

TITLE 25 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT

CHAPER 10 - NOXIOUS WEED REGULATIONS

001 Designation and Publication of Noxious Weeds. The following weeds are hereby officially designated and published as noxious: Canada thistle - Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop.; leafy spurge - Euphorbia esula L.; musk thistle - Carduus nutans L.; plumeless thistle - Carduus acanthoides L.; knapweed (spotted and diffuse) - Centaurea (maculosa Lam. and diffusa Lam.); Purple Loosestrife - Lythrum salicaria L. and L.virgatum (including any cultivars and hybrids) saltcedar - Tamarix ramosissima Ledeb; Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica including all cultivars and hybrids); and giant knotweed (Fallopia sachalinensis including all cultivars and hybrids); sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneate G. Don) and phragmites australis, subspecies australis. Noxious weed shall mean the plant, seed, or seedlings of such weeds.

002 Methods and Times to Control Noxious Weeds.

002.01 The noxious weed control period shall be when noxious weeds are actively growing.

002.02 The following methods of controlling noxious weeds are hereby approved and adopted by the director, so long as such methods are employed during the noxious weed control period, are performed at such frequency to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, and have the approval of or meet the control standards of the control authority.

002.02A Mechanical methods. Mechanical noxious weed control methods include mowing, chopping, digging, shredding, and tillage.

002.02B Crop management methods. Crop management weed control methods include crop rotation and crop competition.

002.02C Herbicide methods. The use of herbicides to control noxious weeds under the guidelines set out in the publication known as EC130 "Guide for Weed Management" published by the University of Nebraska, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a copy of which is attached and incorporated herein by reference and is hereby adopted and promulgated and may be used. Herbicide usage in a manner different from that set out in the aforementioned publication is approved under the following conditions:

002.02C1 The herbicide used shall be one that is approved or registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture for use on the noxious weeds to be controlled;

002.02C2 The method of applying the herbicide shall be in conformity with the provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended on the effective date of these regulations, and the federal regulations duly adopted thereunder,

and shall be consistent with label directions; and

002.02C3 The rate of application of the herbicide shall not be in excess of that specified on the label and shall not be at a rate less than that supported by the efficacy data filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the registration of the herbicide.

002.02D Biological methods. To be deemed acceptable, the use of livestock, predators, pathogens, and parasites as a method of controlling noxious weeds shall be as effective as the use of herbicides, as set forth in 002.02C and shall be approved by the control authority.

002.03 Any determination made as to the failure of any person to control the spread of noxious weeds on land owned or controlled by him or her including the issuance of individual notices pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §2-955, shall be guided by consideration of the intent and purposes of the Noxious Weed Control Act and these regulations. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

002.03A The potential for spread of the noxious weeds to other land;

002.03B The potential adverse effect of the noxious weeds and the seeds thereof on commodities to be removed from the land; and

002.03C The degree of infestation of the noxious weeds. While any noxious weed infestation whatsoever is unacceptable, excessive degrees of infestation necessitates the taking of immediate and definite action. Such action shall be initiated in cases where the quantity of noxious weeds present reasonably indicates that current control methods are not satisfactorily controlling the spread of noxious weeds and that more effective control methods are necessary. Consideration of this factor, as explained above, should not be construed to imply that less than excessive infestations need not be controlled.

003 Control Authority Duties and Responsibilities.

003.01 To substantively carry out its duties and responsibilities under the Act and these regulations, each control authority shall:

003.01A Annually submit the following reports to the director on or before January 31 of each year:

003.01A1 A weed program personnel information report. Such report shall be in the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.01.

003.01A2 A budget report. Such report shall be in the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.02. A control authority need only to file that portion of the budget report which relates to the county weed control program. Such report shall, however, include as a minimum standard those sections of the county annual fiscal report containing information of the current budgeted revenue and expenditures as

well as the previous year's revenues and expenditures.

003.01A3 Noxious weed control plan. Such report shall be in the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.03 or as is amended by the director. Should the director amend the noxious weed control plan, such plan will supercede 25 NAC 10-008.03 and be distributed to the control authority by November 30 for use in the following year.

003.01A4 An infestation report. Such report shall be in the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.04 and shall contain information relative to the amount and type of land infested with noxious weeds, and such other information as the director may prescribe.

003.01A5 An activity report. Such report shall be in the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.05 and shall contain information relative to the overall county noxious weed control program.

003.01A6 Any other information deemed necessary by the control authority.

003.01B Annually inspect all lands within its jurisdiction in order to determine whether the Noxious Weed Control Act and its regulations have been complied with. The control authority shall document the annual inspection through the use of county road maps, plat books, or other records that have been approved by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. All noxious weed infestations found during the annual inspection shall be additionally documented with an inspection report containing the information specified in 25 NAC 10-003.01C1. When the control authority determines that the noxious weeds have not been controlled, the control authority shall cause additional inspections to be made at least once during the noxious weed control period specified in 25 NAC 10-002 above until such time as the noxious weeds on said land have been controlled. Prior to the issuance of an individual notice, the control authority shall inspect such lands.

003.01C Execute an inspection report in conjunction with the performance of any inspection of land found to be infested with noxious weeds.

003.01C1 The inspection report shall contain the following:

003.01C1A The location of the land, including county, township, range, and section.

003.01C1B The date of the inspection.

003.01C1C The purpose of the inspection, whether it be annual, preliminary to the issuance of an individual notice, or otherwise.

003.01C1D If noxious weeds are present, the names thereof, or, if none are present, a statement to that effect.

003.01C1E The signature of the person conducting the inspection.

003.01C1F The name of the landowner and, if applicable, the tenant, if known or capable of being determined.

003.01C1G Number of acres inspected.

003.01C1H Number of acres infested.

003.01C1I Degree of infestation using the severity guidelines adopted in 25 NAC 10-008.06.

003.01C1J Current land use.

003.01C1K Any other information deemed appropriate by the control authority.

003.01C2 Whenever noxious weeds are found to be in growing crops, the control authority may, in addition to the inspection report, issue a crop inspection report as prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.08. The crop inspection report may be used to prevent the movement or sale of growing crops when the harvest of such crops may result in hay, straw, seed, or grain becoming contaminated with viable noxious weed seeds or other noxious weed plant material capable of reproducing.

003.01C3 The control authority shall maintain files of inspection reports for a period of at least three (3) years following the date of inspection. Samples of acceptable inspection forms are contained in 25 NAC 10-008.06.

003.01D Publish a general notice on or before May 1 and between August 1 and October 1 of each year as provided in section 2-955 of the Noxious Weed Control Act. Such general notice shall follow, as a minimum standard, the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.07. Published size of the general notice shall be at least four inches by six inches or be at least 24 square inches in size. Copies of such notices shall be made available to the director for inspection and review within fifteen (15) days following the date of publication.

003.01E Cooperate with other control authorities in carrying out its duties and responsibilities and in exercising its authority pursuant to the Noxious Weed Control Act and regulations adopted and promulgated under such act.

003.01F Prepare a report indicating the disposition of each individual notice issued by the control authority. Such reports shall be in the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.10 or contain the same information as is specified in this prescribed form.

003.01G Employ a county weed superintendent who meets applicable requirements of the Pesticide Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§2-2622 through 2-2659, and is certified as a pesticide applicator in at least the following categories:

003.01G1 Agricultural pest control-plant, and 003.01G2 Right-of-way pest control.

003.01H Make available all books, papers, files, records, and reports pertaining to noxious weeds to the director for inspection and review.

003.01I Continually update all information filed with the Department as changes, additions, or deletions are made.

004 Dissemination of Noxious Weeds Through Articles.

004.01 All noxious weeds as designated in 25 NAC 10-001 are hereby found by the director to be noxious weeds which may be disseminated through articles. The following articles are hereby designated and published by the director as capable of disseminating noxious weeds:

004.01A Machinery and equipment;

004.01B Trucks;

004.01C Grain and seed;

004.01D Hay, straw, and other material of a similar nature;

004.01E Nursery stock;

004.01F Fence posts, fencing, or railroad ties;

004.01G Sod;

004.01H Manure;

004.01I Soil;

004.01J Any other articles determined by the director to have characteristics rendering it capable of disseminating noxious weeds.

004.02 The director hereby prescribes the following treatment for articles capable of disseminating noxious weeds, when such articles are suspected to have noxious weeds present:

004.02A Machinery and equipment used in the harvesting of crops shall be treated as follows:

004.02A1 Remove all loose material from the top and sides of the machine and all other places of lodgement by sweeping or the use of forced air or forced water;

004.02A2 Remove all noxious weeds from shakers, sieves, and other places of lodgement;

004.02A3 Run the machine empty for at least five (5) minutes, alternately increasing and decreasing the speed;

004.02A4 Follow the manufacturer's detailed instructions for cleaning the machine; and

004.02A5 Whenever possible, aforementioned treatments shall be performed while the article is still on the land on which it became infested. If treatment cannot be performed at this location, the location selected shall be such as to minimize the possible dissemination of noxious weeds.

004.02B Machinery and equipment other than that used for harvesting of crops including, but not limited to, trucks, tractors, mowers, planters, and other articles, such as railroad ties, fence posts and fencing, shall be treated by brushing, sweeping, forced air, forced water, physical removal of noxious weeds or any other method deemed by the control authority to be consistent with the intent and purpose of the Noxious Weed Control Act and this regulation. With respect to the location where treatment is to be performed, the same guidelines as set out in 004.02A5, above, shall apply.

004.02C Grain and seed suspected to contain noxious weeds may be transported prior to treatment if done in such a fashion as to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds such as in enclosed trucks, but shall not be sold or transferred to another person prior to treatment. Grain and seed suspected to contain noxious weeds shall be treated by use of a seed cleaner which is effective in removing the noxious weeds from the grain and seed. Screenings remaining following treatment may not be used for feed, or for any other purpose which could result in the dissemination of noxious weeds.

004.02D Soil, sod, nursery stock, hay, straw, and other material of a similar nature are articles for which no known acceptable method of treatment exists. Such articles may not be moved from the location at which they initially become infested, but may be utilized at that location for their commonly recognized purpose.

004.02E Manure is an article for which no known acceptable method of treatment exists. Manure may not be moved from the location at which it initially became infested, but may be utilized at that location for its commonly recognized purposes.

004.02F Should a method of treatment be developed for such articles listed in 004.01 through 004.01J, the control authority may allow its utilization if it is found by the director to be consistent with the intent and purposes of the Noxious Weed Control Act and these regulations.

004.03 The control authority shall make inspection services available to those who request the inspection of articles capable of disseminating noxious weeds. When the control authority is unable to provide requested inspection services, or when information is all that is needed, the control authority shall make every effort to advise persons within the county as to the proper treatment of articles capable of disseminating noxious weeds. A sample article inspection form is set out in 25 NAC 10-008.09.

005 Procedure to Bring Weed Under or Remove from the County Control Program.

005.01 Petition to bring weed under county program. Petitions filed with the director under and by virtue of the provisions of sections 2-954(1)(a) of the Noxious Weed Control Act shall be in the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.11. Such petitions shall, in addition to the requirements of the provisions of the Noxious Weed Control Act, contain the following:

005.01A An affirmation by the control authority that adequate resources, including funds, personnel, and equipment are available to control the spread of the petitioned weed.

005.01B An affirmation by the control authority that the testimony and evidence presented at a public hearing on the petition generally supported the control authority's belief that special weed control problems exist within the county with respect to the petitioned weed.

005.01C An affirmation by the control authority that the spread of the weed petitioned for can be controlled through utilization of the resources of the control authority.

005.01D A statement of agreement or specified disagreement by the weed control superintendent of that county with respect to the affirmations of the control authority contained in the petition.

005.02 Removal of petitioned weed from county control program.

005.02A The control authority may petition the director to remove a previously petitioned weed from the county's control program by submitting a petition in the form prescribed in 25 NAC 10-008.12.

005.02B The director may remove a petitioned weed from the county control program by notifying the control authority of such in writing. Such removal may only occur upon a determination by the director that such weed is not being controlled by the county's weed control program, or no longer poses a serious or special problem in the county. Such notice shall provide the county an opportunity for a hearing before the director prior to the removal of the weed from the county control program.

006 Department Review of Continuing Education Programs.

006.01 The director shall review and approve all continuing education programs sponsored by any statewide association of county weed control superintendents or statewide associations of local governments responsible for weed control that the Noxious Weed Control Act requires county weed control superintendents to complete.

006.01A A description of any continuing education program shall be submitted by the sponsoring association to the director at least three weeks prior to the first scheduled day of the continuing education program.

006.01B Any continuing education program shall include the following:

006.01B1 A full attendance requirement with at least two roll calls for each eight hours of education.

006.01B2 Examinations which adequately test the participants' comprehension and understanding of the educational material presented in the program.

006.01B3 Passing scores of at least 70 percent on the examinations; and

006.01B4 Adequate procedures for documenting the attendance records, examinations, and examination scores.

006.01C Within three weeks after the last scheduled day of a continuing education program, the sponsoring association shall provide the director documentation to show the continuing education program was carried out according to the description the association submitted to the director. Such documentation shall include:

006.01C1 Attendance records of all weed superintendents.

006.01C2 Copies of the examinations actually given during the program.

006.01C3 A listing of weed superintendents who have received passing scores for the program; and

006.01C4 Evidence that superintendents who did not fully attend the program and who did not receive a passing score for the program were not credited by the association as having completed the program.

007 Administration. These regulations shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Protection located in the State Office Building, Fourth Floor, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The mailing address is P.O. Box 94756, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4756. The telephone number is (402) 471-2351.

008 Forms.

008.01 Personnel Report

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014).pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-2.pdf.jpg

008.02 State Budget Report

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-3.pdf.jpg

008.03 Control Plan

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-4.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-5.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-6.pdf.jpg

008.04 Infestation Report

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-7.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-8.pdf.jpg

008.05 Activity Report

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-9.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-11.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-12.pdf.jpg

008.06A Inspection Report

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-13.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-14.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-15.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-16.pdf.jpg

008.06B Inspection Report

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008.07 General Notice. Publish on or before May 1 and between August 1 and October 1.

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-21.pdf.jpg

008.08 Crop Inspection Report

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-22.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-23.pdf.jpg

008.09 Article Inspection Form

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-24.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-25.pdf.jpg

008.10 Individual Notice Disposition Report

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-26.pdf.jpg

008.11 Petition to Designate a Weed Noxious in a County

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-27.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-28.pdf.jpg

008.12 Petition to Remove Weed from County Control Program

Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-29.pdf.jpg Pages from 25 NAC 10 (12-06-2014)-30.pdf.jpg

009 Publication Adopted. See Appendix A.

010 Annotation. Neb. Rev. Stat. §§2-945.01 through 2-968.

