



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Weed Control Fact Sheet



What does the CRP contract require for weed control?

The CRP contract has two provisions concerning weed control. They include:

- The participant must comply with the noxious weed laws of the State.
- The participant must control all weeds to the extent necessary to ensure that the required cover and neighboring landowners are not adversely impacted.

What are the possible penalties for not complying with the CRP contract provisions?

The penalties for not complying with the CRP contract provisions may be one of the following:

- Termination of the affected acres. This would require a refund of all prior payments and liquidated damages.
- A payment reduction equal to twice the cost of carrying out weed control.

What does the State law require for noxious weed control?

According to North Dakota Century Code 63-01.1-01, *"It shall be the duty of every person in charge of or in possession of land in this state, whether as landowner, lessee, renter, or tenant, under statutory authority or otherwise, to eradicate or to control the spread of noxious weeds on those lands."* The participants on the CRP contract are responsible for the maintenance of the practices and for controlling weeds. For questions regarding CRP contract requirements, contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

Which weeds are noxious weeds in North Dakota?

The Commissioner of Agriculture has determined the following weeds to be noxious weeds: absinth wormwood, Canada thistle, diffuse knapweed, field bindweed, leafy spurge, musk thistle, purple loosestrife, Russian knapweed, spotted knapweed, yellow starthistle, saltcedar, and Dalmatian toadflax. Local authorities may have additional weeds listed as noxious, please contact your county weed control board for information.

What are my options for controlling noxious weeds in CRP fields that I am required to have legumes or forbs (alfalfa, sweet clover, etc.)?

Every effort needs to be made to preserve the legumes or forbs in the stand. This may be accomplished through the use of spot treatments, timing herbicide applications to lessen impacts on desirable species, use of biological agents specific to the weed(s). If spot treatments will not provide adequate control to the noxious weeds present, treating the entire field with the appropriate control measure(s) will need to be completed.

Will I have to reestablish legumes in the stand if weed control action destroys them?

In cases where only a single grass species remains, legumes may need to be re-introduced. However, if the remaining stand has good diversity and wildlife benefits have not been severely impacted, the remaining cover may be adequate.

What is the primary nesting season?

In North Dakota, the primary nesting season runs from April 15 to August 1. This is the period of the year when ground-nesting birds build nests and use grass vegetation to raise their young.

Can I control noxious weeds during the primary nesting season?

Yes, however, the extent of control activities depends on the cover establishment:

- During the establishment period (from seedbed preparation through the time the grass/legume stand is certified established by NRCS) clipping and/or spraying at anytime to control noxious weeds is permitted.
- Once the grass/legume stand is established spot clipping and/or spraying is recommended. If the entire field is infested, treatment of the field may be allowed. Contact FSA prior taking control action.

What herbicides are available for control of noxious weeds?

Once weeds are identified, contact your local county agent for proper herbicide recommendations.

For more information

Contact your local Farm Service Agency office.

All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis.