



What are invasive species and how you can help eradicate them?

An invasive species is a species that is not native to the area in which it is found and has been introduced (whether accidentally or intentionally) from elsewhere. A species labeled as “invasive” typically means that because it did not originate in the ecosystem it is “invading”, and will likely be able to out-compete native species for resources to live and multiply. Invasive species are not necessarily animals, there are highly threatening plant species that can take over an ecosystem.

In Alberta, examples of invasive species include the brown rat, pet goldfish dumped when they become inconvenient, flowering rush that infests freshwater habitats and hawkweed – both the meadow and the decorative orange variety.

The majority of invasive species control is directed by the Alberta and smaller local governments, who collaborate with volunteer groups and landowners, in particular farmers, to improve coordination and communication – two key actions in decreasing invasive species risk.

In 2016, a smart phone app was introduced that farmers, and all Albertans, can download - EDDMapS Alberta, which stands for Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System.

Nicole Kimmel, Alberta Agriculture weed specialist commented that the app gives the ability for anyone who finds a suspicious plant to compare it with anything the government is looking for. An app user takes photos of the weed with a smartphone and the program uploads the photos to EDDMapS.

A verifier in Alberta reviews the images to check and confirm the weed species. Once verified and correctly identified as an invasive species, the verifier notifies the jurisdiction responsible. The app automatically picks up the GPS co-ordinates of where the weed or invasive species was detected, so ongoing reported locations appear on the EDDMapS Alberta website.



If you think you’ve seen an invasive species, please report the sighting!

Only working together will we succeed in protecting Alberta’s ecosystem!

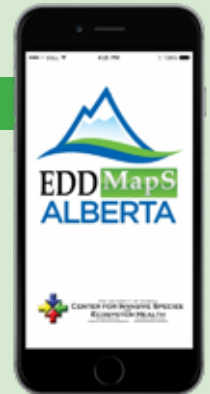
Downloading the app is easy and free

Simply visit:

www.eddmaps.org/alberta

and follow the instructions.

If you have no interest in apps or using web programs you can also report unusual weeds the old-fashioned way by showing a sample to your local Agricultural Fieldman.



For power outages, emergency power troubles and service requests, contact the distribution system operator for FENN REA: **ATCO Electric**
Phone toll-free: 1-800-668-2248

FENN REA
Box 31, Fenn, Alberta T0J 1K0
Phone: c/o Philip Jarmin,
1-403-740-9384
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Battle River Power Coop
Member Care & Billing
Box 1420, Camrose AB T4V 1X3
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Email: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

Keeping Your House Energy Efficiently Cool

The key to keeping your house cool in summer is to reduce indoor heat sources and make sure that outside heat stays outside. The following tips and tricks are a winning combination of cooling ideas that also generate energy efficiency.



1

During the day, create indoor shade by making use of curtains, blinds, shutters and/or awnings to keep sunlight from turning into indoor heat. Conversely when the outside temperature begins to drop at night, open windows and allow cool air into the home. This will save on your air conditioning bill.

2

Ceiling and room fans are great for keeping you cool as you move around your home. However, to conserve energy don't leave fans running in a room that is empty. Fans do not actually cool air; unlike an air conditioner; they simply move it around making you feel cooler. Also remember the direction of your ceiling fan blades in summer should be counter clockwise.

3

When washing clothes or dishes, consider these tips. Wash clothes in cold water and if possible hang to dry. If you must use a dryer, use it at night when temperatures are cooler. Dishwashers, on the other hand, must use hot water, so make sure you only run full loads and don't run the sanitizer or sterilizer settings. After the rinse cycle, consider allowing the dishes to air dry rather than running a heating element. Once again, run your dishwasher in the evening or overnight.

4

Use your air conditioning more efficiently. Sources indicate the ideal temperature for thermal comfort is between 23.5°C (74.3°F) and 25.5°C (78°F). Use a programmable thermostat and set it higher when you are away from the home or at night when you sleep. Your body can tolerate higher temperatures when you are sleeping – so you can raise the temperature and toss off the covers. Remember for every degree Celsius you raise your thermostat, you can save as much as 10% in air conditioning energy cost.

5

In the kitchen, stay cool by using your oven sparingly as oven heat can make the whole house hotter. Try recipes that use a microwave, slow cooker, toaster oven or move outside to a barbeque. Cool meals like salads, etc. are another option. Maximize your refrigerator efficiency and follow recommended manufacturer settings. If your fridge is too cold, it could be costing you money. Additionally, keep your refrigerator reasonably full as solids and liquids are easier to cool than air, but keep in mind not to overfill shelves so you leave enough room for circulation.

Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

The RRO rate may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you receive the default RRO rate.

For May 2019, the RRO is priced at \$0.05955 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For June 2019, the Battle River Power Coop monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.06205; the billing rate charged to FENN REA members is \$0.06205. The RRO rate is also listed on www.fennrea.com.

The delivery of electricity to you is not affected by your choice. If you change who you purchase electricity services from, you will continue receiving electricity from the distribution company in your service area.

For information about the electricity industry and for a list of Alberta licensed retailers, visit the Utilities Consumer Advocate at www.ucahelps.alberta.ca or call toll free 310-4822. For a list of retailers registered within the FENN REA area visit: www.fennrea.com.

Information on **FENN REA's Code of Conduct Compliance Plan** can be found on our website: www.fennrea.com