



MDA Pesticide Training Newsletter

January 2024

The latest news, announcements, and opportunities . . .

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2024 MDA INITIAL CORE TRAINING

Overview: The *Montana Department of Agriculture* (MDA) is sponsoring a three-day training designed for those interested in becoming a commercial, non-commercial, or governmental pesticide applicator and/or a pesticide dealer. The training is designed to prepare participants for the National Core Exam in Montana, provide hands-on-exercises, discuss licensing requirements, and learn about available resources. It is intended to provide training for initial certification only. *

The National Core Exam will be proctored on the 3rd day of the training. Testing is optional, but highly recommended. Reviewing the core manual and passing the subsequent exam with at least an 80% score will allow individuals to obtain their dealers license and is the first step to obtaining a commercial, non-commercial, government, or special utility applicators license. To obtain an applicators license individuals must also pass at least one category specific exam relating to the sites in which they will be working. If you are interested in taking a category specific exam at the conclusion of the Core training, please contact us ahead of time.**

Cost: \$75 which includes lunch (the first 2 days) and the core manual. Upon registration, the core manual and an agenda will be mailed to participants.

Times: Training at each location will begin at 8AM daily and end at 5PM, the first 2 days, and 8AM to noon the 3rd day.

*Recertification credits will not be available for attendance at these trainings.

**For a list of category classifications go to <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/N-P/Pesticide-Pages/Pesticide-License-Pages/Commercial-Applicators> or <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/N-P/Pesticide-Pages/Pesticide-License-Pages/Governmental-Applicators>

For more information, please contact us at 406-444-3732.

2024 MDA Initial Core Training Dates and Locations:

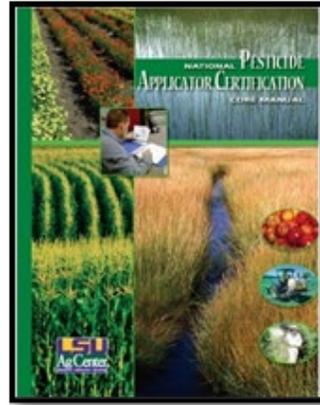
- ⊗ **February 28 - March 1st, 2024 - Bozeman**
Holiday Inn Express
Address: 309 W Madison Ave, Belgrade, MT 59714
Phone: (406) 388-7100
- ⊗ **March 13-15, 2024 - Billings**
Hampton Inn and Suites
Address: 5110 Southgate Dr, Billings, MT 59101
Phone: (406) 248-4949
- ⊗ **March 27 - 29, 2024 - Missoula**
Hilton Garden Inn and Suites
Address: 3720 N Reserve St, Missoula, MT 59808
Phone: (406) 532-5300
- ⊗ **April 10 - 12, 2024 - Great Falls**
Great Falls College Montana State University
Address: 2100 16th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone: (406) 771-4300

**To Register for the In-Person
Initial Core Training:**

scan the QR code to the below

OR

go to: bit.ly/pestmt



INITIAL PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

Montana State University Extension is coordinating three in person Initial Private Applicator Trainings this spring. Each course qualifies attendees for a Montana Private (Farm) Pesticide Applicator License. This license permits applicators to apply restricted use pesticides (RUP) on land that they own, rent, or lease. These courses are also open to other individuals desiring to learn more about pesticides. To learn more about the Montana Private Applicator license see our [publication \[montana.edu\]](#). Navigate to our [website \[montana.edu\]](#) to check for more initial trainings as the season progresses.

1. March 5th, 2024 - Roosevelt County Initial Private Applicator Training

- **Location:** Culbertson - Dry Prairie Rural Water, 5808 MT-16. Agenda can be viewed [online \[montana.edu\]](#).
- **Registration:** Encouraged by March 1st, but walk-ins are welcome. Contact Wendy Becker at 406-787-5312 or wbecker@montana.edu. No fee and lunch is provided.

2. March 20th, 2024 - Sanders County Initial Private Applicator Training

- **Location:** Thompson Falls - Thompson Falls Rural Fire Department, 1811 Main St. Agenda can be viewed [online \[montana.edu\]](#).
- **Registration:** Required by March 13th. Register online or contact Wendy Carr at (406) 827-6934 or wendy.carr@montana.edu. There is a \$40 fee and lunch is provided. Six private applicator credits available to current applicators attending entire session.

3. March 21st, 2024 - Flathead County Initial Private Applicator Training

- **Location:** Kalispell - Hampton Inn, 1140 US Hwy 2 West. Agenda can be viewed [online \[montana.edu\]](#).
- **Registration:** Required by March 13th. Register online or contact Mackenzie Dey at (406) 758-5553 or mackenzie.dey1@montana.edu. There is a \$40 fee and lunch is provided. Six private applicator credits available to current applicators attending entire session.



The Montana Department of Agriculture’s pesticide container recycling program provides pesticide applicators with the means to recycle their clean and rinsed HDPE plastic pesticide containers at collection days across the state. The mobile grinding unit, Russel, the yellow Kenworth day cab pulling a diesel generator and plastic granulator on a 40ft drop down trailer, will be making regular visits to scheduled locations across Montana. For the safety of our recycling staff, it is required that all pesticide containers be rinsed of product, adjuvants, and oils; that the containers are clean and dry and lids, foil seals, and label booklets have been removed. Larger pesticide containers like 30- and 50-gallon drums are accepted but must be cut into 1/8th sections to fit into the granulator. Totes and crate container plastic, measuring cups, spray wands, and pumps are not accepted.

The pesticide container recycling program is possible due to the support of the Agricultural Container Recycling Council. The ACRC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) trade association that works to facilitate the collection and recycling of one-way rigid HDPE plastic agricultural crop protection, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, and/or adjuvant product containers. This is done through member funding of cost-effective programs that fosters public health and safety, environmental protection, resource conservation, and end-user convenience. Montana’s Agricultural Applicators have been providing the ACRC with high quality recycled material since 2009 through their hard work and diligence of maintaining clean and ready containers for the recycling program.



To find a pesticide container recycling collection day near you, visit the Montana Department of Agriculture’s web page and follow the Topics menu to Pesticide Programs and then Container Recycling. The QR code below will connect you to the pesticide container recycling event calendar.

**2024 Pesticide Container Recycling
Collection Events Calander**



The Pesticide Container program is developing an AmeriCorps service position, a Recycling and Ground Water Education Specialist to provide education and community outreach at Pesticide Container Recycling Days as part of the Montana AgCorps. Visit <https://agr.mt.gov/AgCorps> or contact Amanda Coyle at (406) 444-7819 for more information or to apply.

Pesticide News and Updates

Noxious Weed Update

Palmer Amaranth Detected in Montana in 2023: Be on the Lookout for Palmer Amaranth and its relative, Waterhemp

By - Noelle Orloff, MSU Extension Schutter Diagnostic Lab



Among the pigweeds in this photo, the Palmer amaranth plant (designated by the black arrow), stands out due to its long, thin inflorescence (Photo credit Inga Hawbaker, Daniels County Extension).

Summary: Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) was confirmed in Daniels County, Montana in September 2023. This is the second confirmed occurrence of this species in Montana, and the first time it has been documented in an agricultural field in our state. Be on the lookout for this species and its close relative waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*) next year.

Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp in Montana

Palmer amaranth and waterhemp are both pigweed species that have limited known distribution in Montana. Both species have evolved genotypes resistant to multiple herbicide modes of action. If they become established, these two species will have a large economic impact on Montana agriculture. Both weeds have the potential to establish in warm season crops such as corn and millet, and irrigated sugarbeets, cereal, and pulse crops. They have also been associated with birdfeed.

In September 2023 several flowering Palmer amaranth plants were found growing in a field in Daniels County associated with contaminated millet seed. The plants were removed from the field prior to seed production. Two waterhemp populations have also been found in eastern Montana in recent years. One was detected in an irrigated durum field in Roosevelt County in 2020, and a few plants were found in a sugarbeet field in Prairie County in 2021. Also of note, Palmer amaranth was detected for the first time in Idaho this year.

Late summer is a good time of year to scout fields for Palmer amaranth and waterhemp because they are easier to locate and identify when flowering. Special attention should be given to scouting warm season forages and irrigated fields. Look for large pigweeds with long, thin inflorescences compared with more common relatives like redroot pigweed.

Early detection and rapid response are critical to contain these weeds and prevent populations from establishing, so learn to identify them, take action to manage and control spread as needed, and learn to recognize potential vectors. Identification can be difficult, but these MontGuides can help identify the different pigweeds ([Palmer amaranth](#) and [Waterhemp](#)).

Contact your local Extension office or agronomist if you suspect you have found either of these species or if you have questions about pigweed identification. You can also visit the [Palmer amaranth task force webpage](#) for more information and to report suspected populations.

(“Contact Cropland Weed Extension Specialist Tim Seipel (timothy.seipel@montana.edu) or Noelle Orloff from the Schutter Diagnostic Lab (noelleorloff@montana.edu) with additional questions.”)



Among the pigweeds in this photo, the Palmer amaranth plant (designated by the black arrow), stands out due to its long, thin inflorescence (Photo credit Inga Hawbaker, Daniels County Extension).

Pesticide News and Updates cont...

Expiring Categories 2024

Click [HERE](#) to learn how to check your credits.

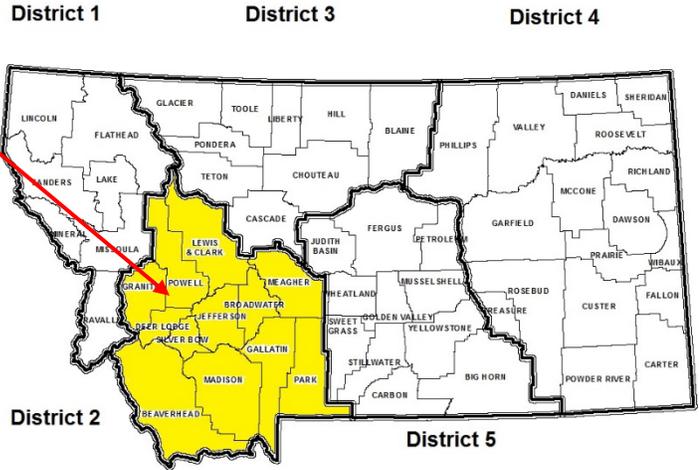
Private Applicator Renewal

Private applicators in **District 2** need to obtain **6 CE's by December 31st, 2024.**

Commercial, Non-Commercial, Special Utility, and Government Applicators and Dealers

- ⊕ Aerial
- ⊕ Agricultural Plant zPest
- ⊕ Mosquito Abatement
- ⊕ Public Health Pest
- ⊕ Agricultural Animal Pest
- ⊕ Other (Sewer Treatment)

You will need to ensure you have **12 CE's by December 31st, 2024.**



Future Goals for the MT Pesticide Licensing Department By Kyra Allison-Wright, Pesticide License Specialist



As the pesticide licensing specialist, my goal for the upcoming 2024 season is to streamline the renewal application process. I have highlighted the email section on all renewal applications that were mailed out this season. With your email address on file, we can email you your pest license renewal application directly to you. This saves time during renewal season.

Once you have this renewal information emailed to you, you can even renew your own license online. You can find Okta, the renewal site here: <https://Okta.loginmt.com>. You will then use your Plants ID number and Pin ID number, located on your renewal application, to login and create an account. Once you have created an account you can access and pay any licensing fees. You can find step by step instructions on our website here: <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/N-P/Pay-Online-Pages/OnlinePayments-Pest-RenewLicenses>.

If you haven't seen your renewal yet please check your email account that's on file with the department.

Please feel free to reach out with questions by calling **406-444- 3691**.

If you didn't already receive this newsletter electronically, and would like to in the future, please send an email with your name and license number to pestraining@mt.gov and we will add your email to the system.

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