

WEBSTER COUNTY WEED COMMISSIONER NOXIOUS WEED POLICY

I. Intro:

This policy will describe the process by which the County Weed Commissioner will respond to, address and resolve noxious weed complaints on both public and private property within Webster County.

II. Weed Law

The Webster County Weed Commissioner will enforce Iowa Noxious Weed Law as defined under Chapter 317 of Iowa Code.

Under Chapter 17 the Iowa Department of Agriculture (IDALS) has prioritized a list of noxious weeds to be either eradicated or controlled.

Webster County will use this list of noxious weeds to be addressed.

A. Noxious Weed List

Class A noxious weeds for eradication. The following weed is included:

- a. Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*).
- b. Reserved

Class B noxious weeds for control. The following weeds are included:

- a. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*).
- b. Teasel (*Dipsacus spp.*) biennial.
- c. Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*).
- d. Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*).
- e. Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*).
- f. European morning glory or field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*).
- g. All other species of thistles belonging in the genus *Carduus*.

B. Webster County Board of Supervisors may add additional species to be controlled by a resolution.

C. The Weed Commissioner will post a Weed Resolution in the county's official newspapers each year on a date before weed emergence.

III. Noxious Weed Policy

A. Noxious Weed Discovery Process

The Webster County Weed Commissioner will respond to Noxious Weed complaints that are made directly to the Weed Commissioner or Weed Commissioner's office on

either public or private property. Upon absence of the Weed Commissioner where a complaint is time sensitive, a designated county employee may act as deputy and assume these duties.

Weed complaints must be specific in location as to ensure the responsible landowner or manager can be determined.

The Weed Commissioner will then assess the area and reason for the complaint. This assessment will be made within a reasonable time frame as to prevent weed spread. Once it has been determined that the complaint is valid and relates to the Noxious Weed Law, the responsible owner or land manager will be contacted.

B. Notification Process

The landowner or manager will be contacted in person or by phone initially. They will be informed of the complaint and Weed Law. The Weed Commissioner will direct them to control the noxious weeds or eradicate them in the case of Palmer amaranth. The Weed Commissioner will convey the acceptable methods in which to do so.

The land owner or manager will be given a time period of 5 to 7 days to complete the required action. This time may vary depending on local weather conditions or at the discretion of the Weed Commissioner.

After the initial time period has passed, the Weed Commissioner will reassess the complaint area. If the weed control has not been completed, the Weed Commissioner will send the landowner or manager an official weed destruction notice through registered mail. Once confirmation of delivery has been received, the landowner or manager will have 5 days to complete the action.

If the weed destruction has not been completed by the end of the second notice period, the Weed Commissioner will arrange to have the weeds destroyed by county personnel. The Weed Commissioner will decide the best method of destruction. The cost in which will be incurred by the land owner at the direction of the Board of Supervisors.

At any time during this process that weeds have been destroyed, the Weed Commissioner will close the complaint.

C. Noxious Weed Records

All records will be kept on file at the Weed Commissioner Office (Webster County Conservation). Records are also included in the Weed Commissioner's yearly report to be placed on record by the Board of Supervisors and IDALS.