

**Special points of interest:**

- If you want to learn more about the public meeting, or anything noxious weed related, visit our website at [www.agriculture.ks.gov/noxious-weed](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/noxious-weed).
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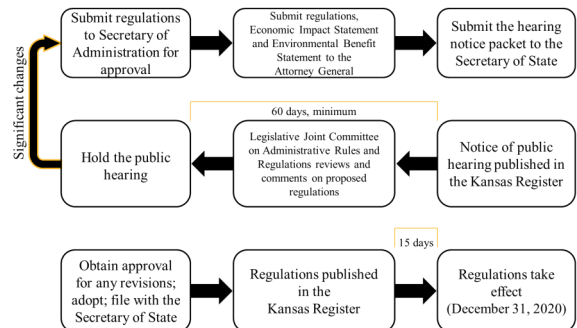
Because the changes to the noxious weed law were passed by the Legislature and took effect last year, we need to revise the accompanying regulations to match. Regulations are legal rules that are used to enforce the laws that are enacted by the Legislature. As we began the process of making these changes in an effort to make the entire process as transparent as possible, we held a public meeting to let interested parties know what has to be done and how we have to do it.

The meeting was held at KDA's Manhattan office on July 11<sup>th</sup> and more than 30 people attended. KDA staff opened up the meeting with two presentations, one

reviewing the recent changes to the law and the other outlining the official process for making changes to regulations and providing an overview of the changes KDA is proposing to make. The floor was then opened up to the public for questions and many interesting and thoughtful questions were posed.

These questions ranged

from the format of the proposed noxious weeds list to control options for noxious weeds and funding for county weed programs. Answers were provided by Jeff Vogel, the Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager and myself. Overall, it was a very productive meeting and a great start to the process of updating the regulations.



**Inside this issue:**

Public Meeting	1
Potential Noxious Weeds, Maybe?	2
Control Corner: Cost Share Herbicides	2
Invasive Species Spotlight Callery Pear ( <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> )	3

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Several possible changes to the regulations have been presented for consideration by KDA but the biggest, and most important of them is the new noxious weed list. The new law will eliminate the current list from the statute (law) at the end of December of 2020 and requires the Secretary of Agriculture, through recommendations from the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee, to develop a new list in the regulations. If a new list is not officially established in the

regulations by the end of next year, there will be no noxious weeds in Kansas, so we are working diligently to get this done on time. While there will probably not be any new weeds added to the list during this process (that is up to the advisory committee and the secretary to decide), we are going to be changing the look of the list. The new list will be divided into three categories, based on the size of the population. Those species with the

smallest populations will be placed in Category A and will be the most actively controlled species. Those with larger populations will be placed in Categories B and C and will have different, but just as important, control strategies. These strategies may also vary from county to county. Once the list is finalized, you will be able to contact your County Weed Director for more information about the various strategies.

## Potential Noxious Weeds, Maybe?

While there is not an official list of candidates proposed for addition to the noxious weed list and the process for determining if a species should be added, here is a list of species that may be considered in the future for consideration.

These species are known to be invasive and some are known to be established in the state. A species does not have to have been introduced in the state to be listed, it is better to be prepared for its arrival than to try to catch up later.

A species must first pass through a number of steps before it can be listed as a noxious weed. First, it has to be evaluated in the risk assessment and be found to be a concern in Kansas, then it has to be considered and recommended by the advisory committee. After this it must be approved by the Secretary of Agriculture

and finally it has to be sent through the regulatory process which involves review by both the public and a legis-

### Range & Pasture Species

Spotted knapweed  
Diffuse knapweed  
Italian plumeless thistle  
Poison hemlock  
Black swallowwort  
Common teasel  
Cutleaf teasel  
Giant hogweed  
Oxeye daisy  
Dalmation toadflax  
Yellow toadflax  
Scotch thistle  
Japanese knotweed  
Giant knotweed  
Bohemian knotweed  
Medusahead  
Ventenata

lative committee. Remember, the species listed here are not necessarily going to be declared noxious.

### Trees & Forest

Tree-of-heaven  
Garlic mustard  
Japanese barberry  
Grecian foxglove  
Autumn-olive  
Japanese honeysuckle  
Amur honeysuckle  
Tartarian honeysuckle  
Bell's honeysuckle  
Paulownia  
Common buckthorn

### Aquatic & Riparian

Hydrilla  
Yellow flag iris  
Purple loosestrife  
Common reed (Phragmites)  
Giant salvinia

## Control Corner: Cost Share Herbicides

One part of the law that did not change is the "County option for discount program to control noxious weeds", known more commonly, and briefly, as the voucher program. This, as the big long name suggests, offers the counties an option for how they provide cost share herbicides to landowners.

In the standard cost share program, the county weed department will purchase those herbicides that have been approved for use by the Secretary of Agriculture and that the County Weed Director has determined to be most effective for those noxious weeds found in his or her county. The landowner will then purchase those herbicides from the weed department. In the voucher program, when a landowner needs an herbicide to control one or more noxious

weeds, the county weed department will issue a voucher to the landowner for the type and amount of herbicide required. The landowner will then take that voucher to the local herbicide retailer and the retailer will sell the landowner the listed herbicide at a discounted price.

It is the decision of each county's Board of Commissioners to decide which of the two cost share programs to use and both have pros and cons associated with them. While the voucher program eliminates the need for a weed department to store herbicides on site and may allow a greater choice of herbicides to the landowner, it requires the landowner to make two trips to obtain their herbicide and may increase the price due to the retailer's overhead.

The standard program, on the other hand, requires the weed department to set aside part of a building for chemical storage but it also allows the Weed Director to work more closely with the landowner to determine the best methods for weed control and to offer advise on how to implement those methods.

Regardless of which type of program a county chooses to offer, the requires that every county offer cost share herbicides to its tax-paying landowners. The amount the county must discount the price of the herbicides is based on the amount of funding it provides to the weed department. Check with your county weed department or board of commissioners for more information.



*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

### Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

Callery pear, also known as Bradford pear, is an invasive species that you can buy at your neighborhood nursery. Developed, and still sold, as an ornamental flowering tree, the callery pear has turned out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing.

While it does provide an attractive show of white flowers for a few weeks each spring, its shallow root system, weak wood and tendency to split mean it is a difficult tree to maintain. If a strong wind (common in Kansas)

breaks the trunk or blows the entire tree over, its habit of producing a large number of suckers from each of its shallow roots, you will end up with

many trees where you previously had just one.

These trees can grow up to 60 feet tall, but they usually don't get much more than 30-40 feet. Its leaves are shiny and waxy with just the slightest bit of roughness to the edges. The fruit, unlike those to be found in the grocery store, are small brown, fuzzy and hard. After being frozen by winter temperatures, they become soft enough for the birds to eat, digest and deposit the seeds later. In the fall the leaves turn to a red to orange color .

Alternative ornamental species you might want to consider are serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), flowering crabapple (*Malus* sp.), and cherry (*Prunus* sp.). These species are either native or have proven themselves to stay where they are planted.

KDA and the Kansas Forest Service are planning on working together to conduct a survey to determine where celery pear is growing in Kansas and how far it has spread.

