



Helena Community of Resource Educators

Mission Statement

We are a network of individuals and organizations working together to increase awareness and understanding about the natural, historical and cultural resources of Helena and the surrounding region.

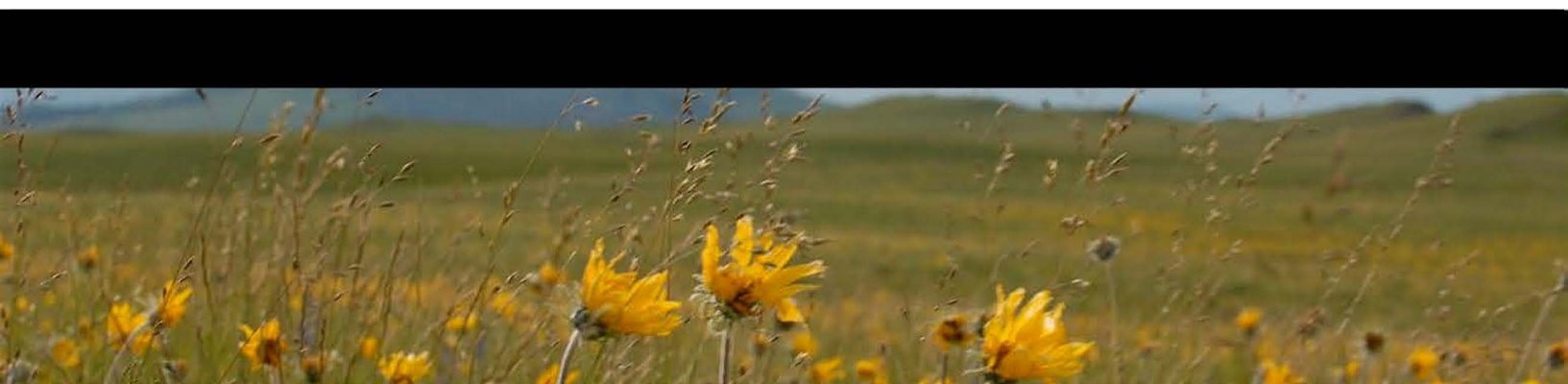
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Partner Spotlight



AgCorps

AgCorps is a state AmeriCorps program administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture. AgCorps aims to improve the capacity of partner organizations to meet their mission, grow collaborations, provide effective programming, and create resilient, healthy, safe, and engaged communities in Montana.

AgCorps offers public programming on beekeeping, noxious weed management and Harvest of the Month activities. Contact Amanda Coyle: Amanda.coyle@mt.gov



The Foundation for Montana History

The Foundation for Montana History raises money and makes grants to history projects across the treasure state. We are proud to offer a series of outdoor, educational walking tours in the Helena area as an extension of our mission to engage and preserve Montana's rich history. Contact Zach for more information: zachary@mthistory.org

Flagship programs: Adventure on the Ambrose Trail: a history hike on Mount Helena. This tour explores themes of conservation, exploitation, and the role Mount Helena has played in the history and development of Helena.

Pedaling through the Past: A tour that explores the lesser known regions of historic Helena. While riding on the Bert & Ernie's Pub Trolley, participants get to experience history up close and in style. Stops feature local businesses, glamorous mansions, and hidden treasures in the Queen City.





LOCALLY-LED CONSERVATION
2024 BY THE NUMBERS

OUTREACH NUMBERS

>8300 Website users
>9400 Facebook views
>830 Instagram users



96 PARTICIPANTS
>4 ACRES
Pollinator habitat planted through wildflower seed program



>\$100,000

In grants sponsored to support our programs or partner projects



OUTREACH
> 2200 adults and youth participated in education events and other outreach



Supervisor Statistics
>900 donated hours
>3500 miles traveled on CD work

50 PERMITS

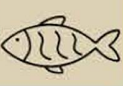


emergencies & complaints administered under the Montana Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, known as the 310 Law

>2000 FT BANK IMPROVEMENT



Along the shores and streambanks in Lewis & Clark County



76 YEARS

Common Sense, Locally-Led Conservation

Join the **Lewis & Clark Conservation District** and the **Helena NRCS Field Office** for a presentation by **Dr. Jane Mangold** on **Invasive Annual Grasses in Montana**, followed by a Snow Forecast presentation.
When: February 4, 2025 from **5:00-7:30 pm**
Where: Montana Wild, 2668 Broadwater Ave, Helena MT
Snacks Provided
****1 Pesticide Applicator Credit can be obtained with this event****
Seating is LIMITED so RSVP today!



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Please RSVP by emailing chris@lewisandclarkcd.org. For more information call Chris at 406-502-8591.

WHAT: Lewis & Clark County Work Group
WHO: Anyone who has feedback on natural resource concerns in Lewis & Clark County
WHY: NRCS and the Conservation District use information to update their long range plans

Lewis & Clark County Local Work Group Meetings



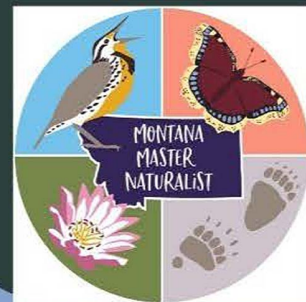
Or scan the QR code to fill out the online survey



USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

WHEN: Thursday March 27, 2025 from 12 pm to 1 pm
WHERE: Conference Room at 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT, 59601
For more information call Chris Evans at 406-502-8591 or email at chris@lewisandclarkcd.org





MONTANA MASTER NATURALIST REGISTRATION OPEN!

Montana Discovery Foundation is excited to announce our 2025 Master Naturalist Course! Taking place over 12 weeks with 10 classes, and consisting of 1 field day and 1 overnight trip, this will be a fully immersive experience for all levels of learners.

\$355 PER PERSON

This Master Naturalist Course starts on March 4th with virtual classes occurring every Tuesday from 5pm-7pm. The overnight trip will be May 17-18th.

WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US!

CLASS IS LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS

montanadiscoveryfoundation.org
montanadiscoveryfoundation@gmail.com

Wheat Stem Sawfly: Best Management Practices

Overview

The wheat stem sawfly (*Cephus cinctus* Norton) is the dominant pest of dryland wheat production in Montana and across much of the Northern Great Plains (Figure 1). Based on empirical models, it is estimated the average farm can lose 13.5 percent of the winter wheat yield and 11.5 percent of the spring wheat yield in areas with large, damaging populations of the pest, making successful management a top priority for Montana farmers.

In addition to decreasing grain crop yield and farm income, wheat stem sawfly (WSS) also increases conservation resource concerns in cropland. Frequent stem cutting by WSS larvae below or near the soil surface reduces standing residue height, making the soil more prone to wind erosion. According to the NRCS National Agronomy Manual, “Standing residue is at least three times more effective at controlling wind erosion than flat residue” (USDA-NRCS, 2011). Likewise, shorter stubble reduces the potential for over-winter snow catch and increases soil temperature and evaporative water loss, making cropland less resilient to drought and climate warming. As a result, the challenges from WSS extend beyond decreased crop yield and contribute to a reduction in sustainability and soil health in wheat cropping regions with large pest populations (Figure 2).

Currently, no insecticides provide successful control of wheat stem sawfly. As a result, cultural methods such as variety selection, crop rotation, and harvest management, are the only successful methods of suppression for this pest. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide producers, crop advisors, and conservationists with practical and effective best management practices (BMP) for wheat stem sawfly management to promote greater economic and ecological sustainability for Montana farmers. The BMPs provided in this document are based on research conducted over the last three decades, both on-farm and in the laboratory, by Montana State University WSS Laboratory staff, graduate, and undergraduate students. Research funding was provided by multiple sources and organizations, with many suggestions and on-farm participation from wheat and barley producers across Montana.

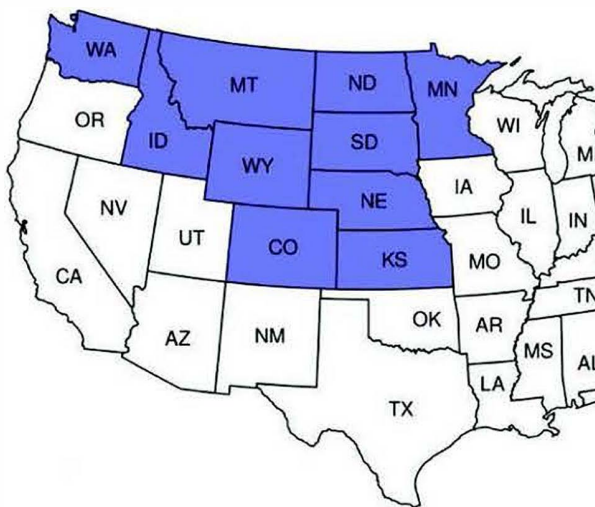


Figure 1. States (purple) with known populations of wheat stem sawfly in the Northern Great Plains. Distribution adapted from and first created by Achhami et al. 2020.

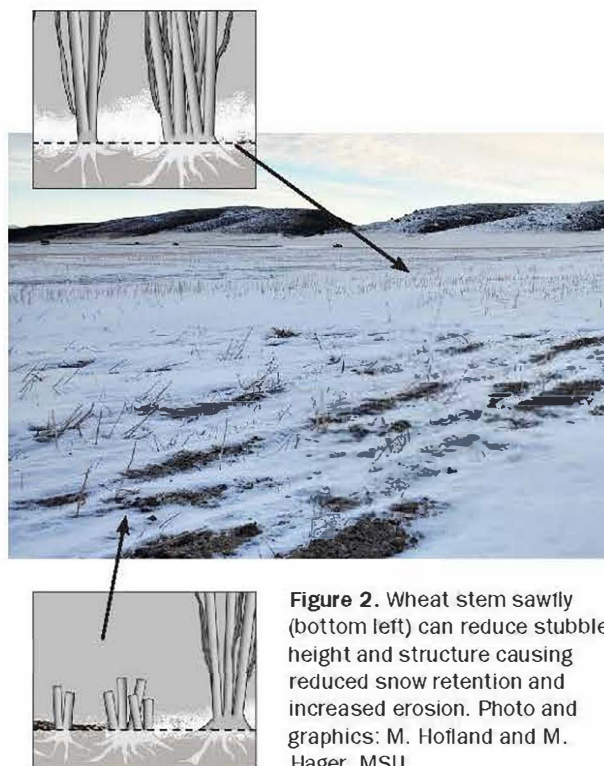


Figure 2. Wheat stem sawfly (bottom left) can reduce stubble height and structure causing reduced snow retention and increased erosion. Photo and graphics: M. Hoiland and M. Hager, MSU.

HELENA'S LONGEST TABLE

Community Meal

Saturday, February 22, 2025
4-6 pm at Ten Mile Brewing Company

LOCALLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS FROM MONTANA FARMS AND RANCHES, PREPARED BY LOCAL CHEFS

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



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Resilient Helena

resilient.helena@gmail.com



PRICKLY PEAR
LAND TRUST

FIRESIDE CHAT SERIES

BUILDING WITH BEAVERS

WITH ELISSA CHOTT

RSVP AT:
TAB.S0/FIRESIDE



FEB 19TH
5:30PM

PPLT OFFICE

40 W. LAWRENCE
ST, SUITE A



Lewis and Clark Conservation District Pollinator Workshop



April 22nd 530pm-730pm
Ten Mile Brewing Company



Speakers include

Abi Saeed- MSU Extension Horticulturalist Specialist

Alyssa Piccolomini- MT. Dept of Ag Entomologist

Christian Lehnert- Lewis and Clark Weed District Weed Coordinator

Topics Include

Pollinator species of the Helena Area

Gardening practices that benefit pollinator species

Noxious and invasive weed control



Upcoming Events

2/4/2025	Tuesday	500pm	730pm	Montana Wild	Invasive Annual Grass Workshop w/ Snowpack Presentation	NRCS
2/22/2025	Saturday	1000am	200pm	Lincoln Sculpture Park	Family Snowshoe Day	Montana Discovery Foundation
2/22/2025	Saturday	400pm	600pm	Ten Mile Brewery	Helena's 2nd Longest Table - Community Dinner	Resilient Helena - purchase tickets at: https://resilient-helena.org/events
3/14/2025	Friday	630pm	830pm	Stemple Pass	Family Snowshoe Moonlight Hike	Montana Discovery Foundation
4/17/2025	Thursday	630pm	800pm	TBD	De-lawning Your Landscape Workshop	Resilient Helena - purchase tickets at: https://resilient-helena.org/events
4/19/2025	Saturday	1000am	1200pm	TBD	WaterWise Xeriscaping and Rain Barrel Workshop	Resilient Helena - purchase tickets at: https://resilient-helena.org/events
4/19/2025	Saturday	900am	100pm	Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds	Montana Conservation Elders	Montana Conservation Elders
4/22/2025	Tuesday	530pm	700pm	Ten Mile Brewery	Pollinator Workshop	Lewis and Clark Conservation District
4/23/2025	Wednesday	300pm	100pm	York Rd.	Lake Helena Watershed Group Trash Pickup	LHWG

Partner Contacts

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