

USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services

Recommendations for Reducing Blackbird Damage to Sunflowers



Get propane cannons off the ground by securing them on top of chemical totes, metal or plastic drums, or T-posts. Make sure to secure cannon and tank.

- Sound resonates better if the cannon is off the ground.
- Cannons off the ground are less susceptible to mice infestation and will remain functional longer.



- Cannons on the ground can be a fire hazard near dry vegetation and are magnets for mice. Ground moisture can also damage the cannons.
- Put water or rocks in tubs and barrels for more stability.
- Check propane cannons and tanks frequently for proper function and gas levels. If they quit working call WS.

- Start harassment early, don't wait for the buildup of large flocks.
- Cannons are expensive. Treat them with care. You may be liable for replacement cost if damaged.
- An integrated approach of harassment utilizing propane cannons, pyrotechnics and shotguns is the most effective.
- Move cannons to different locations frequently to avoid habituation.

Propane cannons, pyrotechnics, and other bird control equipment are available online from various pest control supply vendors.

Some examples include:

www.reedjoseph.com

www.gemplers.com

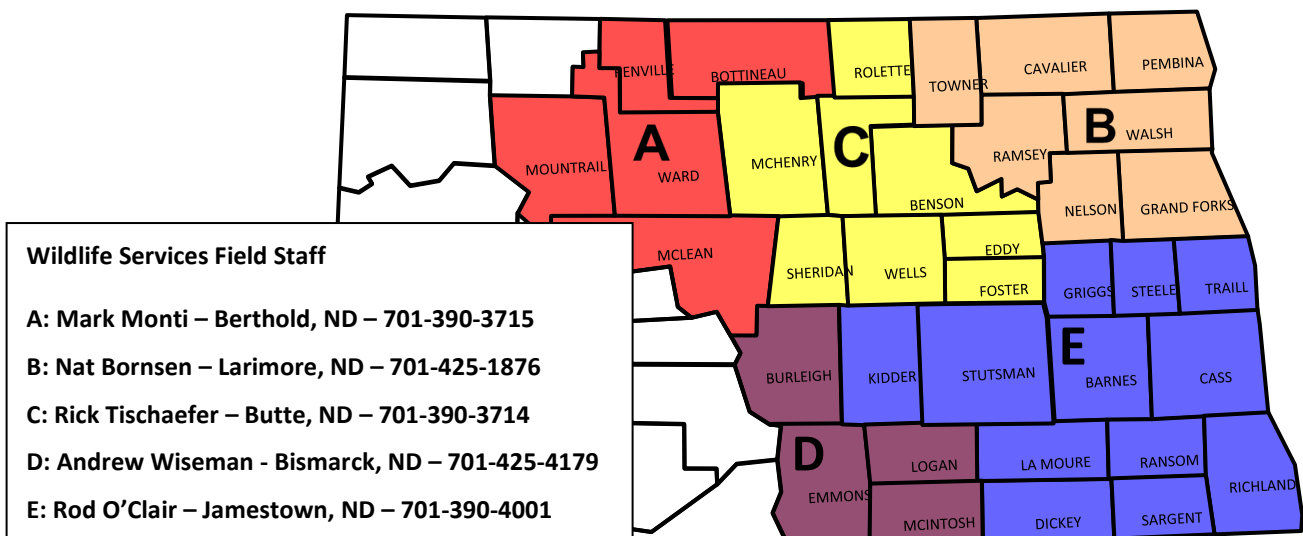
www.suttonag.com





- Avoid planting sunflowers in close proximity to large cattail sloughs (blackbird roosts), if at all possible.
- If you do plant close to cattails, consider spraying cattails with glyphosphate (Rodeo®) in accordance with the label, or mowing cattails if possible.
- Develop **roads or trails** in larger fields (quarter or more) to allow access to middle of fields for placement of propane cannons and pyrotechnic harassment.
- **Trails or roads** allow you many more locations for propane cannons and better accessibility for harassment with pyrotechnics and shotguns.
- Consider spraying a desiccant to defoliate at maturity and accelerate harvest before bird migration.

2018 Blackbird Damage Management – Contact Information



Contact the Wildlife Services office in Bismarck (701-355-3300) if the field staff cannot be reached