Kansas Department of Agriculture

Noxious and Invasive Weed Update
Plant Protection and Weed Control

Spring 2024

Kansas is now a "Low Callery" State

On February 5 of this year, the Secretary of Agriculture signed into effect a new statewide quarantine. The first plant quarantine issued since 2006. This new quarantine prohibits the movement of Caller pear trees into and within the state of Kansas. Specifically, it prohibits the movement of all hybrids, varieties, and cultivars of *Pyrus calleryana*. The plants and all reproductive plant parts (roots, seeds, fruits, etc.) are prohibited, as are any trees that are the result of grafting another species, hybrid, variety, or cultivar onto a Callery pear rootstock. Some of these other cultivars include Bradford, Chanticleer, Cleveland Select, and Aristocrat, among others.

A unique aspect of this quarantine is that while it is in effect now, it will not begin to be enforced until January 1, 2027. This is to reduce the financial impact on nurseries who currently have some of these trees in stock. It is important to note that while KDA recommends that people cut their Callery pear trees down, and treat the stumps to prevent resprouting, landowners will not be required to cut down any of the trees they already have planted.

In order to encourage people to remove their trees, the organization Deep Roots, in cooperation with the Kansas Forest Service, is hosting buy-back programs that will provide a native tree to replace the Callery pear tree you cut down. See https://deeproots.org for more information.

Special points of interest:

- Other plant quarantines in Kansas include purple loosestrife, Grecian foxglove, tamarisk (salt cedar), and all federal noxious weeds.
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Inside this issue:

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The Hazards of Hitchhiking

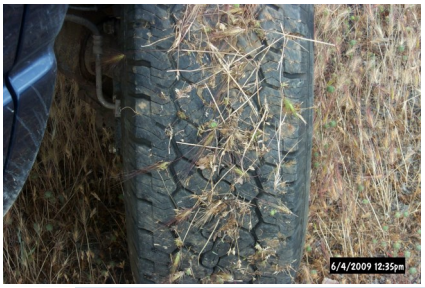
We all know the dangers of picking up hitchhikers. What we may not realize is the number of them we actually do give rides to.

Weed seeds are very efficient at hitching rides from passing vehicles, people and pets. Some of these seeds, such as bur ragweed and cocklebur are designed to attach themselves to mobile objects as a dispersal mechanism. Others simply find their way into the beds and grills of vehicles or the mud that splashes onto our legs.

While these stowaways could be cleaned off and tossed aside or ignored until they go away, they are, in fact, the first wave of an invasion. The seeds can easily ride to a new area, fall off, and take root, starting a new infestation in an area no one expects them to be. This will allow them to become established, start spreading, create a new, difficult to control infestation.

The way to prevent this from occurring, without staying home, is to avoid areas known to be infested with weeds, or cleaning your vehicles before leaving the area, removing any seeds that have attached themselves. There is even an website designed to help you learn what you should do when visiting new areas. Play Clean Go is a great program for preventing the spread of invasives. Go to playcleango.org to learn more.

This idea also applies to other invasives, such as insects that hop on to, or lay eggs on, recreational vehicle. Aquatic species love hitching rides on boats to new previously uninfested bodies of water



There's an App for That - Plant ID Apps

I'm sure by now you have heard of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it is being used in more and more ways. Well, it is now being used in our latest round of weed management related smart phone apps.

These are apps that help identify plants, both wild and those growing in your house, through photos taken by you on your phone. They should not be relied upon for definitive identifications. Contact your local extension agent for identification by a professional botanist.

LeafSnap by Appixi allows you to search for plants in North America only, or throughout in the world. Tap "Identify" to either take a photo of the plant you are trying to identify or to use a photo you have already taken. It will ask what part of the plant you want it to concentrate on, such as leaf, flower, fruit, or bark. It will analyze the photo and return a number of possible results, with its best guess shown at the top. It will also provide further information on the species. The app will act as a calendar to remind you of tasks to do and allow you to take notes for whatever reason.

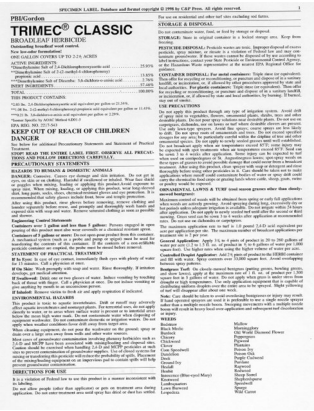
PictureThis by Glority Global Group will allow you to take a picture of a plant and will quickly give you its best guess as to what it is. It will also show you another picture of the plant to confirm it's guess as well as a lot of other information on the species, including how to care for it, which you probably shouldn't do if you are looking at a noxious or invasive weed. The home page provides a lot of plant growing tips and information on plant related events.

iNaturalist opens with a very simple screen encouraging you to make an observation of any type of plant, animal, or insect. Click the "+" icon and it will allow you to choose between taking a photo, picking one of your own, or recording sound. Once you have taken a picture, for example, it will show you your photo and ask "What did you see? and offer to identify the plant for you. It will also find your location and allow you to submit your find for the national database.

Control Corner: The Label is the Law

You know when you are trying to figure out how much of a certain product to use or under which situation you should use it, so you turn the package around and read the directions on the back?

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you used a little bit more than the directions suggested ("Whatever the label says, I'll just double it.")?



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When you are using pesticides, the answer is that you could get in a lot of trouble. The label on any kind of pesticide, such as the herbicides you apply to noxious weeds, your lawn or your vegetable garden does not tell you what you should do, it tells you what you have to do. This is because if you apply a pesticide incorrectly you could not only kill the wrong plant, but you could also make yourself and others extremely sick, or worse.

The Environmental Protection Agency regulates the contents of the label so that it will provide all of the information a user will need to apply the pesticide as safely and effectively as possible.

Some of the information on the label includes the name and amount of each chemical in the pesticide, the toxicity level of the chemicals, which personal protective equipment an applicator has to use when applying the pesticide, how, when, and where the pesticide can be applied and a lot more.

How do they get all of this information on a container of chemical? Unless you are buying a 55-gallon drum of the stuff, it will be folded up and stuck in a plastic envelope attached to the bottle or jug. If you have trouble reading the small print on the container label, you can go to a website such as https://www.cdms.net/ and download a copy of the label with much bigger print.

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Any questions comments or article suggestions, please contact:

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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, and the flowers stink to high heaven. 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 has passed a quarantine on Callery pear, prohibiting the movement into and within the state of Kansas. This quarantine will not be enforced until 2027.