

COUNTY BULLETIN

Important Dates

- March 9th - **Daylight savings**
- March 20th - **1st Day of Spring**
- April 18th - **Good Friday**
- April 20th - **Easter**
- May 17th - **Vermilion Eco-**

Buffer Planting

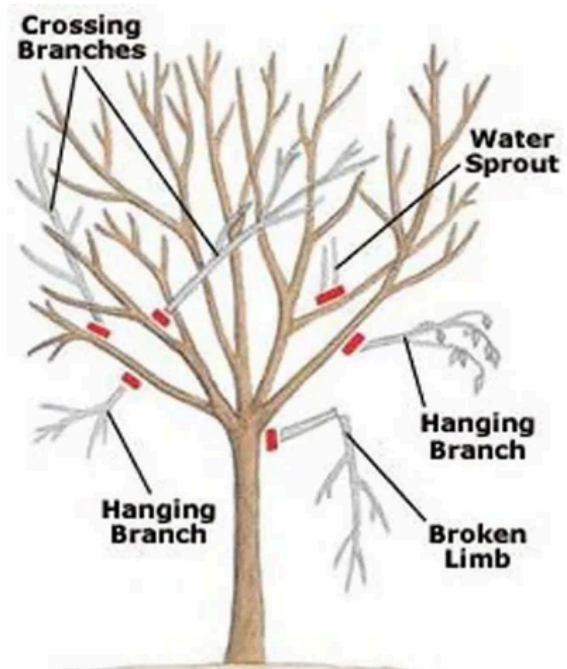
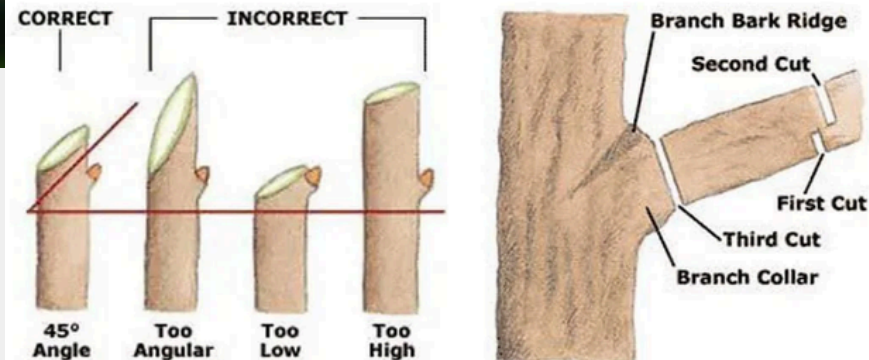
Spring Tree Care

As the weather warms up, spring is the perfect time to give your trees a little attention! Proper pruning is key to promoting healthy growth, improving tree structure, and preventing disease.

- **Prune Dead or Damaged Branches:** Trim away any broken or diseased branches to prevent the spread of disease and allow healthy new growth.
- **Shape the Tree:** Focus on removing any branches that are crossing or rubbing together to improve airflow and sunlight penetration.
- **Don't Over-Prune:** Avoid heavy pruning in the spring as it can stress the tree. Stick to light shaping and removal of unhealthy branches.
- **Check for Pests:** Spring is a good time to inspect your trees for signs of pests or disease. Look for unusual growths, holes, or discolored leaves.

By giving your trees a little care this spring, you can help them thrive for the rest of the year!

WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER! WE'RE EXCITED TO BRING YOU SEASONAL UPDATES, UPCOMING EVENTS, PEST ALERTS, AND OUR "WILD WATCH" FEATURING PESTS TO WATCH FOR IN THE COUNTY. PLUS, ENJOY LOCAL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS, SUCCESS STORIES, AND SOME FUN "FARM FRESH" SURPRISES! GET INVOLVED—CHECK OUT THE DETAILS BELOW. WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US THIS SEASON!



ALUS


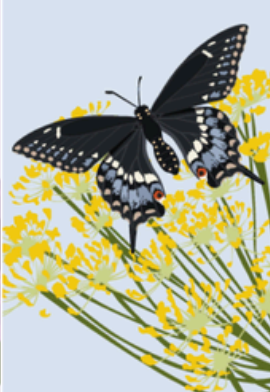

Benefits of Planting Trees

By diversifying the landscape with trees, farms become more resilient to extreme weather events and changing climate conditions. The trees provide multiple benefits, making the farm ecosystem more adaptable and reducing risks associated with unpredictable weather patterns. Here are some of the key advantages:

- **Windbreaks and Protection from Weather Extremes** – trees can reduce wind speed, protecting crops from wind damage and moisture loss. In addition, trees provide shade that helps mitigate the effects of extreme heat during summer, reducing plant stress and conserving water. This can improve crop yields in challenging climates.
- **Soil Erosion Prevention** – trees help reduce soil erosion by stabilizing the soil with their root systems. Their roots bind the soil, preventing it from being washed or blown away by wind or rain. This is especially important in areas prone to erosion, ensuring that valuable topsoil stays intact for crops to thrive.
- **Enhanced Soil Fertility** – the organic matter from trees, such as fallen leaves, fruits, and branches, contributes to the soil's nutrient content. As this material decomposes, it adds valuable nutrients to the soil, improving its fertility and promoting healthier crop growth. This organic matter also increases soil's water-holding capacity.
- **Biodiversity and Pest Control** – trees foster biodiversity by attracting beneficial insects, birds, and pollinators. These organisms contribute to natural pest control and improve pollination, which enhances crop productivity. By reducing reliance on chemical pesticides, trees promote a healthier and more sustainable farming environment.
- **Water Management** – tree roots absorb excess water during heavy rains, reducing the risk of flooding and runoff. In drier periods, tree canopy cover helps reduce soil moisture evaporation, helping crops retain water for longer periods.

The ALUS Vermilion River program can help you plant trees around your farm or ranch operation. This eco-buffer was planted in 2017 and by 2024 it's starting to look like a natural forest that is providing all of these functions and more. Contact Chris Elder at 780-853-7844 or celder@county24.com to get more information on tree planting with ALUS.

Friends of the **the Pollinator Garden**

BUMBLEBEES	BUTTERFLIES	BIRDS
		
Bumblebees are considered crucial to ecosystems as key pollinators of fruits eaten by birds and other insects.	Butterflies love dill! Especially the beautiful black-tailed swallow butterfly.	With an increased abundance of insect visitors, you can expect some high quality bird-watching!
They are generalists, visiting a variety of edible and ornamental plants in your garden. So, keep them around!	Often overlooked by bees in economic importance, butterflies bring color, excitement, and make for great animal-watching.	Birds will soon adapt and associate your garden with a tasty meal, stopping by often.

Want to Be Featured?

Got a great photo you'd like to see on our cover?
 Have a funny joke or a question we can answer?
 Maybe a heartwarming success story to share, or a local business you want to spotlight?
 Send it all our way at
sustainableagriculture@county24.com
 for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter!
 Join the fun and be a part of the bulletin!

WILD WATCH

LEAFY SPURGE

(*Euphorbia virgata*)

SPROUTING LAUGHTER

Why do plants hate
math?

Because it gives them square roots!

Weed Control Act Designation-

Noxious (**must control**) This plant is a perennial that is native in Asia and Europe. It is toxic to humans, livestock and wildlife when consumed or when milky sap contacts skin.

Habitat-

Regionally common throughout Alberta in crop and pasture land, grasslands, and aquatic areas. Tolerates a wide variety of conditions but prefers warm climates and full sun.

Identification-

Clusters of small yellow-green flowers without petals or sepals, supported by two heart-shaped, leafy bracts. Its leaves are narrow, waxy, and grow directly from the stem. Both the leaves and stems contain a white, milky sap. The plant can grow up to 90 cm tall and has smooth stems that grow in clumps. It has deep, spreading roots with pink buds on the side. The seeds grow in pods on top of the bracts and explode when mature, sending seeds up to 15 meters away. Each plant can produce up to 130,000 seeds!

Control-

Reproduces by seed and creeping roots. Targeted grazing by sheep and goats, biocontrol (leafy spurge beetles), or herbicides, especially used together.

Free Rentals

Need assistance with recycling grain bags or bale twine?

Reach out to Kendall in the Ag department at (780) 846-2244 ext. 3045 or kleuschen@county24.com to arrange a pickup for one of the grain-bag rollers or to assist with your twine recycling needs.

We also offer a free rental of a tree mulcher and tree planter.

Plastic mulch is available for purchase

Please note that we do not transport your rolled grain bags to the transfer site. Our service is limited to providing rental equipment only.

Hydraulic Powered



Gas Powered





What's to come

Let's go Oilers!

Grade 5 Lady Bug release

Grower of the Year Award

Pot Filler Phil Working Hard

ROOTED RIGHT HERE

F'Laura n' Company Greenhouse

My name is Laura Waterfield, and I am the owner of F'Laura n' Company Greenhouse. I began growing plants for family and friends in 2003. In 2013, with my modest little greenhouse bursting at the seams, the opportunity arose to purchase a commercial greenhouse building from a grower who was retiring. With encouragement from my husband Dean, I took a leap of faith and opened the doors of F'Laura n' Company Greenhouse on May 1st 2014, on our family farm, 8km West of Kitscoty. We opened our second location in the town of Vermilion, in the spring of 2016. Since then we have expanded the greenhouse operation on our farm to accommodate customer demand.

What first began as a labour of love, soon blossomed into a prosperous business. We currently grow over 600 different varieties of plants including ornamental annuals and perennials, herbs, vegetables, and tropicals. I also bring in ornamental and fruiting varieties of trees and shrubs from wholesale suppliers, garden seeds, fertilizer, potting mixes, containers, and other gardening supplies.

At F'Laura n' Company quality is our top priority, and we take pride in producing pesticide free plants that will continue to thrive after they go home. I believe that good customer service doesn't end at the door. I am always happy to answer customers questions because when our customers are successful we are successful.

In November of 2022 I had the honour of being presented with the 2022 Alberta Greenhouse Grower of the Year Award. In November of 2025 I was voted in as a Board Director for the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association, and I am excited to serve my peers and learn more about the horticulture industry thru this position.

Preparation for the upcoming season is now well underway. F'Laura n' Company will open for our 12th season on May 1st, 2025. We look forward to seeing you!

flaurancompanygreenhouse.com

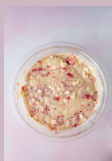
laura@flaurancompanygreenhouse.com

Farm Fresh Feast

White Chocolate Raspberry Muffins

Ingredients

- 3 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR, 360 GRAMS
- 1 ½ CUPS GRANULATED SUGAR
- 3 TSP BAKING POWDER
- ½ TSP SALT
- ¼ TSP GROUND NUTMEG
- 2 LARGE EGGS
- ¾ CUP BUTTERMILK
- ½ CUP VEGETABLE OIL
- 2 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT
- 2 CUPS RASPBERRIES- FRESH OR FROZEN
- 1 ½ CUPS WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS



Instructions

- PRE-HEAT OVA TO 425°F
- COMBINE THE FLOUR, GRANULATED SUGAR, BAKING POWDER, SALT, AND NUTMEG. STIR TOGETHER AND SET ASIDE.
- IN A LARGE MIXING BOWL COMBINE THE EGGS, BUTTERMILK, VEGETABLE OIL, AND VANILLA EXTRACT. STIR TO COMBINE WITH A SPATULA.
- GRADUALLY MIX IN THE DRY INGREDIENTS, MIXING JUST UNTIL COMBINED. GENTLY MIX IN THE RASPBERRIES AND WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS.
- COVER THE BOWL WITH A TOWEL AND ALLOW THE BATTER TO REST FOR 30 MINUTES. I RECOMMEND A 30 MIN REST BECAUSE THIS BATTER IS JUICY FROM THE FRESH FRUIT.
- BAKE FOR 7 MINUTES AT 425°F, THEN KEEP THE MUFFINS IN THE OVEN, AND TURN THE TEMPERATURE DOWN TO 350°F AND BAKE FOR 18-21 MINUTES OR UNTIL A TOOTHPICK INSERTED IN THE CENTER COMES OUT CLEAN.



[Link](#)