas is to release leafy spurge beetles in the area of the infestation. For more information about leafy spurge beetles, please see the article below written by Dallas Peters, SCCWS AgriEnvironmental Technician.



Collecting Leafy Spurge Beetles

Leafy Spurge BioControl

Heroes can come in small packages, and to a frustrated landowner with an infestation of Leafy Spurge that small hero can be the Leafy Spurge Beetle (*Aphthona spp.*). These are small flea beetles that feed and breed exclusively on Leafy Spurge, literally eating themselves out of house and home. That is a good thing for you as it controls the Leafy Spurge! The beetles can help knock back the plants by reducing seed production which keep the plants from spreading further. Adult beetles feed on foliage and when it's time to lay eggs, the female deposits them in the soil and root systems of the Leafy Spurge. When the larvae hatch they begin to feed on the roots and inside of the plant. This weakens it to cause slower spread and reduced seed development. While these little heroes won't completely eradicate Leafy Spurge, they are a valuable resource in the integrated fight against it!

Leafy Spurge Beetles are available in Saskatchewan and are collected during the first few weeks of July. They can be distributed into Leafy Spurge patches and hopefully a new population of beetles will survive and continue to eat, eat, eat! The Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards and other groups are available to collect and/or deliver the beetles to interested landowners. For more information on this please contact the Stewards at 306-770-4607 or email kevin.sccws@gmail.com.

Collection and release times are limited, so please inquire early if interested!



Releasing Leafy Spurge Beetles

SCCWS Annual General Meeting

As many of you know the SCCWS was forced to postpone its Annual General meeting scheduled for March 23, 2020 due to restrictions on large gatherings put in place to control the spread of COVID-19. As I write this the plan to re-open Saskatchewan is limiting indoor gatherings to 15 people. Unfortunately this means that we cannot invite the public to join us at an Annual Meeting. We have thought about hosting a meeting over

video conferencing; however many of our stakeholders live in areas with internet coverage that does not allow them to take part fully in such a meeting. It has been over six months since the 2019 financial year has ended and postponing the AGM to later in summer or fall once regulations change is not feasible as the SCCWS has reporting requirements it needs to meet. Due to these factors the SCCWS Board of Directors has decided to not hold an AGM this year. The Board will meet this month to approve our 2019 Financial and Annual Reports, after the reports have been approved they will be made available to our valued stakeholders.

Looking back at all that has happened in 2020, the SCCWS feels very fortunate that it was able to meet with stakeholders at our Watershed Protection Plan and Future Direction Report meeting held October 29, 2019. This was an excellent opportunity for the SCCWS to engage with stakeholders and discuss the work that we have been doing in 2019 and prior years and receive feedback about that work. Thanks to that feedback, the SCCWS has completed its Future Direction Report that will guide the work of SCCWS for 2020-2024. The SCCWS had planned to make a presentation about the stakeholder meeting and Future Direction Report at our AGM, but that will need to be rescheduled to a later date. The SCCWS will be making the Future Direction Report available on our website for every one who wants to learn the results of the October 29, 2020 meeting and the direction the work of the SCCWS will take over the next five years.

Should you have any questions about our AGM or the Future Direction

Report, please feel free to contact me at 306-770-4607 or kevin.sccws@gmail.com. Hard copies of our Annual Report and the Future Direction Report will be made available upon request.

We look forward to meeting with you at our 2020 AGM in March 2021.

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