

MDA PESTICIDE TRAINING NEWSLETTER

August 2023

"Serving Montana and growing prosperity under the Big Sky"



CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS

The Montana Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Program approves and provides both in-person and on-line training opportunities for credit for pest applicators and dealers. For information about continuing education, training opportunities, checking your credits, and registering for MDA trainings, click on this link: bit.ly/pestmt

MONTANA RODENT ACADEMY

The Montana Rodent Academy is a hands-on workshop that will cover mouse biology and behavior, site inspections, trapping tools and placement, rodenticide selection, bait stations and exclusion materials and installation. Attendees will be on their feet working with vertebrate pest professionals to gain hands-on experience.

DETAILS

Date: Friday, September 29, 2023

Location: Helena, MT

Cost: \$100

To Register: click on this link: bit.ly/pestregistration

RECERTIFICATION CREDITS AVAILABLE IN:

10-Dealer (6)

39-Demonstration & Research Pest Control (6)

45-School IPM (6)

40-Ind Inst Struct & Health Related (6)

35-Seed Treatment (6)

38-Public Health Pest Control (6)

RECERTIFICATION IN-PERSON TRAININGS FALL 2023

Fall Core Recertification is for licensed applicators and operators with 6 credits available in select categories. Training covers a variety of topics related to Core standards of and expiring categories. Registration is \$30. Please click [HERE](#) to register.

Expiring Categories (December 2023)

- Demonstration & Research
- Industrial, Structural & Institutional, School IPM
- Seed Treatment

Course Locations:

- October 18th - Billings
- October 19th - Belgrade
- October 26th - Kalispell
- October 27th - Missoula
- October 30 - Butte
- October 31st - Great Falls

PESTICIDE WASTE COLLECTION FALL 2023

Any pesticide that can no longer be used, because of contamination, cancelled registrations, or lost/unreadable labels are considered waste. This environmentally friendly program allows for waste pesticides to be removed which helps protect pets, livestock, drinking water and human health.

Details:

*Registrations are accepted on a first come, first-serve basis.

*NO charge for the first 200 pounds of material.

*Amounts over 200 pounds will be charged \$1.00/pound and products are weighed on site.

*Accepted materials include pesticide mixes, pesticides, metal pesticides containers are also accepted.

*All Participants **MUST** pre- register by September 14, 2023. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Collection Dates and Locations:

Tuesday - September 19th, 2023	Kalispell
Wednesday - September 20th, 2023	Hamilton
Thursday, September 21, 2023	Helena
Friday, September 22, 2023	Three Forks

FREE CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM

Established in 2009, keeping pesticide container plastic out of Montana's landfills is the purpose of this program. Only clean (i.e. triple-rinsed or power washed) HDPE #2 plastic pesticide containers are accepted. Click [HERE](#) to find a collection site near you.

Many beneficial products are made using recycled pesticide plastic containers. Examples include corrugated agricultural drainpipes as well as highway signposts, agricultural fence posts, industrial pallets, and underground utility conduit.

Plastic Pesticide Container Preparation

- Triple rinse and puncture the container.
- Remove lids, foil, label booklets, rubber gaskets, and metal handle.
- Properly cut 30 & 55 gallon drums into 8 equal pieces.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. How do I check my credits? Click [HERE](#)
2. How do I look for trainings? Click [HERE](#)
3. How do I add an operator? Click [HERE](#)

PRIVATE APPLICATOR CREDITS - Private Applicators within PAT District 1 need six private applicator credits prior to the license expiration date of December 31, 2023. Applicators can review their credit information at <https://mtplants.mt.gov/> by selecting “pesticide programs” and “pesticide license search” prior to entering their license number. Applicators can also contact their local MSU Extension office for license information.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR AI? STEPHEN M. VANTASSEL, VERTEBRATE PEST SPECIALIST

Do you know your AI? No, I’m not talking about artificial intelligence. I’m talking about **Active Ingredients**, the chemicals which do the “work” of managing pests. Due to their essential role, having a deeper understanding of AIs can help you get better results. In this issue, I want to provide you with some insights into one of the active ingredients used in rodenticide baits, namely brodifacoum.

Key Facts on Brodifacoum:

- Anticoagulant: second generation (along with difenacoum, bromadiolone and difethialone)
- Rat LD₅₀ 0.27 mg/kg
- Mouse LD₅₀ 0.40 mg/kg
- Dog LD₅₀ 0.25-1.0
- Cat LD₅₀ approximately 0.25 mg/kg
- Formulated baits have 50 mg/kg of AI
- On average, rodents die 4-12 days following exposure

Practical Insights

Second-generation anticoagulants are up to 100x more toxic than their first-generation counterparts (e.g., warfarin, chlorophacinone, and diphacinone). The high toxicity of second generation is why they are restricted to control rodents in structural applications only. But amongst the second-generation anticoagulants, brodifacoum is amongst the most toxic. In fact, a house mouse only needs to eat less than 1% of an ounce of formulated bait to receive a toxic dose. This toxicity means that it is highly effective for controlling rodents but it also poses a high secondary poisoning risk.

Practical Applications

To reduce the likelihood of brodifacoum-resistance developing in Montana’s rodents (which has occurred elsewhere), avoid using brodifacoum-based rodenticides as your first choice in all situations.

- Consider using brodifacoum-based rodenticides to situations where other active ingredients failed to achieve desired results.
- Brodifacoum, along with other second-generation anticoagulants are appropriate choices in situations where reducing rodent access to food is difficult/impossible to achieve. Where rodents have access to abundant food may mean that they only bite a rodenticide bait once. If so, then you want that bait to be a second-generation anticoagulant.
- Always follow the label along with proper consideration of the risks present at the application site. It is often wiser to be safe than sorry. Let’s use rodenticides responsibly to ensure their continued availability for management of rodents.

NEWLY IDENTIFIED INVASIVE PLANT IN MONTANA

Garden loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*), an aggressive non-native wetland plant, is being found in western Montana. Two sites have been brought to the attention of Montana Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Early Detection Rapid Response Program. In July 2023, approximately .1 total acres were mapped and treated along the Stillwater River on the west side of Kalispell, along with .2 acres on the Bitterroot River in Hamilton. Both sites were surveyed multiple times by local land managers and the EDRR Program and monitoring will be continuing.



Garden loosestrife is a Class A (highest priority) Noxious Weed in Oregon, Class B in Washington (second highest priority), and is invasive and problematic in several other states. It is a herbaceous rhizomatous perennial that grows 3'-6' tall and can form dense stands along waterways and in wet areas. Its leaves are opposite or whorled in groups of 3 to 5, lance-shaped, 3"-5" long, and softly hairy, which can give them a slightly grayish-green tinge. Flowers are yellow, have 5 petals, appear in clusters at stem ends toward the top of the plant, and bloom in July/August. Montana has two closely related natives, also with yellow flowers, fringed loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*) and water loosestrife (*Lysimachia thyrsoiflora*); purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), a state-listed Priority 1B Noxious Weed, has many shared physical characteristics and occupies the same type of riparian areas; and in the two Montana sites the garden loosestrife is intermixed with flowering goldenrod and other somewhat superficially similar looking plants.

For more information, or if you suspect you've seen garden loosestrife, contact Josh Wagoner, Noxious Weed EDRR Coordinator, at 406-444-7880 or josh.wagoner@mt.gov. Please be watchful and help keep this plant from becoming an issue in Montana.

MSU PEST MANAGEMENT TOUR - DR. CECIL THARP

The Montana State University (MSU) Pesticide Education Program (PEP) is offering the 2023 Pest Management Tour for pesticide applicators in Private Applicator Training (PAT) District 1, from October 2nd – 4th. The tour will cover six locations in three days with support from MSU Extension agents. Private applicators may attend the morning or afternoon session for three private applicator credits, or all day for six credits. Commercial applicator credits are also available and can be viewed at: www.montana.edu/extension/pesticides/events/2023pmt.html.

Presenters for the tour include: (Presentations vary by locations)

- Dr. Hayes Goosey, MSU Extension Forage Specialist, on forage pests
- Dr. Tim Seipel, MSU Extension Cropland Weed Specialist, on integrated weed management and herbicide resistance
- Stephen Vantassel, MDA Vertebrate Pest Specialist, on management of vertebrate pests
- Dr. Cecil Tharp, MSU Pesticide Education Specialist, on proper pesticide use and integrated pest management
- Melissa Maggio, Montana Weed Biocontrol Program, on biological control of weeds
- Noelle Orloff, MSU Schutter Weed Diagnostician, on identification of weeds and nontarget pesticide symptomology

Tour Dates and Locations include:

October 2nd

- **Kalispell, MT:** Hilton Garden Inn, 1840 Hwy 93 South, Kalispell. Contact and RSVP: Mackenzie Day, MSU Flathead County Extension Agent, RSVP by October 1st. Phone: 406-758-5554; Email: mackenzie.hey1@montana.edu. \$15 fee. Lunch provided.
- **Ronan, MT:** Community Center, 300 Third Ave NW. Contact and RSVP: Patrick Mangan, MSU Flathead Reservation Extension Agent, RSVP by October 1st. Phone: (406)210-9843; Email: patrick.mangan@montana.edu. \$20 fee. Lunch provided.

October 3rd

- **Superior, MT:** Mineral County MSU Extension Office, 301 2nd Ave East. Contact and RSVP: Dave Brink, MSU Mineral County Extension Agent, RSVP by October 2nd. Phone: (406) 822-3545; Email: dbrink@montana.edu. \$15 fee. Lunch provided.
- **Plains, MT:** Butcher's Nook, 600 W. Railroad Avenue. Contact and RSVP: Wendy Carr, MSU Sanders County Extension Agent, RSVP by October 2nd. Phone: (406) 827-6934; Email: wendy.carr@montana.edu. \$10 fee. Lunch provided.

October 4th

- **Missoula, MT:** Fairgrounds, Gerald W. Marks Exploration Center, 1075 South Ave W, Large Conference Room, New Facility Conference Room. Contact and RSVP: Steffany Rogge, Missoula County Weed Education Coordinator Pre-register by September 29th. Phone: (406)258-4211; Email: srogge@missoulacounty.us. \$20 fee. Lunch provided.
- **Hamilton, MT:** Bitterroot River Inn & Conf. Center, 139 Bitterroot Plaza Drive. Contact and RSVP: Kimberly Richardson, MSU Ravalli County Extension Agent Pre-register by October 3rd (5PM). Ph: (406) 375-6611; E: kimberly.richardson@montana.edu. \$45 fee. Lunch provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: See the detailed program agenda online at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/pesticides/events/2023pmt.html> [montana.edu] or contact your local MSU Extension office at <https://pesticides.montana.edu/pat/patcolist.html> [pesticides.montana.edu]. For any other questions contact Cecil Tharp, Pesticide Education Specialist, at the MSU Pesticide Education Program office (406) 994-5067, ctharp@montana.edu.

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