Nevada’s Noxious Weed Program
Nevada Department of Agriculture

Dawn Rafferty, State Weed Program Coordinator
NEVADA’S NOXIOUS WEED LAW

“...I didn’t know yellow starthistle was illegal....”
What is a noxious weed? Legal definition (NRS 555.005)

“any species of plant which is, or is likely to be, detrimental or destructive and difficult to control or eradicate”

NAC 555.010 lists Nevada Noxious Weeds
Currently 45 species
Will be a ‘tiered system’ by 4-05
NEVADA’S WEED LAWS APPLY TO MORE THAN JUST ‘AGRICULTURAL’ LANDS:

NRS 555.010 Director authorized to investigate and control pests of plants and animals, plant diseases and disorders, and noxious weeds. Within the limits of any appropriation made by law, the Director may:

1. Investigate the prevalence of; and
2. Take the necessary action to control, vertebrate and invertebrate pests of plants and animals, plant diseases, physiological plant disorders and noxious weeds for the protection of the crops, livestock, public health, wildlife, water quality and beneficial uses of land in the State of Nevada.

Other effects......

- Decreased property values
- Increased food costs
- Toxic to livestock (ex: African rue, toxic to cattle; yellow starthistle and Russian knapweed toxic to horses)
- Health problems for humans
- Loss of grazing lands for both livestock and native animals
Brief history:

(NV laws were created as early as 1929)

1995 - NDOA created **Nevada Weed Action Committee**, an Interagency working group to foster coordination communication in control efforts; quarterly meetings held statewide

2000 - Group finishes Nevada State Weed Plan

1995 - **Nevada Weed Management Association** begins, annual conferences held to discuss new methods of control, group effort updates, regional and national funding/programs

2004 conference held in Las Vegas, 250 attended, optional Pesticide applicator Workshop and CWMA Workshop held in conjunction with conference

2000 - NDOA hires noxious weed program coordinator
What are we doing about it????

**Education, education, education…..**

Schools, NV Assoc. of Counties, Parks & Rec., Weed Warriors Classes, Nurseries and Landscapers, Neighborhood and Citizen Advisory Boards, State Legislature, Congressional representatives, Conservation Districts, garden clubs, horse groups, etc. etc. etc.………..
Weed Free Forage Certification Program

- Grower calls NDOA for inspection
- Field is inspected no more than ten days before cut
- No stack inspections
- Twine is issued for use on certified bales
- Tags for cube/pellet bags
- Certificate (& transit certificate if requested) issued

**2004 Season**
13 growers were certified
24 inspections were conducted
15 inspectors were contracted
2,842 acres were inspected
Statewide mapping efforts

Inventoried Noxious Weed Infestation Locations (1998)


1998

2002
CWMAs

COOPERATIVE
WEED
MANAGEMENT
AREAS
Nevada Weed Groups - 3-2005
*Alpine County/Upper Carson Watershed  *Carson City  
*Churchill County  *Clark County  *Elko County  *Gerlach (N. Washoe)  
*Humboldt Watershed  Lander Co. Weed Team  *Lassen Co, CA SWAT  
*Las Vegas Wash Weed Partnership  *Lincoln County  *Lower Truckee  
*Newark/Long Valley  *N. Nye & Esmeralda  *Pershing County  
*Railroad Valley  *Ruth /Robison  *Snake Valley  *S. Nye County  
*Spring Creek Region  *Storey County  *Surprise Valley (N. Washoe)  
*Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group  Tri-County Weed Group  
*Truckee Meadows  *Walker River Basin  *Washoe Valley  
*West Central Lyon County  *White River Valley

*Groups organized as Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA)

Nevada Weed Control Districts (Active)
Churchill County (GID)  Diamond Valley
Douglas County  Lovelock Valley
Paradise Valley  Walker River

Inactive Weed Control Districts: Ruby Valley, Goose Creek, and Lamoille.
USFS State and Private Forestry CWMA Grant Program through NDOA

2002....$100,000  Hired a position to oversee grant and run weed free forage program; $50K in grants

2003.....$165,300 Position + $100K in grants

2004.....$163,300 $150K grants; position on hold, possibility of hiring permanent thru NDOA

Waiting to hear on 2005 funds available
As of today, 28 CWMAs formed in Nevada

Volunteer groups, sharing resources, operating on grant funds

BLM representatives in every CWMA

Every county has at least one weed group except Mineral

Because of USFS S&P Forestry grant, thousands of acres of weeds have been treated, numerous of educational outreach efforts have been conducted, restoration is in progress as is monitoring and inventory.....

BUT.....Volunteers burn out, especially when resources are lacking......
We still have no sustainable State funding…..

BDR 431, Senator Rhoads & Public Lands Committee could add appx. $160K to weed program annually

- Hire CWMA Coordinator position permanently

- Provide funds to conduct abatements

NWMA Legislative Committee working to educate legislators
USFS S&P CWMA Grant

2004 CWMA Grant Projects ($100K):
10,294 acres treated
3,773,806 acres inventoried
$237,809 non-federal match

2005 CWMA Grant Requests ($150K):
18 proposals, Request total $198,000
IMPENDING CHANGE TO NAC 555.010, NEVADA’S STATE NOXIOUS WEED LIST

List is being changed to a ‘tiered’ system as follows:

DEFINITIONS

Category "A": Weeds not found or limited in distribution throughout the state; actively excluded from the state and actively eradicated wherever found; actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; control required by the state in all infestations

Category "B": Weeds established in scattered populations in some counties of the state; actively excluded where possible, actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; control required by the state in areas where populations are not well established or previously unknown to occur

Category "C": Weeds currently established and generally widespread in many counties of the state; actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; abatement at the discretion of the state quarantine officer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category A Weeds:</th>
<th>Category B Weeds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. African Rue (Peganum harmala)</td>
<td>1. Carolina horse nettle (Solanum carolinense)</td>
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<td>2. Austrian fieldcress (Rorippa austriaca)</td>
<td>2. Diffuse knapweed (Centaurea diffusa)</td>
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<td>3. Austrian peaweed (Sphaerophysa salsula)</td>
<td>3. Medusahead (Taeniatherum caput-medusae)</td>
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<td>4. Camethorn (Alhagi pseudalhagi)</td>
<td>4. Musk thistle (Carduus nutans)</td>
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<td>5. Common crupina (Crupina vulgaris)</td>
<td>5. Russian knapweed (Acroptilon repens)</td>
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<td>6. Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria dalmatica)</td>
<td>6. Scotch thistle (Onopordum acanthium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Dyer’s woad (Isatis tinctoria)</td>
<td>7. White horse nettle (Solanum elaeagnifolium)</td>
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<td>8. Eurasian water-milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum)</td>
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<td>9. Giant Salvinia (Salvinia molesta)</td>
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<td>10. Goats rue (Galega officinalis)</td>
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<td>11. Houndstongue (Cynoglossum officinale)</td>
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<td>12. Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata)</td>
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<td>13. Iberian star thistle (Centaurea iberica)</td>
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<td>14. Klamath weed (Hypericum perforatum)</td>
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<td>15. Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula)</td>
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<td>16. Malta star thistle (Centaurea melitensis)</td>
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<td>17. Mayweed Chamomile (Anthemis cotula)</td>
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<td>18. Mediterranean sage (Salvia aethiopis)</td>
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<td>19. Purple star thistle (Centaurea calcitrapa)</td>
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<td>20. Purple loose strife (Lythrum salicaria, L. virgatum &amp; cultivars)</td>
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<td>21. Rush skeletonweed (Chondrilla juncea)</td>
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<td>22. Sow thistle (Sonchus arvensis)</td>
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<td>23. Spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa)</td>
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<td>24. Squarrose star thistle (Centaurea virgata)</td>
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<td>25. Sulfur cinquefoil (Potentilla recta)</td>
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<td>26. Syrian bean caper (Zygophyllum fabago)</td>
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<td>27. Yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis)</td>
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<td>28. Yellow toadflax (Linaria vulgaris)</td>
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<th>Category C Weeds</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Black henbane (Hyoscyamus niger)</td>
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<td>2. Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense)</td>
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<td>3. Green fountain grass (Pennisetum setaceum)</td>
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<td>4. Hoary cress (Cardaria draba)</td>
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<td>5. Johnson grass (Sorghum halepense)</td>
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<td>6. Perennial pepperweed (Lepidium latifolium)</td>
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<td>7. Poison Hemlock (Conium maculatum)</td>
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<td>8. Puncture vine (Tribulus terrestris)</td>
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<td>9. Salt cedar (tamarisk) (Tamarix spp.)</td>
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<td>10. Water Hemlock (Cicuta macula)</td>
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A noxious weed is a plant that has been defined as a pest by law or regulation. Both Nevada and the U.S government maintain lists of plants that are considered threats to the well being of the state or the country. The two lists differ significantly.

In Nevada, The Nevada Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as “the Department”) will recommend plants for listing after consultation with outside experts and a panel composed of Nevada Weed Action Committee members. If a plant is found to probably be "detrimental or destructive and difficult to control or eradicate" (Nevada Revised Statute 555.005), the Department, with approval of the Board of Agriculture, will designate the plant as a noxious weed.

Chapter 555 sections .005-.217 of the Nevada Revised Statutes authorize the Department to investigate noxious weeds and require land owners or occupants to control such weeds. This statutory duty requires a noxious weed policy which recognizes that weeds vary as to their potential and actual harm to Nevada’s agriculture and environment. Overall noxious weed significance is the basis for determining what prevention or control activities are appropriate, at what level, and when and where those activities should be conducted.
Noxious weed ratings are intended to be used as aids to inform land owners and managers and other interested persons as to a particular noxious weed’s environmental, agricultural and biological significance, as well as its importance to the general public, and the action recommended by the Department to deal with the pest.

Each pest rating represents the Department’s view of the statewide importance of the noxious weed to the crops, livestock, public health, wildlife, water quality and beneficial uses of land in Nevada. Local conditions may dictate more stringent action against a pest than recommended at a state level.

It is the Department’s policy to use the “Noxious Weed Tier System” to determine what action is to be taken consistent with existing statutes which include authority for: the promulgation of quarantine, abatement for eradication and/or control; holding and inspecting; establishing weed control districts; and for other regulatory activities.

At the time that the Department lists a species, it will also give a rating of A, B, or C. These ratings reflect the Department’s view of the statewide importance of the noxious weed, the likelihood that eradication or control efforts would be successful, and the present distribution of noxious weeds within the state. These lists will be in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 555.010).
www.agri.nv.gov (site currently under construction, should be completed next week)

Nevada Department of Agriculture: Plant Industry: *Noxious Weeds*, info on mapping, weed free forage, CWMAs, county contacts, weed list and laws, links

www.weedcenter.org

Center for Invasive Plant Management; site run out of Montana State University, one stop shopping for all things weedy in the West; links to just about everybody else

www.unce.unr.edu under publications, natural resources and weeds; fact sheets on most noxious weeds and management information
New Invasive Threat?........

*Populus footcoverii*
Commonly called “Shoe Tree” vine

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