



MAT Conference



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Agenda

Time	Topic
9:45 – 10:00	Noxious Weed Law Duties and Building an Inspection Program
10:00 – 10:05	Activity
10:05 – 10:15	Invasion Biology and Pathways
10:15 – 10:18	Activity
10:18 – 10:23	Treatment Timing for 5 Noxious Weed Species
10:33 – 10:36	Activity
10:36 – 10:41	Group Discussion

Local Weed Inspector

- Page 4 of guide
- Minnesota Statutes 18.80 subd. 2 & 3
 - Supervisors of each town board and the mayor of each city shall act as the local weed inspectors within their jurisdictions
 - A municipality may appoint one or more assistants to act on behalf of the appointing authority as a weed inspector for the municipality

Noxious Weed Law Duties

- Page 4 of guide
- Minnesota Statutes 18.81 Subd. 2
 1. Examine all lands to ensure compliance
 2. Make sure control and eradication is carried out
 3. Issue transport permits under M.S. 18.82



Noxious Weed Law Duties

- Page 5 of guide
- Authority to do weed inspection
 - M.S. 18.79 lists specific authorities granted to County Ag Inspectors (CAIs) and Local Weed Inspectors (LWIs)
 - Subd. 3 [Entry upon land]. To administer and enforce sections 18.76 to 18.91, an inspector or county designated employee may enter upon land without consent of the owner and without being subject to an action for trespass or any damages.
 - Subd. 5 [order for control or eradication of noxious weeds]. An inspector or county designated employee may order the control or eradication of noxious weeds on any land within the inspector's or county designated employee's jurisdiction. A county must make the identity of a county designated employee described by this subdivision available to the public.

Building an Inspection Program

- County Ag Inspector (CAI) and County Designated Employee (CDE) (page 5-6 of guide)
 - Responsible for carrying out noxious weed law enforcement
- County Ag Inspector List



Building an Inspection Program

Suggestions for a successful inspection program (pages 7-9 of guide):

1. Local weed inspectors should make two tours of their municipality each year.
2. The law provides for an individual notice to be served by local weed inspectors on the landowner and/or occupant or the manager of public lands located within their jurisdiction.

Building an Inspection Program

3. When serving an individual notice, do not recommend methods of control or eradication that are illegal, untested, or ineffective.
 - If you need advice on control methods, contact the MDA Noxious and Invasive Weed Program, local U of M extension offices or the county agricultural inspector/county-designated employee.

Building an Inspection Program

4. Contact landowners, occupants, or managers of public lands in February or March about planning a noxious weed control program.
 - Communication with state and federal land managers is crucial to successful enforcement.
5. Beware of disputes between neighbors.
 - If you are unsure of what to do in these situations, consult your county agricultural inspector or county-designated employee.

Building an Inspection Program

6. Promptly investigate each complaint before contacting the landowner and/or occupant or the manager of public land.
 - The complaint must be verified before you should take any action. If you have seen the problem first hand, it is unnecessary to reveal the name of the person complaining. In many cases, it is unlawful to reveal the person's name anyway.
7. If an individual notice is served, you should be prepared to follow through by hiring the control work done if the person served does not voluntarily comply.

Building an Inspection Program

8. When dealing with noxious weed issues in a standing crop, you will need the assistance of your county agricultural inspector or county-designated employee.
 - They will assist you with setting-up an appeal board and discussing any enforcement with the county attorney.
 - In most cases, it is not advisable to destroy a standing crop the first year that the noxious weed issue is discovered.

Building an Inspection Program

9. A digital camera is a great tool for documenting noxious weed violations.
 - When performing an investigation, make sure that you have recorded and documented pertinent information.
 - Keep a file on all investigations and retain those records for at least three years.
 - Most violations will be resolved quickly, but good record keeping is a great asset for repeat offenders.

Building an Inspection Program

10. By following a planned and effective enforcement program, the number of violations will actually decrease over the years and your job as a local weed inspector can become easier.

Activity

- Turn to your neighbor and discuss how to enforce the noxious weed law.
 - Write down 2 duties of local weed inspectors and 3 suggestions to build a local inspection program you can implement in your jurisdiction.

Invasion Biology

- Definition of Invasive Species
 - Introduced, non-native species, moved by human activities to a location where they do not naturally occur *and* cause ecological or economic problems

We live in a highly mobile
and global world



Meaning of “Invasive”



Non-native



Cause harm



Native species \neq invasive

