

**MIAMI COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED DEPARTMENT**

**ANNUAL NOXIOUS WEED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**JUNE 1, 2022**

**DARRYL WHITE  
NOXIOUS WEED DIRECTOR**

## 1. NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

The Miami County Noxious Weed Department will continue to use a private contractor(s) to treat the county rights-of-way. The Noxious Weed Department will be managed by the Noxious Weed Supervisor. All Noxious Weed business is conducted at the Miami County Road & Bridge Department, located at 23765 W. 327<sup>th</sup>, Paola, Kansas. Miami County will continue to conduct a cost-share certificate program for purchasing chemicals approved for noxious weed control. We strive to provide a 20-25% reduction in chemical costs through the cost-share certificate program. The chemicals available for cost-share and the cost-share amounts will be evaluated prior to March 2022, and will be changed if necessary. Round-up is included in the cost-share program but is restricted to use for control of quack grass. The chemical 2, 4-D will be cost-shared for fall application time only.

### a. County Land

Miami County has approximately 1,000 miles of county roadside, which amounts to about 7,000 acres. This acreage is monitored and treated as necessary for control of noxious weeds. There is some other county owned property, besides roadsides, that is also maintained. The private contractor(s) will be responsible for the treatment of county lands. County staff will assist the contractor on monitoring county lands and evaluating the effectiveness of chemical control methods.

About 9% of county lands are known to be infested with noxious weeds. *Musk thistle*, *Johnsongrass* and *Field Bindweed* present the major problems. A small portion of County lands is infested with *Sericea Lespedeza*. Over the last several years, the infestation of this noxious weed has decreased.

The private contractor(s) and county noxious weed staff determine what herbicides will be used to control specific weeds. Spring control of musk thistle will consist of low volume, low impact spraying with Milestone & Escort. Milestone is used for fall treatment and only blanket spraying is conducted. Blanket spraying will be rotated on paved road rights-of-way and primary and secondary gravel road rights-of-way. The same products are typically used for controlling field bindweed. The ultimate goal is to have blanket spraying for weed control in a rotational program so that spot spraying for these noxious weeds would need to be conducted on a very minimal basis. Johnsongrass will be treated with Journey early in the season when it is actively growing. *Sericea lespedeza* is typically treated with Escort after bloom has occurred.

The treatment schedule is different with the seasons and weed growth stage. Generally speaking, the control of musk thistle can be year round as long as the ground is not frozen. However, most of the treatment will take place in the spring and fall. Johnsongrass will be treated from late May through July and again in September and October depending on the weather conditions. *Sericea lespedeza* will be treated in July through the end of September or later depending on the weather conditions.

**b. Township Land**

Miami County maintains all of the road right-of-ways in the townships. County staff and the private contractor(s) control noxious weed infestations on these rights-of-way. The township board maintains any township property.

**c. State Highways**

There are approximately 87 miles of state or federal highways within Miami County. A private contractor and the local Kansas Department of Transportation's Maintenance department maintains state highway road rights-of-way. Musk thistle, Johnsongrass and field bindweed are the main noxious weeds infesting state highways.

It has been recommended that musk thistle be sprayed in the fall and/or early spring and Johnsongrass sprayed in early summer or early fall. However, the regional KDOT representative makes the final determination of timing and control methods used.

There are other state and federal lands in Miami County at the Hillsdale Lake Reservoir that are under the control of Kansas Wildlife and Parks and the Corps of Engineers. There are problems with musk thistle, *Sericea lespedeza* and Johnsongrass infestations around the lake. We have worked with both agencies in the past to devise a better plan for control of these noxious weeds. In the recent years the Wildlife area at Hillsdale Lake has made strides in managing Noxious Weeds in their area. The Corps of Engineers have hired a private contractor in the past to help in controlling noxious weeds in some of their worst areas of infestation. This practice will be encouraged to continue.

**d. Cities**

The incorporated cities in Miami County include Paola, Osawatomie, Louisburg, Fontana and the southern part of Spring Hill. All of these cities have approved noxious weed control programs established. The enforcement procedures for all the cities are very similar. Violators are notified by letter and given ten days to mow or treat weed problems. City code enforcement staff conducts follow-up inspections. If necessary, the cities will take legal action in order to correct the problem. County staff will follow our normal notification procedures for noxious weed infestations on city property or private lands in the city limits when warranted.

Noxious weeds found on city properties include musk thistle, Johnsongrass and Field bindweed. These weeds encompass approximately 200 acres. Public Works Departments in the cities handle noxious weed treatments of city lands. County staff will assist with control plans as requested.

All of the cities are notified by the County Noxious Weed Department regarding their responsibility for noxious weed control within their city limits. Landowners in unincorporated towns are notified about noxious weed problems in the same manner in which other county landowners are notified.

e. **Railroad Lands**

Within Miami County there are approximately 175 miles of Railroad property. The property is owned by either Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) or Union Pacific Railroad. The railroad companies themselves control infestation of noxious weeds on railroad property. In some instances where there have been areas of bad infestations, Miami County Noxious Weed Department has gone on railroad property and sprayed. The cost has been charged back to the railroad companies.

f. **Private Lands**

Miami County has approximately 365,000 acres of private land. Musk thistle, Johnsongrass, Field Bindweed and Sericea lespedeza are the prominent noxious weeds on private lands. Musk Thistle infests about 7,500 acres; Johnsongrass about 7,000 acres, and Field Bindweed infests about 2,000 acres. There are also Quack Grass infestations on about 200 acres and Sericea lespedeza infests about 4,000 acres. Quack Grass infestations are mainly isolated to sod farms that are operated in the county.

Surveys of private property are conducted several times throughout the year by county staff. This year there are ten different sections of land in the county which will be surveyed for the state. Private land comprises the majority of these sections. Sections surveys may be waived in lieu of other surveys per KDA.

Any complaints concerning noxious weed infestations on private land will also warrant a survey of that property. This notification is in the form of the General Notice, which is published in the three major county newspapers. The landowner of a confirmed noxious weed infestation will also be notified by mail regarding the infestation that exists on their property. This Official Notice states very clearly when a chosen treatment method must be completed. The time frame for completion of treatment will vary depending on the weed that needs treatment and the time of year the infestation was discovered. This letter also informs the violator of the legal action that will be taken if compliance is not achieved. County staff will conduct a follow-up inspection after the noted deadline. Failure to comply will result in a **Notice to Appear** at the County Codes Court being sent or delivered to the property owner. This notice will outline the violation(s) and non-compliance and will set a date for a Codes Court appearance. A fine schedule has been established for the Judge to assess for violations. Another option for the county is to conduct a control method of choice and hire a contractor and carry out the process. The county in turn will then bill the homeowner and follow guidelines of collection pursuit to the Kansa Noxious Weed law, section 2-1320.

It is the hope of Miami County Noxious Weed Department that prosecution would not be necessary. Every effort is made to make personal contact with property owners to educate them regarding their infestations and how best to achieve control.

The recommendation to the public regarding the use of chemicals for weed treatment is to follow the label directions of the chemical that is being used. The treatment schedule is different with the seasons and the state of growth the weed is in. Generally speaking, it is

recommended that musk thistle be controlled year-round as long as the ground is not frozen. However, most of the treatment occurs in the spring when the weeds begins actively growing. Property owners are urged to apply chemicals in the fall however, since control methods at that time have been proven to have a higher success rate. Most of the treatment for Johnsongrass occurs early summer or early fall. Sericea Lespedeza is recommended to be treated July through September.

## **2. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

### **a. Brush Control**

The vegetation management crew within the Road and Bridge Department handles brush control in Miami County. The vegetation management crew mow a large portion of the road rights-of-way as well as cut and control brush on these rights-of-way. Pathway is usually applied to the stumps for brush control. Milestone and Escort will be used in early fall for brush control. We will continue our integrated vegetation management program in order to have better coordination of noxious weed spraying, mowing and brush control. The noxious weed director also supervises the mowing and brush crews along with our private contractor(s) in order to dovetail all control methods for a more efficient and economical program.

### **b. Common Weed Control**

Common weed control is accomplished at the same time that the private contractor(s) sprays noxious weeds. Whenever an area is blanket sprayed, other broadleaf weeds that are present will also be controlled. The timing of herbicide application has helped to control weeds through the summer.

### **c. Intersections**

Intersection work has typically been handled on a complaint basis by the Road & Bridge Department. The department also works with the local school bus companies and postal carriers in locating problem areas. Brush removal or trimming is conducted as necessary.

## **3. OUTREACH**

### **a. Media**

Miami County did not do any public service messages with the media in 2021 and we are not planning any service messages for 2022. An ad is published in the local county papers at least once a year to notify the public about the cost-share program including cost-share chemicals available and the cost-share amounts. The county has a web page where the public can access information regarding noxious weeds and the cost-share program. The Southeast Weed

Management Association has developed a booklet that will be printed as needed and used by Miami County as an educational tool for landowners. The County Extension office also helps in educating the public regarding noxious weeds. The Noxious Weed Department hopes to continue these cooperative efforts with the County Extension Agent working together on noxious weed articles that are written for the local newspaper.

b. **Meetings**

The department tries to help every year when the Extension Office provides a meeting with farmers and landowners regarding weed control practices and other related topics. Also with Conservation District and Farm Service Agency offices that work with produces through CRP contracts.

c. **Demonstration Plots**

There were no demonstration plots in 2021.

4. **PREVENTION**

**Feed Inspection**

The State of Kansas preforms hay and feed inspections.

5. **EQUIPMENT**

The main spray truck is used for brush control, bare ground and weed control on county properties such as the County Airport or park areas.

A small spray rig has been acquired and set up in a pickup truck. It will be utilized for spaying small areas of road rights-of-way that are infested with noxious weeds.

6. **PERSONNEL**

The Noxious Weed Department consists of the County Weed Director/Vegetation Management Supervisor and a part-time Administrative Assistant.

Staff maintains contact with our private contractor(s) regarding treatment of rights-of-way. Noxious Weed staff are responsible for conducting the annual surveys and handle all noxious weed complaints and enforcement.

## **7. TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Noxious Weed staff attends as many district weed meetings as possible. Staff will attend the annual NAWMA and/or NRVMA conferences when feasible and also the annual state conference. The CWDAK will be conducting continuing education classes for recertification that staff will attend for applicator certification in specific categories when necessary.

## 2022 ANNUAL NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

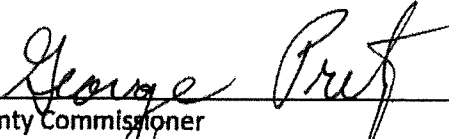
We certify that this is a corrected copy of the Miami County Annual Noxious Weed Management Plan as required by K.S.A. 2-1317 and due on June 1, 2022.

  
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Chairman, Board of County Commissioners


2.23.2022  
Date

Absent - Tyler Vaughan  
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Commissioner Chair Pro-tem:


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Date

  
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County Commissioner


2-23-22  
Date

  
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County Commissioner

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County Commissioner

2-23-22  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Miami County Noxious Weed Director

2-23-22  
Date