

LARAMIE COUNTY WEED & PEST



LCWP HAPPENINGS



www.laramiecountyweedandpest.com

DEFENSIBLE SPACES & WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Laramie County is no stranger to dry weather conditions, which is why weed control is such an important practice to protect ourselves, properties, livestock and more! Certain weeds and other plant species can pose major fire risks. For instance, Cheatgrass is a prevalent winter annual in Laramie County. This means that it is dried up and dormant while other plants thrive in what is usually considered the “normal” growing season. When a fire starts and it hits a patch of cheatgrass, it can act as a wick, severely increasing burn intensity. Cheatgrass has adapted well to burn cycles and has been found to come back stronger in fire-disturbed areas, even ones that it had not previously been present in before.

Know How To Mow - Buffer zones are vital to fire safety, a minimum 10 foot buffer around your house and any other buildings is generally good practice for fire prevention. The more effective methods of buffer zones are comprised of about 3 different types of zones at varying lengths.

- **Zone 1 - Ember Resistant Zone:** Minimize fuels as much as possible within a 5 foot radius of the home by utilizing gravel/concrete, clearing dead weeds and plants, trimming branches away from chimneys, and overall minimizing combustible materials near the home.
- **Zone 2 - Lean, Clean, Green Zone:** Keep a reasonably mowed buffer within 30 feet of the home, keep clear of dead vegetation and litter, space out shrubs/trees/furniture, and keep 10 feet of bare ground around LPG tanks.
- **Zone 3 - Reduce Fuels Zone:** 30-100 feet from the home same parameters as Zone 2, keep 10 feet of bare ground around exposed wood piles.

BIOCONTROL IN LARAMIE COUNTY

Biocontrol is a wonderful weed control method to integrate into an existing plan, or a worthwhile alternative for certain conditions. There are cost-shared biocontrol species available for Dalmatian Toadflax, Leafy Spurge, and Knapweed through Laramie County Weed and Pest around the end of May/beginning of June while bugs remain available.

The insects feed only on the weed they are targeted for, nothing else. They pose no threat to humans, crops or beneficial organisms. The health of the ecosystem is maintained and improved. There is no damage to native plants as there can be with herbicides. Once established on the site, the insects over winter, reproduce and spread. One release of 100 insects can become over a million in just a few years. Insects remain permanently and the weed in continually under attack. Avoid annual labor and expense of other treatments such as pulling or herbicide. Additional purchase of insects is not needed, unless a very large area is involved. Call us for more information !

BOARD MEETINGS

April 8th 2026 @ Archer **6:30 pm**
 May 7th 2026 @ Archer **6:30 pm**
 June 4th 2026 @ Pine Bluffs **6:30 pm**

OFFICES CLOSED

May 25th 2026 - **Memorial Day**
 June 19th 2026 - **Juneteenth**

For further information on closures please refer to laramiecountyweedandpest.com

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