

# AGRICULTURAL ROUNDUP

M.D. OF PROVOST

MAY – JUNE – JULY 2025

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

PROVOST FARMERS MARKET:

MAY 9 – AGRIPLEX

JUNE 13 – AGRIPLEX

JUNE 14, 15, 16 – PROVOST SPLASH 'N SMASH

JULY 8 – CAPT AYRE LAKE MINI MARKET

CONTACT ARLENE FOR A TABLE

(780)753-4418

JULY 18 – CZAR BULLARAMA

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Acting Ag Fieldman

Lisa Stang

(780)753-1859

LStang@mdprovost.ca

Pest Control Officer

Myron Scherger

(780)753-2168

MScherger@mdprovost.ca

Reclamation Operator

Murray Downing

(780)753-2168

MDowning@mdprovost.ca

Box 300 Provost, AB

T0B 3S0

1(780)753-2434

mdprovost.ca





Bruner's Grasshopper (*Melanoplus bruneri*) is a medium-sized grasshopper species with dark and reddish tones, similar in appearance to the migratory grasshopper

The Migratory Grasshopper (*Melanoplus sanguinipes*) is one of the most destructive pests in western Canada and often causes crop damage.



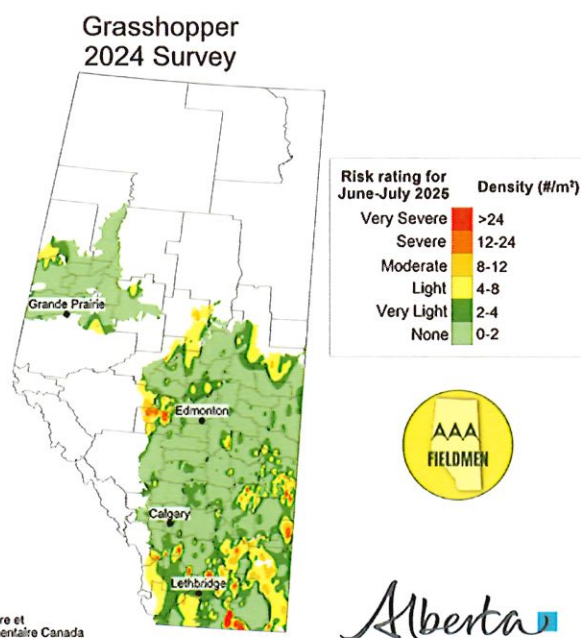
# Grasshopper Forecast

The 2024 grasshopper survey map is based on adult grasshoppers counts conducted in late July and August 2024 by the Agricultural Fieldmen of Alberta.

The adult grasshopper counts give an indication of the number of individuals capable of reproduction and egg laying. Environmental factors can result in higher or lower actual populations than forecast. Producers need to be aware of the potential risks in their area and monitor fields accordingly and then make the appropriate decisions if control measures are required.

After evaluating years of grasshopper data, a trend has emerged that one species (*Melanoplus bruneri*, Bruner's spur-throat grasshopper) in crop-production areas seems to have a 2-year lifecycle. A pattern of odd years with grasshopper numbers that can cause crop loss issues, while in the even years the numbers are low. If the pattern holds true, then Bruner's grasshopper could be an issue in crop production areas in 2025.

Bruner's is not the only grasshopper in this region that can cause crop loss. Scouting the road sides and field edges in late May to early June is key to understanding possible grasshopper issues.



Scouting in areas with significant grasshopper risk in late May and June of roadsides and field edges and where high concentrations were found the previous year is vital to understand the risk of grasshopper risk.

On individual farms, particular attention should be paid to areas that traditionally have higher grasshopper populations. In addition, grasshoppers tend to lay their eggs near areas of green growth in the fall that will provide potential food sources for emerging young the following spring. Areas with early green plant growth such as field margins, fence-lines and roadsides are also areas that will give early indications of potential grasshopper problems.

If insecticides are needed, note label precautions regarding user safety and proper application techniques and instructions to reduce impacts on non-target organisms. It is important to remember that control measures are intended to protect the crops from economic damage and are never successful in totally eliminating grasshopper populations. It is easier to scout and control grasshoppers earlier in their lifecycle rather than waiting until they are more mobile.



# Gopher Control



## Cultural Controls

- Shooting, drowning, and trapping
- Maintain predator habitats (raptor platforms, nest boxes)
- Maintain vegetation >15 cm
- Monitor & proactive management



## Biological Controls

- A single badger (a sensitive species in Alberta) can reduce the local ground squirrel population by 50 % in 1-2 days. Coyotes also consume gophers.
- Swainson's Hawk & Prairie Falcons (Special Concern in Alberta) feed on gophers in addition to mice and grasshoppers
- Ferruginous Hawks (endangered species in Alberta) rely on gophers for 75-90% of their diet.
- Prairie rattlesnakes & bull snakes reduce gopher populations by consuming them before they emerge from their burrows
- Long-tailed weasels can reduce juvenile populations in-burrow by 50%

## Chemical Controls

- Strychnine was de-registered for control in 2022 and is now illegal to use or possess.
- The M.D. of Provost has a Gopher Foamer for rent. \$50/day plus chemical
- Rozol RTU is available for purchase at some Agricultural Retailers.

## Fast Facts:

- Richardson's and Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels are listed as pests under the *Agricultural Pest Act* in Alberta
- Males appear first, two weeks before females
- Control strategies should focus on females around March 15 - April 30
- Females are receptive to males for only about four hours per year
- A female gopher has 1 litter per year with 5-8 juveniles on average

## No Bake Chocolate Peanut Butter Squares

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup (8 Tbsp; 113g) salted butter, melted
- 1 cup (120g) graham cracker crumbs (about 8 full sheet graham crackers)
- 2 cups (240g) confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup + 2 Tablespoons (280g) creamy peanut butter, divided
- 1 cup (180g) semi-sweet chocolate chips



1. Line an 8-inch or 9-inch square baking pan with aluminum foil or parchment paper. Set aside.
2. Mix the melted butter, graham cracker crumbs, and confectioners' sugar together in a medium bowl. Stir in 1 cup (250g) of peanut butter, then press evenly into prepared baking pan.
3. Melt remaining 2 Tablespoons of peanut butter with the chocolate chips in the microwave or on the stove. Stir until smooth. Spread over peanut butter layer.
4. Chill in the refrigerator until completely firm, at least 2 hours. Allow to sit at room temperature for 10 minutes before cutting. Serve chilled. Setting them out for a few hours at room temperature for serving is OK.
5. Cover leftover bars tightly and refrigerate for up to 1 week.





# PULL THE PLUG IT'S THE LAW

In Alberta, it is illegal to transport watercraft with the drain plug still in place. Those who fail to comply may be subject to a \$600 fine.

Alberta is fighting to protect its waterways from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Watercraft users must demonstrate upon inspection that their watercraft has been drained of lower hull or bilge related water.

Fines have increased:

- From \$324 to \$4200 for failing to stop with a watercraft at an open inspection station
- From \$180 to \$600 for failing to remove a drain plug when transporting a watercraft on a roadway.



## What Are The Main Causes Of Accidents At Construction Zones?



### Speeding Traffic

Drivers who don't follow the lower speed limits at construction zones may collide with other vehicles or people



### Inadequate Signposting

Some construction zones don't have adequate signage and lights, especially at night



### Distracted Driving

Drivers distracted by phone calls or conversations sometimes fail to be mindful of the road and their surroundings



### Not Following Road Signs

Some drivers don't pay attention to work zone signs showing they should slow down or stop

Respect the Zone so  
we can all go home



Slow down for construction workers

## Summer Highlights



### Crackfilling & Patching

Will be ongoing all summer long on paved and oiled roads. Please slow down for workers.

### Spraying

Roadside Blanket Spray will be in Divisions 4 & 6.

The Leafy Spurge Fireguard in Division 7 will get spot sprayed.



Additionally, spot spraying and tree spraying throughout the M.D will be ongoing.

### Mowing

Pavement/Oiled roads will be mowed first, then gravel roads. Expected

Start Date: End of June/beginning of July.



### Road Maintenance, Work, & Building

Will be ongoing all summer long. Please slow down for workers.

"CONTINUALLY STRIVING TO PROVIDE A  
RURAL ENVIRONMENT WHERE RESIDENTS  
MAY ENJOY AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE"

