

Crop and article inspection program

Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control office will provide noxious weed inspection of a crop or article upon request, a complaint, or when and infestation of noxious weeds in a crop or article comes to the attention of a noxious weed inspector. The purpose of such inspections is to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds by the movement of an infested crop or article from said premises.

Results

Crop and article inspections will result in a crop and/or article being:

- 1) certified as noxious weed free; or
- 2) infested with noxious weeds and quarantined; or
- 3) release of quarantined crop once it has been effectively treated to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds.

Landowners that sell forage or mulch may find that it would be to their benefit to have the noxious weed free certification. Purchasers may find it desirable to purchase forage or mulch that will not infest their property with noxious weeds. The State Roads Department requires noxious weed free mulch on their roadside plantings.

Treatments

Any infested article, includ-

ing harvested crops, capable of disseminating noxious weeds, needs to be treated before it is moved from the premises and, preferably, before it is moved from the location at which they initially became infested.

- All harvesting equipment and other infested equipment should have all loose material removed by sweeping, use of

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forced air or forced water, or other methods, as recommended by the manufacturer.

- Grain and seed should be cleaned and the screenings properly disposed.

• There are no known acceptable treatments for soil, sod, nursery stock, hay, straw, and other material of a similar nature.

Regional Weed Free Certification Program

A voluntary certification program has been implemented in the western states. Nebraska participates in this program. If grower ships or plans to ship forage or mulch to these states it may be desirable to obtain a regional certification. Inspections are made to assure that none of the noxious weeds for all the western states are not present.

Required Certified Forage and Mulch

Federal public land management agencies are now requiring that any forage or mulch brought onto their lands be certified noxious weed free. Some state agencies are now requiring this certification. As private landowners learn about the threat of the spread of noxious weeds, they are insisting on the weed-free certification.

How is Forage Certified?

An individual may request a certification inspection from the weed control office. The inspector will make an inspection prior to cutting or harvest. A "Certificate of Inspection" form is issued to the producer if the field meets the requirements of the regional standards. This certificate will allow the movement of the forage into restricted areas in the western states.

Prevent noxious weeds

You can do things to prevent the establishment and spread of many noxious weeds and reduce the cost of the required control efforts. Two ways to prevent the establishment of noxious weeds are to create an environment that prevents many of the germinating seedlings or existing perennial plants from producing seed and carrying out actions to prevent the spread of seeds and/or viable plant parts to infest new locations. Following are some options to make a site resistant to noxious weed infestations and options to prevent transporting noxious weed seeds to a new site.

Competition

Nature abhors a vacuum. Vegetation of some type will tend to fill in bare areas or areas that are sparsely vegetated. It is important to have desirable vegetation with good vigor to provide competition from the invasion of undesirable vegetation such as noxious weeds. Noxious weeds that are not controlled produce large quantities of seed. These seeds will remain viable for many years until the conditions are right for germination. The sites in the County with the most persistent noxious weed problems have a poor stand of grass or grass stands that lack vigor and do not compete well with invading weeds, especially the non-native aggressive noxious weeds.

Grass Seeding

Many of these sites will require grass seeding to provide the competition needed to keep

most of the noxious weeds under control. Once the grass is established the population of noxious weeds will decrease reducing the effort needed to control the surviving noxious weeds.

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Alfalfa

Alfalfa is not a good competitor of musk thistle. Musk thistle should be under control before a field is planted to alfalfa. Alfalfa fields have enough open areas that musk thistle thrives. The first cutting of alfalfa may result in some of the musk thistle flowers being cut off. This does not prevent seed production since the plant will produce new flowers and go to seed. After the grass and other desirable vegetation is established only limited control should be required if the vegetation is managed well.

Grazing Management

Overgrazing of pastures reduces the vigor and competitiveness of grass. Grazing management that includes rest periods for regrowth and replenishment of root reserves in the fall maintains vigorous growing vegetation that will compete well

with noxious weeds. It will not eliminate the noxious weeds but will reduce the number that will have to be controlled. Cool season grass, such as smooth brome grass, needs to be fertilized in order to maintain its productivity and vigor. You may contact the Cooperative Extension Service or the Resource Conservation Service for assistance in planting of grass and other vegetation and the management of pastures.

Dissemination Control

Many people do not realize that preventing the dissemination of seeds and viable plant parts to non-infested sites is also a critical part of an effective noxious weed control program. Musk and plumeless thistle and the knapweeds are spread only by seeds. Canada thistle and leafy spurge can also be spread to new sites by segments of their roots. Many of man's activities spread the seed or viable plant parts to a new site.

Dissemination

Any machinery, equipment, trucks, fencing material that have been used in a noxious weed infested area should be thoroughly cleaned before it is moved to a new site. Grain and seed suspected to contain noxious weeds should be treated by using a seed cleaner. Screenings left after the treatment should be destroyed. There are no known acceptable method to treat soil, sod, nursery stock, hay, straw, manure and other similar material. Such article should not be moved from the location at which they initially became

Weed Awareness



Planting prairiegrass and wildflowers

There is a growing interest in wildflower and native grass plantings by acreage owners. If properly planned and established these plantings will provide a very pleasing and low maintenance ground cover that will help prevent weeds. No herbicides were labeled for use in controlling weeds during establishment and maintenance of these plantings until American Cyanamid Company introduced the herbicide PLATEAU. It may be used to control weeds in native grass and wildflower plantings.

Selecting Grass and Wildflower Species

The grasses and wildflowers selected most have tolerance to PLATEAU herbicide. It is also desirable to select species that require a low level of maintenance. If shorter growing grasses are selected. Little or no mowing will be required to remove excess growth.

Short Grasses	Perennial Wildflower and Legumes Tolerant to PLATEAU Herbicide	
sideoats grama	*shasta daisy	upright prairie coneflower
blue grama	*purple prairieclover	leadplant
buffalograss	*Illinois bundleflower	bicolor Lespedeza
	*black-eyed susan	gold yarrow
	*mexican hat	partridgepea
	*lupine	ox-eye daisy
	*purple coneflower	sensitive vine
	wild violet	

*These are species that were planted along with a PLATEAU herbicide application in the spring of 1997 on a one-acre site in the county. See location of site below.

Some seed suppliers are putting together seed packets that are considered PLATEAU ready. These include Stock Seed Farms.

Planting and Establishment of Native Grasses and Wildflowers

(1) The first key to a successful planting is a weed-free, firm seed bed.

(2) The second key is using a seeding method that results in good seed-soil contact. A grass drill does the best job. If broadcast seeding is used, dragging and compacting the seedbed after planting will improve the seed-soil contact.

(3) Apply 4oz of PLATEAU herbicide in early spring as needed to control weeds on established stands of grass and wildflowers.

Application of PLATEAU Herbicide

Follow label directions or hire a commercial applicator to make the application.

See a Native Grass and Wildflower Planting

You can observe a planting that was made in the spring of 1997. This planting is located on the south side of W. Alvo Rd 1/4 mile east of NW27th St. just north of the Kawasaki plant and Hiway 34.

infested, but may be utilized at that location for commonly recognized purpose.

Sellers of Forage, Grain, Seed and Sod

Farmers who sell hay, straw, sod, grain or seed should take the actions needed to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds to the buyers. The noxious weeds could be controlled prior to the harvest of the crop. Grain and seed could be cleaned prior to its sale. The Authority will inspect fields, upon request, prior to harvest and certify them noxious

weed free if no noxious weeds are found or if the necessary treatment is completed.

Buyers

Buyers and users of these articles should insist that they are noxious weed free. Mulching of newly seeded areas may start new noxious weed infestations. Individuals and governmental bodies should use noxious weed free mulch to prevent infesting new areas. The State Roads Department has initiated a policy of using noxious weed free mulch on state road seedings.