



USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services

Recommendations for Reducing Blackbird Damage to Sunflowers



Cannon "plate" on T-post

Get propane cannons off the ground by securing them on top of chemical totes, metal or plastic drums, or cannon plate on 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.
- Check propane cannons and tanks frequently for proper function and gas levels.
- Adding timers to cannons helps prevent "learned behavior" and saves on propane

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

Some examples include:

www.reedjoseph.com

www.marosupplies.com

www.suttonag.com



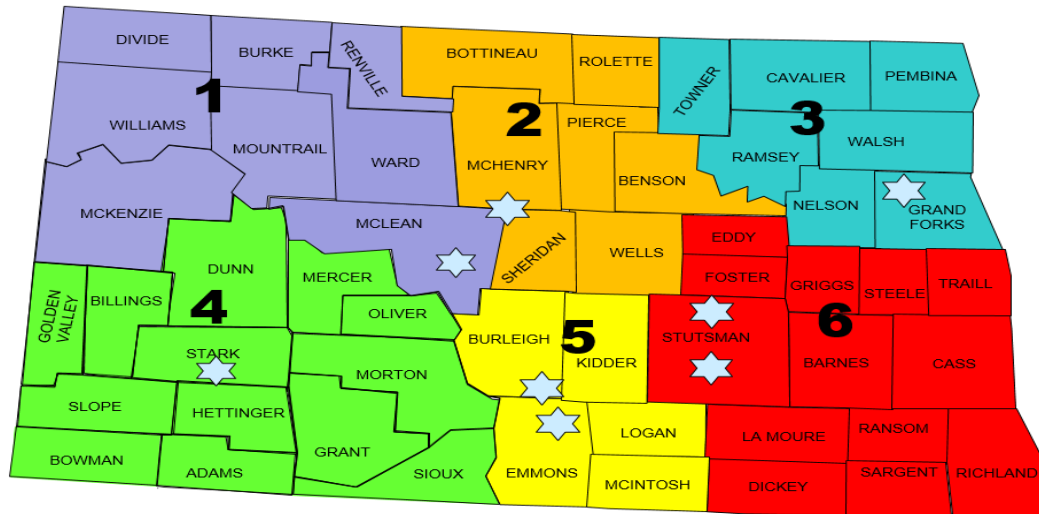
- Start harassment early, don't wait for the buildup of large flocks.
- Cannons are expensive. Treat them with care. You may be liable for replacement cost if damaged.
- An integrated approach of harassment utilizing propane cannons, pyrotechnics and shotguns is the most effective.
- Move cannons to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





- Avoid planting sunflowers in close proximity to large cattail sloughs (blackbird roosts), if at all possible. Plant as early as possible so harvest can be completed before blackbird migration.
- 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.

Blackbird Damage Management – Contact Information



District 1 – Eric Brundidge, McLean County ND	701-471-5497
District 2 - Rick Tischeafer, Butte, ND	701-390-3714
District 3 - Nat Bornsen, Larimore, ND	701-425-1876
District 4 - Tristian Leonard, Stark County, ND	701-471-5458
District 5 - Patrick Harrison, Emmons County, ND	701-425-4179
Matthew Kilgore, Emmons County, ND	701-471-6067
District 6 - Dwight Rasmussen, Jamestown, ND	701-390-4001
Cameron Hunt, Stutsman County, ND	701-471-5147

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