



AG

ROUNDUP

>>> M.D. OF PROVOST <<<

March
April
2024

"Continually striving to provide a rural environment where residents may enjoy an excellent quality of life"



COMMUNITY EVENTS

>>> CZAR "OPEN" CURLING CASH BONSPIEL

February 25 - March 3
Friday Supper catered by "Just like Mum's" - Curlers eat for Free!

>>> PROVOST FARMER'S MARKET

Easter - March 22, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Held in conjunction with the Trade Show - April 19, 11 AM - 5 PM

>>> FARMER'S PESTICIDE COURSE

March 5-6 in Provost.
Contact Caitlin to register 1(780)753-2168

>>> PROVOST OPEN FUN-SPIEL

March 21-24 in Provost
Contact Gordon to register 1(780)753-0053

>>> PROVOST AGRI-TRADE SHOW

April 19, 2024 - Provost Crescent Point Place

>>> TREE CARE WORKSHOP WITH TOSO BOZIC

April 24, 2024 - More info on page 2!

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READ MORE <<<

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SPRING TREE CARE >>>

BY TOSO BOZIC

ATTS Group

>>> As the long winter cold and frost retreats and the first signs of spring emerge, trees and shrubs awaken from their dormant state, ready to burst into vibrant life. Spring is a crucial season for tree care, offering a unique opportunity to support their growth, health, and resilience throughout the coming months. Below are some tips for landowners for spring tree and shrub care.

>>> Tips for Spring Care

1. Assess winter damages - Before diving into tree care, you must assess winter damage to trees and other landscape plants. Inspect the branches, trunk, and roots for signs of stress, (broken limbs, cracks, or lifting roots). Snow and ice can cause substantial harm and addressing these issues early on can prevent further damage and promote a healthy recovery.

2. Assess for winter burn and dieback damages - Many coniferous tree varieties (spruces and cedars) are displaying symptoms of winter burn (browning/bronzing of their needles). Winter's intense cold and strong winds has led to the desiccation of plant tissues, causing the shedding of needles in evergreen trees and the dieback of branches in deciduous trees. This dieback mechanism is a survival strategy employed by the trees, enabling them to sacrifice needles/twigs to ensure the overall survival of the tree.



Tree Dieback

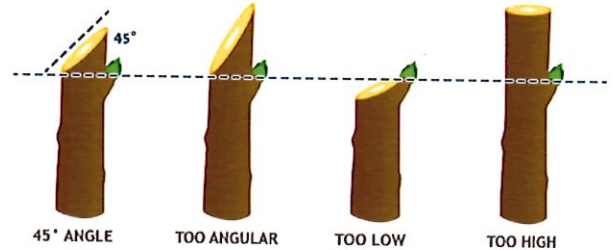


Black Knot

3. Assessing for pests - prior to leaf emergence is great opportunity to inspect trees and shrubs for pests. During your inspection, look for the following signs:

- a. Diseases such as cankers (dead sections of bark on branches or tree trunks), blackened and curled twigs, black knot, Cytospora canker, and other fungal infestations and decays.
- b. Signs of insect infestation such as scales, mites, beetle and borer infestation (exit holes, sawdust).
- c. Lastly look up for wildlife damages – porcupines, voles, deer, moose and beaver

4. Pruning - late winter and early spring is the best time to prune trees. Remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches to promote air circulation and reduce the risk of pest infestation. Additionally, shaping the tree by selectively pruning can enhance its structure and fruit production. However, be cautious not to over-prune, as this can stress the tree. Prune dead branches within shelterbelts as they pose fire risks.



Tree Care Workshop

Managing Drought Conditions & More!

April 24th, 2024 at Metiskow Hall

Coffee at 9:30 am

Workshop from 10am - 4pm

Part of the day will be outside, please dress accordingly.

To Register, please contact Caitlin Heck by text, phone or email at 780-753-4359 or check@mdprovost.ca by April 15th, 2024.



With Toso Bozic

Free to attend.
Limited spots available!

COMPOSTING FOR BEGINNERS



UNDERSTANDING COMPOSTING

Composting is the process of decomposing organic materials into nutrient-rich soil amendment known as compost. This natural process occurs with the help of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, and earthworms, breaking down organic matter into humus – a dark, crumbly substance that resembles rich soil.

CHOOSING A LOCATION

The first step in starting a compost pile is selecting an appropriate location. Ideally, choose a level, well-drained spot that receives partial sunlight. Avoid placing the compost pile too close to structures or trees, as excessive shade or roots can impede decomposition. Additionally, ensure easy access to water, as composting requires adequate moisture for the microorganisms to thrive.

BUILDING THE COMPOST PILE

Now it's time to start building your compost pile. Layer a mix of "greens" and "browns." Greens = nitrogen-rich materials such as kitchen scraps, grass clippings, and fresh plant trimmings. Browns = carbon-rich materials like dried leaves, straw, and shredded paper. Aim for a ratio of roughly 2 parts browns to 1 part greens by volume.

Alternate layers of greens and browns to create a balanced compost pile. This helps promote proper airflow and decomposition. It's also beneficial to occasionally add a thin layer of soil or finished compost to introduce beneficial microorganisms and speed up the composting process.

MANAGING THE COMPOST PILE

Proper management is essential for successful composting. Turn the compost pile regularly – about once a week – to aerate the materials and accelerate decomposition. This can be done using a pitchfork or compost turning tool. Additionally, monitor the moisture level of the compost pile, aiming for a consistency similar to a damp sponge. Add water as needed to maintain moisture, especially during dry periods.

HARVESTING AND USING COMPOST

With time and proper management, your compost pile will transform into dark, crumbly compost – teeming with beneficial nutrients and microorganisms. Composting can take anywhere from a few months - 1 year.

Once the compost is ready, use it to enrich garden soil, improve plant health, and enhance overall fertility. Incorporate compost into garden beds, mix it with potting soil for container gardening, or use it as mulch to suppress weeds and retain moisture.



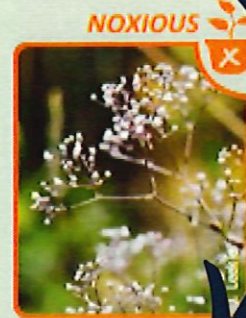
INVASIVE - AVOID USE

PLANT THESE INSTEAD

COMMON BABY'S BREATH

Gypsophila paniculata

Ornamental perennial used in floral arrangements. In winter, stems break off, blowing around in the wind, like tumbleweeds, spreading seed to pastures and natural areas. Widespread infestations across Canada and northern United States.



NATIVE & ORNAMENTAL ALTERNATIVES

German Statice

Goniolimon tataricum

Prickly heads of tiny white flowers. Low rosettes of leathery green leaves. Branching heads of flowers bloom July – August. For rock gardens, xeriscaping, edging or containers. Excellent as fresh or dried flowers. Popular for wreaths. Attracts butterflies. CAUTION: All plant parts poisonous if eaten. Zone 3



Ht. 25-40 cm; W. 30-45 cm

Common Yarrow

Achillea millefolium

Herbaceous perennial with broad, flattened heads of flowers and feathery leaves. Commercial varieties with varying flower colours are also available. Zone 3



Ht. 60-90 cm; W. 60-90 cm

Russian Sage

Salvia yangii

Upright bush. Fragrant, grey-green foliage. Lavender blue blossoms. Flowers July to October. Good for cut flowers/dry arrangements. Attracts butterflies. Zone 4



Ht. 80-100 cm; W. 60-90 cm

ALSO CONSIDER: Meadow Rue varieties (*Thalictrum delavayi*) Zone 3; Narrow-leaved Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba* DuRoi var. *alba*) Zone 3; Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) Zone 3



Wireworms

Wireworms are destructive insect pests of grain crops in western Canada.



The pest prefers cereal crops, but also feeds on potatoes, pulses and canola. The wireworm larva feed below ground on seeds/shoots. ~30 pest species of wireworm exist in Canada, and several are found in Alberta.

Life Cycle

4-11 generations can be found in a field, but the number of years a population can survive varies with quality and availability of food. Wireworms in all growth stages are likely to infest a field in long-term grass or pasture, and populations in the soil can be more than 3 million per hectare.

Eggs Depending on the moisture, temperature and firmness of the soil, the tiny eggs are laid anywhere from just below the soil surface to 15 cm deep. After 3 to 7 weeks, the wireworms hatch, and the larvae begin to feed on live roots or seeds of cereals or grasses.

Larvae Wireworm larvae are slender, jointed and hard-bodied. They have 3 pairs of legs behind the head, and the last abdominal segment is flattened with a keyhole-shaped notch. Fully grown larvae vary in length, depending on species, and range from 1 to 4 cm.

Pupae When fully grown, the larvae pupate about 5 to 10 cm below the soil surface, usually in July. Pupation lasts for less than a month. The adult overwinters in the soil and does not emerge above the soil surface until the following spring.

Adults Wireworm adults, called click beetles, emerge from the soil in April and early May. They are slender, black beetles about 8 to 12 mm long. Click beetles make a clicking noise when placed on their backs and do somersaults to right themselves.

WIREWORM



WIREWORM DAMAGE



CLICK BEETLE



<https://www.alberta.ca/wireworm>

- 2 tbsp margarine or butter
- 5 fist size potatoes peeled and cubed
- 2 stalks of celery, cut up
- 2 large carrots, peeled and shredded

- 1 onion, peeled and chopped up
- Chicken stock
- 1 500 mL cream
- Cheese Whiz

Melt margarine and sauté onions in a pan and set aside. In a large stock pot, put in potatoes, cover with water, boil until soft. Mash with potato masher about 5 times (Leave some chunks). Add chicken stock. I just use 1 large tetra pack OR I usually do a large container of meal chicken broth from roasted chicken left over from my deepfreeze. Can also use chicken stock (OXO). Bring to boil. Add celery, carrots, and onions. Add cream. Add salt, pepper, and dill to taste. Add 4 large, HEAPING tbsp of cheese whiz. To boiling soup, add 3/4 cup of water and 3 tbsp of flour. Stir well! Add to boiling soup to thicken (May need to add more).



CALF 911

DEHYDRATION CHECKLIST



GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSMENT OF DEHYDRATION IN CALVES

Dehydration Level	Attitude	Eyeball Recession	Skin Tent Duration
None (<5%)	Normal	None	<1 sec
Mild (6-8%)	Slightly Depressed	2-4 mm (1/8")	2-4 sec
Moderate (8-10%)	Depressed	4-6 mm (3/16")	4-6 sec
Severe (10-12%)	Comatose	6-8 mm (1/4")	>6 sec

Source: Geof Smith, DVM, MS, PhD, Dept. of Population Health & Pathobiology, North Carolina State University



SKIN TENT

- ✓ Perform a skin-tent test by pinching the skin over the neck and gently pulling to make a tent. Release and count how many seconds it takes for the skin to return to normal.

BEHAVIOUR

- ✓ Look for behaviour cues in the herd, such as a calf that is not stretching when rising. Watch for calves with drooping ears. A cow bawling for a calf or showing a full udder indicates the calf is not nursing. Watch for calves that appear lethargic or depressed.

EYES

- ✓ To assess a calf for sunken eyes, look at the space between the lower eyelid and the eyeball. The wider the space, the more dehydrated the calf is.

BALANCE

- ✓ Notice any calves that are staggering or have poor balance.

TEMPERATURE

- ✓ Be aware of the link between dehydration and hypothermia. Normal temperature is 38-39°C.

SUCKLE

- ✓ Pay attention to calves with a weak or non-rhythmic suckle reflex.

www.BeefResearch.ca

Scan to watch a 4 minute video



SCAN ME

Version: 01.2022

➤➤➤ POTATO SOUP