

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) has received reports of Jimsonweed in Alberta. This is not a common weed found in Alberta, and producers need to be diligent to stop its spread.

It is important that producers handle this weed carefully to prevent further spread and potential health risks to livestock and humans. Proper handling information can be found below and on the [Agriculture and Forestry website](#).

Jimsonweed is classified as a Class 1 weed under the federal Weed Seeds Order of the *Federal Seeds Act*. Jimsonweed is a prohibited noxious weed seed under the *Seeds Act*, and it must not be present in any seed imported into or sold in Canada. The *Seeds Act* prohibits the sale of seed containing prohibited noxious weed seeds.

CFIA is taking the appropriate steps to investigate the source of Jimsonweed in Alberta.

Jimsonweed has now been found in eleven rural municipalities, as of September 14. Counties include Barrhead Camrose, Flagstaff, Leduc, Lacombe, Lac Ste Anne, Parkland, Ponoka, Westlock, Wetaskiwin and Wheatland. The majority of reports have been spotted in canola fields. While some wheat and barley fields have been reported, they have links to canola seeded in previous fields or in the previous year.

#### *Proper handling of Jimsonweed*

**Jimsonweed should be pulled from fields prior to swathing down;** once cut, the seed capsules may mature into viable seeds for next year. Jimsonweed seed is difficult to clean from canola.

AF sent out information to all Ag Fieldmen on the safe handling of the weed through a weed alert now posted [online](#).

If Jimsonweed is found, producers should take the following steps:

- When hand pulling, wear gloves and long sleeves
- Double bag the plants for the landfill disposal
- Canola stubble should not be baled up for feed where plants have been found. These practices will increase risk for poisoning in livestock feed.
- Do not compost or burn, as this will release toxins in the air and may cause secondary poisoning.

#### *Collecting information on Jimsonweed sightings*

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) continues to work with the CFIA and ag fieldmen to track fields. Counties and producers are asked to work closely with AF to obtain as much information as possible on all reports of Jimsonweed in cropping situations. **If Jimsonweed has been spotted, counties and producers are asked to call the Ag Info Centre at 310-FARM.**

Ag Fieldmen or producers who have spotted Jimsonweed in their fields are asked to provide the following information to AF to help track and monitor the situation:

- number of plants;
- type of seed;
- where it was purchased;
- seed lots, if available;
- names of producers; and
- contact information for producers.

**Producers or Ag Fieldmen who have reported sightings of Jimsonweed should call 310-FARM.**