

Monitoring Strychnine Application Site Protocol For Agricultural Producers

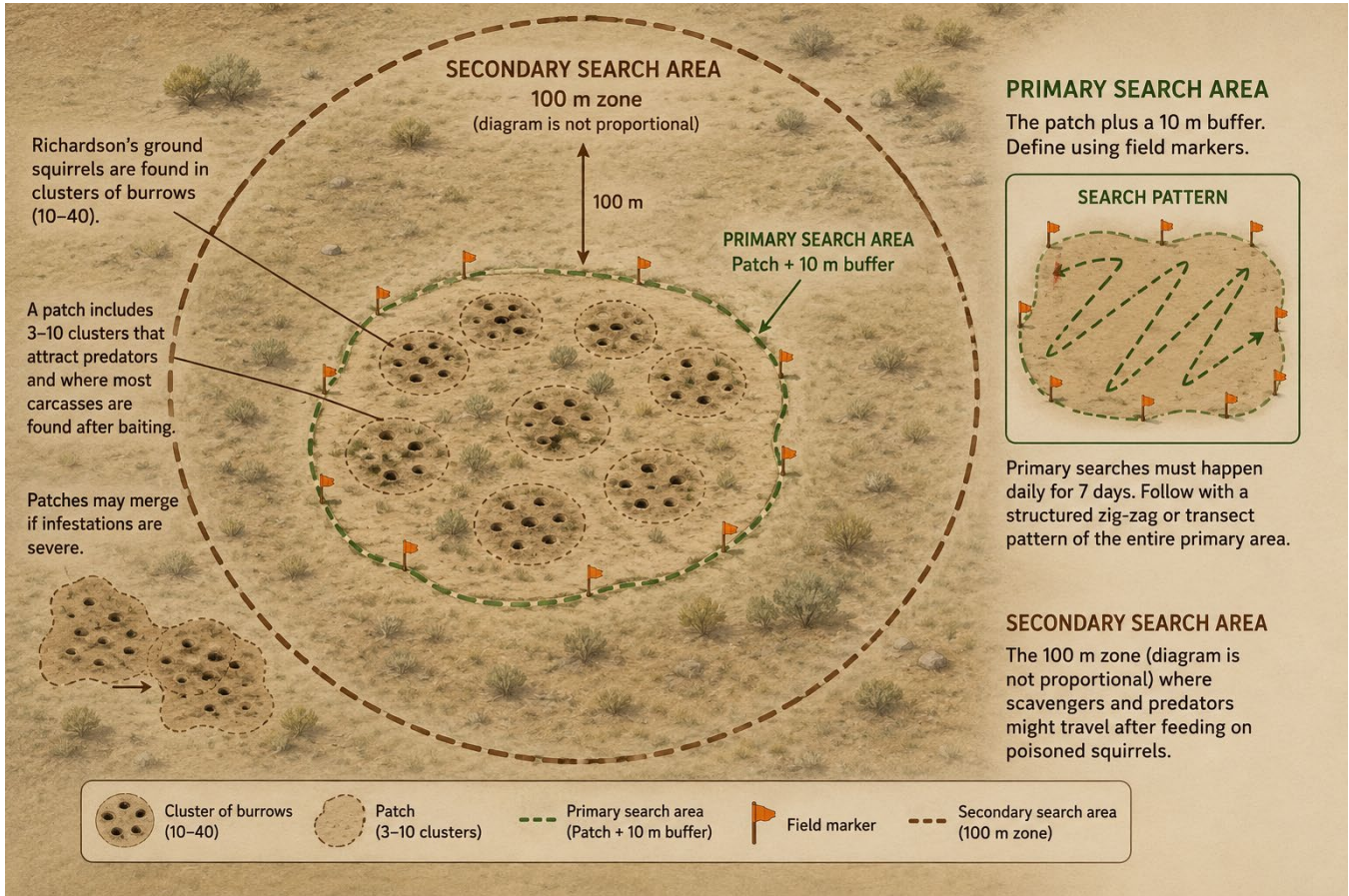


Image: Example of Monitoring Area

Top 5 things to know:

1. Complete required **Product Evaluation Form**
2. Monitor for dead animals and uneaten bait
3. Collect carcasses immediately
4. Disposal of carcasses by incineration or burial
5. Report non-target mortality

(only one set of monitoring records (4 weeks) is required per quarter section). Monitored areas should align with areas identified on your Strychnine Treatment Plan.

If several doses of strychnine are applied from the same purchase at different times (i.e. applied one treatment at one time and another treatment at a later date) it would need to be reported under a separate monitoring line in the Product Evaluation Form.

1. Documentation and Recordkeeping

Product Evaluation Forms must be completed and submitted to the municipality. Monitored areas can be specific to the treated acres or quarter section rather than each individual site within the quarter section

For more information: <https://alberta.ca/gophers>

2. Monitoring Requirements

All areas baited must be monitored for dead animals (including non-target species), uneaten bait, and the findings recorded in the Product Evaluation Form.

Monitoring shall include:

- Treated burrow systems
- Surrounding treatment area
- Field edges, ditches, and vegetation

Monitoring must be done daily for the first week and on a weekly basis for an additional three weeks, for a total of 4 weeks.

Twice a day (daylight hours) monitoring is required for the first week when there is an increased likelihood of **species at risk**, or where treatment occurs near critical habitat, then weekly for an additional three additional weeks.

Monitoring Area

The Primary search area is the patch plus a 10 m buffer. Define using field markers. Primary searches must happen daily for 7 days. Follow with a structured zig-zag or transect pattern of the entire primary area.

The Secondary search area is the 100 m zone (diagram is not proportional) where scavengers and predators might travel after feeding on poisoned Richardson's ground squirrels (RGS)

Actively monitor for:

- Birds of prey (hawks, owls)
- Mammalian predators and scavengers
- Domestic animals
- Species at risk

3. Carcass Collection Requirements

All target and non-target carcasses must be collected immediately and treated as toxic.

Locate and collect all visible RGS carcasses at or near burrow entrances as well as partially exposed carcasses.

Personal Protective Equipment

Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirt, chemical resistant gloves, socks and shoes when retrieving and disposing of poisoned carcasses.

Handling Procedures

Direct contact with carcasses is prohibited. Tools (e.g., shovel, tongs) should be used where practical. Carcasses shall be handled in a manner that avoids rupture or contamination.

4. Disposal Requirements

Carcass Disposal

All carcasses of RGS, non-target species and uneaten bait must be disposed of by incineration or burial in a pit no less than 46 cm (approx. 18 inches) deep and then covered to prevent scavengers from unearthing them.

Uneaten Bait and Spill Management

All uneaten exposed and spilled bait must be collected and disposed of by incineration or burial in a pit no less than 46 cm (approximately 18 inches) deep and then covered to prevent nontarget poisoning.

For additional disposal protocols refer to the product label and brochure.

Visit AgSafe Alberta at <https://agsafeab.ca/resources/> for general safety information for the safe transport, preparation, and use of strychnine.

5. Reporting

For non-target mortality such as multiple carcass events, evidence of secondary poisoning, carcass findings near public areas.

- **Federal:** Contact Health Canada's Pesticide Regulatory Directorate via the Voluntary Incident Reporting: <https://pest-control.canada.ca/public-engagement-portal/en/forms>

Concerns related to dead or injured wildlife contact Alberta Fish and Wildlife Offices at ☎ 310-0000 or through Report A Poacher (RAP) line: ☎ 1-800-642-3800 (after hours)

Domestic animals (pets/livestock): Contact your local veterinarian or emergency vet clinic immediately.

Alberta Poison and Drug Information:

Call **911** if someone is unconscious, not breathing or having a seizure.

For the Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) in Alberta, ☎ 1-800-332-1414 anytime day or night.

Website: myhealth.alberta.ca/poison-and-drugs

Stewardship Program Accountability

Failure to follow this protocol may result in:

- Increased risk of secondary poisoning
- Environmental harm
- Pesticide misuse penalties
- Loss of future access to the product

For more information: <https://alberta.ca/gophers>