

# Certifying Hay

Tyler Williams  
Extension Educator

Many acreage and farmland owners produce prairie or grass hay and often sell to livestock, dairy or horse owners. Selling hay can be a challenge, but certifying it as “weed free” may help market the hay to national parks, road departments or many other uses. Selling hay for use in parks or on roadsides, though, can be a challenge, especially if your hay needs to cross state lines.

This is because many state and federal agencies will refuse to buy your hay unless they can guarantee it does not contain any noxious weeds. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds via hay, the North American Weed Free Forage Program was established.

The Lancaster County Weed Control Authority will, upon request, inspect any forage prior to harvest as to the presence or absence of the designated noxious weeds of the participating states and provinces. The forage is required to be inspected in the field of origin prior to cutting or harvesting. Forage containing any noxious weeds or other listed weeds may be certified, if prescribed treatments are followed; these treatments will



vary depending on the type of weed. Then, if your hay passes, you will receive an inspection certificate verifying the results. When shipping across state lines, a transit certificate or certification marking must accompany the hay to avoid rejection.

Contact your local weed control authority for more details. In Lancaster County, you can contact Lancaster County Weed Control at 402-441-7817.

Certifying hay as “weed free” can offer other markets for your hay, but you must plan ahead and schedule the inspection plenty of time in advance of cutting your hay.

# Roundup® – Use Caution When Selecting a Weed Control Product

Sarah Browning  
Extension Educator

The spring push for lawn seeding, fertilizer and weed control has begun with some new products on the market. It's always critical to read and understand the label for any product you use, especially with products where it's easy to become confused like the Roundup® series.

The Roundup® name originally referred to one product containing glyphosate, a non-selective herbicide that would kill any plant, grass or broadleaf, it was sprayed on. Glyphosate is a systemic herbicide, which is absorbed through the plant's foliage and moves throughout the plant via its vascular system. It kills the entire plant, both the foliage it is sprayed on and the roots.

However, Roundup® is now a brand name referring to a line of products. Most still contain glyphosate, but also have additional active ingredients. The Roundup® line includes original Roundup®, Roundup® Weed & Grass Killer, Roundup® For Lawns, Roundup 365 and Roundup® Extended Control. If you've used the original Roundup® in the past, should you stick with it or try one of the new formulations?

## Roundup Grass & Weed Killer®

Contains glyphosate and pelargonic acid. Pelargonic acid is a contact herbicide, and is non-selective, like glyphosate, damaging any plant where it is applied. However, it does not move systemically throughout a plant, like glyphosate does. It only affects or kills the foliage it is sprayed on.

Pelargonic acid is combined with glyphosate to give a faster “burn down” or death of weed leaves. With glyphosate alone, it can take weeds several days, often 5–7 days, before dieback symptoms are seen. Pelargonic



acid causes leaves to begin dying much more quickly, often within only a matter of hours. This product is **non-selective**.

## Roundup For Lawns®

Does not contain glyphosate. It's a selective product containing a four-way blend of herbicides and controls a variety of broadleaf and grassy weeds. But it will not damage lawns when used properly. It is labeled for use on Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, fescue, buffalograss and zoysiagrass. This product is **selective**.

- MCPA — broadleaf weeds
- Quinclorac — broadleaf and grassy weeds, like crabgrass and foxtail
- Dicamba — broadleaf weeds
- Sulfentrazone — broadleaf weeds and sedges, like yellow nutsedge

## Roundup Max Control 365® and Roundup Extended Control®

Contain glyphosate, imazapic and diquat. The labels state they will keep treated areas weed-free for up to 1 year, which seems like a great idea, the result of the herbicide imazapic.

- Roundup Max Control 365® is labeled for use in cracks and crevices of sidewalks, driveways or patios for long-term

weed control.

- Roundup Extended Control® can be applied to driveways, patios, sidewalks, paths, tree rings, mulched areas or along fence lines and gravel areas.

Diquat is a non-selective herbicide, which acts primarily as a contact herbicide — killing only the plant tissues it is sprayed on. It has very limited ability to move within plants, so cannot be relied on to kill plant roots. However, it kills plant tissue quickly, within a few days.

Imazapic is more problematic when used in a landscape. It is a systemic herbicide with a residual life in the soil. Plants take it in through both foliage and roots, and it is non-selective killing grasses, broadleaf and woody plants. Imazapic's potential to move in soil water or through surface runoff is high. If it is picked up through the soil by desirable plants, such as trees, plant damage or death will occur. These products are **non-selective**. *Use them cautiously after careful consideration of the location of desirable tree and shrub root systems.*

*Read and follow all label directions when using any pesticide.*

*Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Nebraska Extension is implied.*



## BugMasters Volunteer Program

Now in its second year, the BugMasters volunteer program offered by Nebraska Extension and the UNL Department of Entomology is for adults who would like to learn more about insects and help teach others.

After attending a two-day training, participants help with outreach, activities or programs as part of one or more teams:

- Educating youth through outreach
- Protecting pollinators
- Emerald ash borer education
- Bed bug mythbusters

The training camp will be held on July 12–13 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days) at UNL East Campus Union and various on-campus outdoor locations. The cost is \$35 and includes



Jan Hygnstrom, UNL Dept. of Agronomy and Horticulture

continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon refreshments. Topics will include insect basics, pollinators, pests and how to teach insect programs.

Pre-registration is required by June 19. Limited to 40 persons, so register soon! Mail name(s), address, phone number, email (required — all updates will be sent via email) and \$35 payable to the University of Nebraska to: Jeri Cunningham, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Department of Entomology, Lincoln, NE 68583.

Daily parking permits can be purchased for \$6 (\$7 starting July 1) at <https://unlpts.t2hosted.com/Account/Portal>. For more information, contact Erin Bauer at 402-472-9548 or [ebauer2@unl.edu](mailto:ebauer2@unl.edu).

## Weed Awareness Crossword Solution

Here is the solution to the Weed Crossword printed in the Weed Awareness special section (produced by the Lancaster County Weed Control office) in the April NEBLINE. Congratulations to Patricia McGinty from Denton whose name was drawn from submitted entries. She received a *Weeds of the Great Plains* book published by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. The Weed Control office thanks everyone for participating and hope you learned something about invasive plants.

