

2022 Management Plan

For Johnson

County

Jim Hoge

, County Weed Director

Specify the goals and priorities of the program for the coming year.

Goals: To return to face to face public education and outreach activities. To prevent and control the introduction, extent and vegetative spread of noxious and invasive weeds in the county.

Priorities: To concentrate on the control of Johnsongrass and Sericea lespedeza. The infestation size and density of both weeds increased significantly in 2021. Consistently moist soils during June, July and August and hot temperatures produced ideal growing conditions for both plants

Specify the goals and priorities of the program for the next five years.

Goals: To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the land for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, through the control of noxious and invasive weeds. To establish and maintain noxious and invasive weed free roadsides throughout the county

Priorities: To prevent damage and pollution to water resources, air quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat and natural/native areas throughout the county, by controlling noxious and invasive weeds. To aid in the reduction of hazardous waste (old, unused herbicides) by controlling the amount of herbicide sold to each individual landowner.

Describe the areas which noxious weed species are known to occur within the county and specific locations of new infestations and areas particularly susceptible to new infestations.

Field bindweed	Old subdivisions with chain link fences, baseball fields, compacted soil areas
Musk thistle	disturbed soil areas, pond dams, feed lots, roadsides, pastures
Sericea lespedeza	wildlife/game trails, pastures, roadsides, old fields, natural areas
Johnsongrass	roadsides, fallow/development lands, areas with rich, moist soils, city paved trails
Bur ragweed	not known to be present
Canada thistle	not known to be present
Hoary cress	not known to be present
Leafy spurge	not known to be present
Quackgrass	not known to be present
Kudzu	not known to be present
Russian knapweed	not known to be present

List any non-noxious invasive weed species you plan to control and the types of integrated weed control methods you plan on using on them.

Common and Cutleaf teasel: mowing and herbicide application
Phragmites: herbicide application
Buckbrush: mowing and herbicide application
Roughleaf dogwood: mowing and herbicide application

List your planned integrated weed management goals and procedures, including but not limited to biological control agent selection and distribution, pesticide selection and application and cultural and mechanical controls.

Biological Controls

Musk thistle seed head and root weevils have been released in the past however, results proved ineffective. There are bio control agents available for Field bindweed however they have proven to provide suppression only. No bio controls exist for Johnsongrass or Sericea lespedeza.

Chemical Controls

Herbicides will be utilized in the control of noxious weeds. The weed department uses and has available for sale, herbicides that have been developed to avoid damage to native plants and the environment (eg. waterways). Herbicides used by the weed department have been labeled "Smart Technology" by the EPA.

Cultural Controls

The weed department cooperates with Public Works to maintain a thick, healthy stand of grass on our roadsides. The mowers cut no lower than 6" to discourage weed growth by shading the surface of the soil. Disturbed sites are renovated as soon as possible.

Mechanical Controls

Mowing is utilized in our program to discourage the spread of noxious weeds by preventing the production and spread of seeds. No other mechanical means are used in an effort to prevent soil disturbance, a major cause of noxious weed introduction, establishment and spread.

Estimate the projected personnel, operations, and equipment costs of the proposed program.

Personnel costs	137,700
Operations costs	86,035
Equipment costs	110,932

List the methods you plan to use to encourage compliance and the enforcement actions you will take if necessary.

In most instances where a violation exists, the department seeks to obtain a phone number for the landowner or manager. If the landowner or manager cannot be contacted by phone, an attempt is made to visit the property and contact the landowner. In over 90% of violations, the landowner or manager is contacted and the compliance issues are resolved. If, however, attempts to contact the landowner or manager fail, then a Legal Notice, provided by the state, is sent by certified mail with a return delivery signature to verify proof of receipt. The notice requires the landowner to correct the violation within 10 days or they will be charged \$100.00 per day thereafter, until the maximum fine of \$1500.00 per parcel of land, is met. If compliance does not occur, the weed director would turn the matter over to the Legal Department who can have the landowner charged with a Class C misdemeanor and have a lien placed on the parcel. The lien will not be released until the fine is paid.

List your plans for working with state and/or federal agencies to control the noxious weeds on state and/or federal lands.

The weed director contacts the KDOT regional engineer or in some cases the subcontractor for KDOT, with any violations regarding noxious weeds. Cooperation with KDOT results in varying levels of compliance. KDWPT maintains a wetland in Gardner. The local Field Biologist is contacted if a violation occurs. Any complaints regarding noxious weeds on federal lands are forwarded to the District Conservationist. In all cases, agencies whether state or federal are treated in the same manner as a private landowner. The process is the same.

Describe your education and outreach plans for the coming year. Include training and professional development for yourself and your staff. (Attend District meetings? Annual Conference? Recertification?)

Each year prior to spraying, the staff reviews last year's program and results. Adjustments are made, as needed. A two day training event coordinated by the Director takes place. District meetings, annual conferences, pesticide license recertification meetings and events presented by manufacturers, trade associations (SRM, NAISMA, NAA, WSSA) and county extension presentations. Public education and outreach will include the following if not shut down due to COVID: Johnson County Fair, weed department website, social media in cooperation with the county extension agent, Healthy Lawns Expo, brochures, booklets, jotter notebooks and rain gauges. The give aways are extremely popular. When a landowner gets a rain gauge, his neighbor comes in to get one and so on.

List the facilities and equipment available for use in managing the noxious weeds in your county, including a list of the equipment available for rent to the public and the rent you charge.

The Noxious Weed Department is housed in the Public Works Building, constructed in 2012. The weed director worked with the lead engineer to construct a concrete mixing/loading pad. An overhead water boom (pipe) to prevent back siphoning of mixed pesticide water when loading the spray tank along with a backflow preventer to ensure that no pesticide mix is ever siphoned back into the clean water supply. Additionally, the Director specified secondary containment of 2" for the herbicide storage room and the mixing/loading room of. The floor of the rooms is 2" lower than surrounding floors preventing escape of any spills that may occur. The weed department utilizes 3 trucks (300, 500 and 1000 gallons) to apply herbicides as needed. Two 200 gallon sprayers are available for rent by landowners at a cost of \$25.00 per day. The Noxious Weed Department, in partnership with the Stormwater Department, also maintains a no-till seed drill to aid landowners in restoring prairie areas and pastures. The drill is available for a minimum cost of \$80.00 per day which includes 8 acres of use. Additional use is charged at \$10.00 per acre.

Noxious Weed Department Employees

Name	Title	Years of service in the Nx Wd Dept.	# Jobs within the county
Jim Hoge	Director	17	2+
Charlie Hoggatt	Sign Tech	4	3+
Jon Velasquez	Sign Tech	4	3+
Jeremy Hueser	Sign Tech	>1	3+

I certify that this is the official 2022 Management Plan of Johnson County

Jim Hoge

, County Weed Director

4/5/22
Date

[Signature]
Chairman

, County Commissioner

4-28-22

Date

N/A

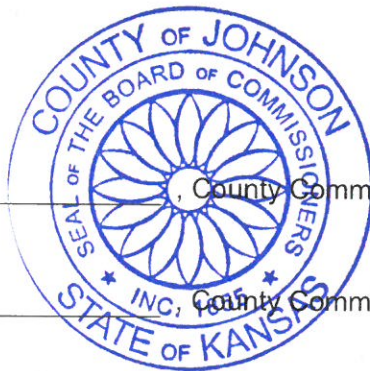
, County Commissioner

Date

N/A

, County Commissioner

Date



Approved 7-10

FILED

APR 28 2022

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS