

Special points of interest:

- Just because a weed is not noxious is no reason to not control it. Invasive weeds can be just as damaging to the environment as noxious weeds. Talk with your County Weed Director about the best ways to kill your weeds, noxious or not.
- Many weeds produce rosettes, or a round bunch of leaves growing low to the ground. It is good to be able to identify weeds by their rosettes because it will let you know they are there before it is too late to control them.

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Weed Free Forage - Move bales, not weeds

The Kansas Department of Agriculture has signed on with the North American Invasive Species Management Association to offer Kansas hay, forage, straw and mulch producers an additional alternative for selling their product.

Having your crop certified as weed free will open up new markets for you such as the federal land management agencies when they need straw for post-fire restoration programs, private horse owners who need certified products to take onto federal lands.

Actually the term "Weed Free" may not be the best term because a crop can have weeds in it and still

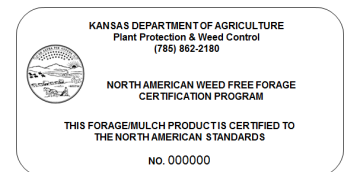
be certified as weed free. There is a list of 45 weeds that are restricted in addition to the Kansas Noxious Weeds and even if you have some of those, if they have been treated to prevent them from reproducing, the crop can still be certified.

How do you get your crop certified as weed free? That's the easy part. Go to our website at http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/353 and click on "Request for Weed Free Forage Inspection". Fill out the form, either online or a print copy, and either click "Submit Form" or send it to the Department of Agricul-

ture at the address provided. Please give us at least 2 weeks notice to give us time to get to your fields.

Your fields will need to be inspected within 10 days before being cut (or wheat being harvested). No cut fields or bales will be inspected due to the difficulty of identifying weeds at that point.

For more information on the program and the weeds we look for, go to <http://www.nawma.org/WeedFree.html>.



KDA's New Website - agriculture.ks.gov

In its ongoing attempt to stay up to date, the Kansas Department of Agriculture has developed a new and improved website.

The new site, agriculture.ks.gov/, has all of the same information as the old one and more. The

new format reduces the number of pages you have to wade through to find what you are looking for.

Each division and program, like the Noxious Weed Control Program, has its own page. Once you get to the program you are interested in, all of the information is on one page, you simply "click" on the topic you want to read more about and additional information will appear.

On the Noxious Weed Control Program page, we

have tried to include information that will help you understand the weed law, identify noxious weeds and determine the best methods for controlling your weeds and more.

The new site is online and active but the old site, www.ksda.gov/, is still the official site. Soon, however, the old site you will redirect you to the new one and eventually you will not be able to use the old site at all.



Integrated Weed Management: Part 2 - Prevention

While it is not easy to prevent highly aggressive, quick to spread and very adaptable noxious weeds from taking over your land, there are techniques you can employ to reduce the likelihood of their becoming established.

The most important preventative measure you can take is to reseed disturbed soil as quickly as possible. Bare loose soil acts like a magnet for noxious weeds. This includes areas left bare, or nearly so, by the removal of weeds already established. If you plant a mixture of non-invasive annuals for rapid growth and perennials for long-term protection, you will not only cover the disturbed soil but also provide competition against the weeds, greatly reducing the possibility of their becoming established.

While using native species will increase the chances the plant will grow and thrive, they are often expensive and hard to find. There are

many non-native species out there that are affordable and grow well without being invasive. If you cannot reseed a disturbed area right away, cover the area with some weed free mulch. This will help prevent the weed seeds from getting down to the soil where they can germinate.



If you have livestock, it would be a great idea to add weed prevention as a factor in calculating your grazing schedules. Overgrazing can result in

a similar kind of weed attracting bare ground as mentioned above. Moving your animals around so the forage they are grazing on is able to maintain a strong root system and enough growth to provide competition against weeds trying to get themselves established.

Another way to protect yourself from invasion is to be aware of what is growing in your area. If your neighbor is fighting musk thistle, you should probably arm yourself with a shovel because there is a good chance you will find some on your land soon. Watching for the first plants and eradicating them right away is another form of prevention because killing one weed is a whole lot different than trying to get rid of a whole field full of weeds and the seeds they produce.

Control Corner: “The Label is the Law”

Do I need to be licensed? What is certification? How does registration fit in? These are common questions asked by those needing to apply pesticides in Kansas. I will do my best to help you understand the differences.

Certification: Someone who plans on applying Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP) needs to be certified. What is a Restricted Use Pesticide? Believe it or not, it is defined by the Environmental Protection Agency as a pesticide that can only be used by someone who is certified, or under their supervision. There are two

types of certification in Kansas, commercial and private. To become a commercial certified applicator you need to take, and pass, a general examination and a category exam offered by KDA’s Pesticide and Fertilizer Program. They offer exams in 22 different categories, which restrict where or how you will be able to apply the pesticides. Private applicator certification is required for application of a RUP in the production of an agricultural commodity.

Licensing: A Pesticide Business License is required for anyone who is

planning to advertise, offer for sale, sell, or perform a service for the control of a pest on another person’s property. Keep in mind, this license does not substitute for a Commercial Applicator’s certification. To obtain a pesticide business license at least one employee in the business must be commercially certified. Private farm applicators are exempt from the requirement for a pesticide business license if the application is performed without compensation, on the property of another person.

Registration: There are two registrations in pesti-

cide field. The first is a Government Agency Registration which allows the employees of cities, townships, counties and other governmental agencies to apply pesticides as part of their jobs without having a Pesticide Business License. The other is a Pesticide Dealer Registration. This allows a person or business to distribute pesticide products to someone for application. This is a very quick and dirty explanation to a fairly confusing topic so if you want more information, go to www.ksda.gov/pesticides/fertilizer/.



Plant Protection and Weed Control

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Plant Protection and Weed Control staff work to ensure the health of the state's native and cultivated plants by excluding or controlling destructive pests, diseases and weeds. Staff examine and analyze pest conditions in crop fields, rangelands, greenhouses and nurseries. Action taken to control potential infestations of new pests, whether they are insects, plants diseases or weeds, is beneficial to the economy and the environment.

Our mission is to:

- Exclude or control harmful insects, plant diseases, and weeds;
- Ensure Kansas plants and plant products entering commerce are free from quarantined pests;
- Provide customers with inspection and certification services.

Invasive Species Spotlight

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)

Accidentally introduced to Canada in the late 1800s, spotted knapweed has definitely made itself at home. It has adapted to infest 47 states and most of the Canadian provinces. Unfortunately, Kansas is one of the infested states.

Spotted knapweed has been found in 7 counties, mostly in the northeastern portion of the state, but also in Ford County. This "outlying" infestation is not unusual because knapweed is easily spread as a contaminant in soil, seed and hay. It spreads rapidly, adapts quickly and crowds out native and forage vegetation. In Montana alone it spread from one plant in 1920 to infesting more than 4.5 million acres today.

Spotted knapweed is one member of a large group of knapweeds that have the same general characteristics. They all develop flowers that have a vase-shaped base with tiny leaves or "bracts" covering them. A wild growth of petals grow from this base. The color of the petals can range from purple to pink to white. The way to tell spotted knapweed from the others is the dark tips of the bracts on the base of the flower which give it its spotted appearance. The leaves are long and narrow with small lobes. The lower leaves have more lobes than the upper leaves.

As with any weed, control is best started before it gets es-

tablished by removing clinging seeds from clothes, footwear and vehicles if you do find yourself in a patch of it and using certified weed free forage to ensure it does not contaminate any bales you bring in from other areas. If you already have a large infestation, you can use aminopyralid, clopyralid or dicamba. For small infestations, you can pull or dig plants out of the ground, removing as much of the root as possible. Be sure to wear gloves and long-sleeved shirts as many people develop skin irritation from contact with the stems. Biological controls are available for spotted knapweed. If you are interested, contact your County Weed Director.



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