

# THE NOXIOUS WEED

## The Annual Grant County Weed Board Newsletter

County web site— [www.grantcountynd.com](http://www.grantcountynd.com)

Official weed board e mail—[leithold@westriv.com](mailto:leithold@westriv.com)

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### Weed Officer Corner

Last season, besides the wet and early fall, Palmer Amaranth was found in Grant County. That weed is a game changer. Not only for 2019, but this year and beyond. See more later on in the newsletter.

*Merlin Leithold*

*Grant County Weed Officer*

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**Director—Drew Gaugler**

**NDSU Extension Agent -**

**Tessa Osterbauer**

## PROGRAM FOR 2020

### Spraying Program

First of all, we and Randy Lyons apologize for not getting everyone sprayed last season. Last fall was sure a wet one. The snow in October capped it off.

The way the program was run last year worked out quite well, besides the weather. You hire the sprayer, we can provide the chemical, when the work is completed, the sprayer charges you for the labor and we charge you for the chemical, with your cost share deducted. You pay the sprayer for the labor, pay us for the net cost for the chemical, job complete.

### Cost Share

Cost Share for 2020 is again set at 65% on the chemicals (Tordon, Plateau, Milestone, Curtail). Again this year, is the request for cost share form. This is only for those purchasing their chemical from the weed board. If you buy it elsewhere, you will need to fill out a spray log. They will not be enclosed in the newsletter. We can send them to you by request. The request for cost share form is required. We need proof where you apply your chemical, in order for us to receive a partial reimbursement from the state. The request form is included with the newsletter, for those of you who spray yourself. All forms will also be at the weed building. Fill the request form ahead of time, and bring it with when you get chemical. Saves time that day. They are good for all season.

### Forms

We use two forms. The spray log, and the cost share request form. Also, read elsewhere in this newsletter for prices, etc.

## SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR ALL PRICES AND REQUIREMENTS

### NOXIOUS WEEDS THAT WILL BE COST SHARED IN 2020

Leafy Spurge

Canada Thistle

Absinth Wormwood

Yellow Toadflax

Black Henbane

**If you have a noxious weed that is not on the above list, check with us for more information.**

## BIO-CONTROL

We have had a leafy spurge bug day for 23 straight years. We had a very successful bug day last summer, depending on populations, we hope to have one again this summer, depending on the temps and the Covid virus. We should know by the middle of June, if we will be having a field day again.. If you have put beetles on your spurge, be sure you check them for numbers, and then move some to areas where you don't have any. Remember, they are only one tool in your chest for fighting weeds. Chemical control, especially on your borders is essential. Be a good neighbor, keep your weeds from spreading to your neighbors property. Put yourself in their shoes, and then you will real-

ize that you would not like it either.

Canada Thistle bio-control is a lot slower in reproduction then the leafy spurge beetles. You may see a small ball on the stem of your Canada thistle. It is a gall midge, a fly, controlling thistle. It reduces or stops seed production on that plant, but does not kill the plant. We released some in the past, but they did not spread that fast. We believe that the flies migrated from the south. They are not a kill all answer, but they sure don't hurt. Every plant that has a reduction in seed production helps. The monarch butterfly also helps with the control of Canada thistle. We may be able to release a rust fungus this fall.

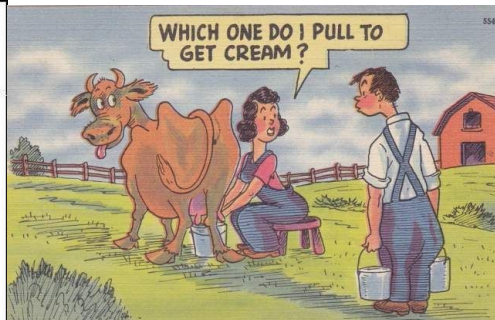
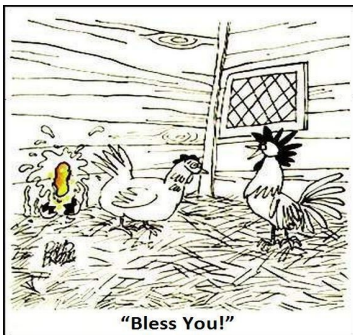
## STATE SCHOOL LAND

If you are leasing state school land from the Department of ND Trust Lands (Formerly State Land Dept.) remember that it is your responsibility to control the noxious weeds. They do provide an excellent cost share program. On some new invasive weeds, they pay 100% of the costs. Contact them for more details.

County cost share is not available for school land.

If your neighbors school land and weeds are not being controlled, contact them, as they want to know if a lessee is not fulfilling his terms of the lease.

## A LITTLE COUNTRY HUMOR



### Grant County Noxious Weeds

Besides the state noxious weeds, in Grant County we also have the following noxious weeds on our list.

Black Henbane, Babysbreath, Hoary Cress, and newly added Waterhemp.

## NORTH DAKOTA NOXIOUS WEED LAW WILL BE ENFORCED!

Every year, I get complaints about why this guy doesn't spray his weeds. North Dakota law states that it is the duty of every landowner to control the spread of noxious weeds on the property. Control means to prevent the spread of any noxious weeds by seed or any other propagating part.

The law also states that if someone is not taking care of their weeds, anyone can report them to the weed authority, (which would be me) and I will begin enforcement action, BUT in order for this to work, calling me won't work. A letter, signed by the one complaining, needs to be sent to me. The law does have "teeth", but the "teeth" are sometimes more than one thinks.

This law can work two ways. When enforcement action is taken, the weed board can either spray the weeds and charge the bill to the taxes if unpaid or levy a daily fine. Due to tight budgets, the Grant County Weed Board approved to levy a fine up to \$80 per day for unsprayed noxious weeds. This is only for enforcement actions. I will still take phone calls, and talk to landowners to encourage them to control their weeds.

# MILESTONE, PLATEAU, TORDON BEING SOLD BY WEED BOARD AT ELGIN WEED BUILDING

Again this year, we will be selling chemical at our building in Elgin.

**We strongly encourage you to buy directly from us, giving you your cost share that very same day.**

Besides Tordon, Plateau, Milestone, and Curtail, we also will have Amine, Surfactant, MSO, blue dye and defoamer for sale.

You may also purchase your chemicals from your favorite dealer, but check their prices, so you can get the best deal. We only cost share 65% to the limit. If you purchase from a dealer, you will need to send a paid receipt to us for cost share, along with a spray log. We will not cost share any generic chemicals. Some of you have other custom ap-

plicators do some work for you. If they provide the chemical, send us their receipts for cost share. You can also pick up chemical from us for your custom applicators.

Tordon is a restricted use chemical, a private or commercial pesticide applicators license is required.

We will only sell chemicals for noxious weed control, nothing else.

Milestone has been an excellent chemical. It does an excellent job on Canada thistle and Absinth wormwood. It has NO control on Leafy Spurge. Plateau has NO control on Canada Thistle.

Milestone can be sprayed safely in creeks where the water has receded, or right up to standing water,

but **NOT** into the water.

I will **NOT** be at the weed building all the time. Call me and I will try to accommodate you the best that I can. Usually mornings are the best time for me.

Even with the virus that is around us, we will be open. If you are sick, wear a mask, or send someone else. I will be cleaning the building daily.

Don't forget to fill out a request for cost share form ahead of time. There will be forms at the weed building as well. No cost share without the form.

You may purchase more chemical then your limit for cost share. When you figure it together, you still have a good price. **Don't stop spraying when you reach your limit.**

## COST SHARE DEADLINE - October 15th

October 15th has been set as the deadline for turning receipts for cost share. Depending on the season, we will extend the deadline past October 15th., by request.

We provide cost share for Leafy Spurge, Canada Thistle, Absinth Wormwood, and Yellow Toadflax

Also, the chemistry of the weeds is changing. 20 some years ago, Leafy Spurge would bloom in June, set seed, and be done by August 15th. Seldom could we fall spray Leafy

Spurge. Today, we see all stages of Leafy spurge throughout the summer, into fall.

**If you buy your chemical from us, you need not worry about the deadline.**

Canada thistle is a weed that has growth in the fall as well, ideal for spraying chemical.

The air temperature needs it get into the teens for several hours to kill Canada thistle.

## CASH ONLY

Purchasing chemicals directly from us is cash only. **NO CHARGING**, unless through your sprayer.

### ND STATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Leafy Spurge  
Canada Thistle  
Absinth Wormwood  
Saltcedar  
Purple loosestrife  
Spotted Knapweed  
Diffuse Knapweed  
Russian Knapweed  
Musk Thistle  
Dalmatian Toadflax  
Yellow Toadflax  
Houndstongue  
Palmer Amaranth

## LICENSE NUMBER

All chemical receipts, or spray logs, or cost share request forms, that are submitted, for Tordon, **MUST** have the sprayer license number written on it, and expiration date in order to receive cost share.

If you are buying Tordon from us, you **MUST** bring your card along the first day. Also, don't forget to fill out a cost share request from.

## Complaints

Just a reminder about complaints. Don't report someone because of a feud. Life is too short for that. Also, look in your own back yard before complaining, AND, if the person you are complaining about is your neighbor, talk to your neighbor. They may not even know or realize that they have a problem.

## Safety

Always think safety when spraying. Use chemical resistant gloves. Yes, your hands will sweat, but that is better then ingesting chemical. Wear rubber boots. They make some that you can slip over your shoes or they also make some with a buckle on the side. Never spray on a windy day. Yeah, I know, the wind blows every day.

## PALMER AMARANTH PROTOCOL

As many of you have heard, Palmer Amaranth is now a state noxious weed, **and it was found in Grant County in 2019**. Palmer Amaranth is basically a pigweed that has built up chemical resistance to certain chemicals. It is fast spreading, containing a large amount of seeds. It is fast growing, also a trait making certain chemicals impossible to control. It is mainly a cropland weed, but can grow elsewhere as well. New plantings of grass, alfalfa, millet, or CRP, are susceptible. Look where your seed has been harvested before you buy. Try to avoid seed from states with a high Palmer infestations, such as Iowa, Nebraska, parts of Minnesota, and parts of South Dakota, It has also been found in several counties in south central North Dakota.

As far as Grant County, it was found in two different locations, one in a millet field, the other in a field planted with common alfalfa. Different areas, different drills, etc. The worry to NDSU and myself, is that, in case of the millet, there was more seed sold from that truck load, but I was unable to find out who purchased the seed. 2020 could be a very trying year. We may have very little, or huge infestations throughout the county. Be vigilant, and don't hesitate to contact either myself or Tessa Osterbauer, at the county extension office. We will come out and look at it, possibly taking a sample for analysis. **DO NOT** hand pull it and bring it in to either office. We need to look at it in the field, especially to take a sample. Also, because this weed can be such a huge problem, taking over fields, rendering them useless for crops without proper management, **DO NOT** advertise that you may have it. Between the extension office and myself, we will keep it discreet as well.

Contact Tessa Osterbauer, extension agent at 701-622-3470 or I can be reached at 701-220-7908.

## CONTRACT SPRAYERS

There are capable sprayers in the area. We do have one that will be spraying in the county this year. He was here last year as well.

Randy Lyons, from Buffalo, South Dakota would like to spray for landowners in Grant County again this year.

On the next page you will find his information. He plans on starting, in the county, in June.

Now, you can either contact him, to get your spraying done, or you can contact me as well. Randy will also be contacting the customers that he did not get sprayed last year, as well as the ones he did spray in 2019. When you call or e mail him, have your land description handy, or where you want spraying done. If you have a dollar limit, make sure you tell him as well. Also, what weeds you want controlled.

He will have basically the same crew back this year, making it easier for them to find your land, given they were here last year.

Remember, I will bill you for the chemical, with cost share deducted. You will pay him for the labor.

I understand that it may be a hassle for some to write two checks, but unfortunately that's the way it has to be.

Also, if you have someone else spray for you, you can also have them pickup the chemical from the weed board.

If I have other sprayers contact me, I will keep their contact information for you as well.

## FORMS

If you need a form, whether it be a request for cost share form, or a spray log, and the form you need is not in your copy of the newsletter, please either call me at either phone number, or send me an e mail to request a copy.

I will have both forms on hand, at the weed building, in Elgin as well.



Prairie Land Consulting LLC (PLC) has been in operation since 2012 and we are located in Buffalo, South Dakota. PLC has been spraying weeds, fencing, seeding and mowing for the oil companies and townships in western North Dakota from the beginning. We have current applicator licenses in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana.

Randy and Jewel Lyons founded the company. Randy's earned a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture and Range Management from NDSU. Randy is the Operations Manager for the company and oversees the day to day operations. Jewel is the Office Manager and oversees the office duties.

PLC provides noxious weed spraying for our agriculture clients and oil and gas clients. We also provide weed control on oil well sites and commercial properties. A fleet of spraying pickups and water hauling equipment are available to meet your needs.

Our 2020 spraying rate is \$115.00 per hour. This includes the spraying unit and operator. The chemical, we will pick up in Elgin at the weed control building, and you will be billed for that from the weed department.

Please give Randy a call to discuss your weed control needs. His contact is 605-858-9020

or email [prairieland@sdplains.com](mailto:prairieland@sdplains.com).

#### ND DOT SPRAYING

It seems like each season, someone has no idea that we spray for the ND DOT. Not only do we spray county and township roads, we also spray the state highways in Grant County. We are contracted annually by them to do so.

This has been going on since the 1980's. Nearly every county in North Dakota does this as well.

Part of YOUR taxpayer dollars going to the weed board, pay for spraying county and township roads. They do not go towards the state highways. The weed board gets paid by the DOT at the end of the season for all chemical used on the highways and also for the labor as well. The weed board actually makes a small profit by doing so, enough to cover the gas we use all summer in the truck.

Another thing to remember, county landowners live beside these state highways as well. They are paying taxes the same as everyone else. Their ditches have to be sprayed as well. Those ditches are in the county, part of the acres in the county.

There has been talk every now and then, by some state legislatures, to cut funding to DOT for spraying noxious weeds in the ditches. If that ever happens, the added expenses for those ditches would fall to county's budget, which on the average is around \$7,000 annually.

So next time you see the weed board spraying the highway ditches, we're doing a task that we have always done.

# COST SHARE GUIDELINES

## Cost share deadline is October 15th

Tordon22K	Curtail	Plateau	Milestone
Price —\$44.00/gal	Price —\$39.00/gal	Price —\$101.00/gal	Price—\$71.00/qt.
@65% = \$15.40 your cost	@65% = \$13.65 your cost	@65% = \$35.35 your cost	@65% = \$24.85 your cost
Gallon limit—30	Gallon limit—15	Gallon limit—5	Gallon limit—4
Cost Share—65%	Cost Share—65%	Cost Share—65%	Cost Share—65%
.Purchased from weed board	<u>Purchases before August 15th will not qualify.</u>	Purchased from weed board	Purchased from weed board

**Purchasing chemical from other sources will greatly reduce your net cost after cost share. Please be aware!!**

All above chemicals will be cost shared on day of purchase from weed board @ 65%. Cash Sale! When purchasing from a dealer, send in paid receipts to weed board along with completed spray logs to receive 65% cost share up to price limits stated above for each chemical, and along with chemical gallon allotted. Other chemicals are listed directly below for prices purchased from us, either directly, or through the sprayer.

### NEW INVASIVE WEEDS

If you find a weed, and you are not sure what it is, contact either myself, or Tessa at the extension office in Carson @ 622-3470. There is cost share available for eradication of some of these weeds.

### HAY CUTTING NOTICE

This notice is to inform all Grant County landowners and those who cut hay in road ditch right of ways. Throughout the summer into fall, the Grant County Weed Board sprays chemical into road ditches for the control of noxious weeds. Some of these chemicals can have a residue on a plant for up to 2 weeks, depending on conditions. This residue can pass through the animal into the manure, and could cause crop damage in certain situations. It is impossible for us to inform you exactly where we are spraying on a weekly basis. A lot depends on the weather for us as well. It is your duty, as a landowner or a ditch hay cutter to check with us if you have any concerns. This notice is being given according to ND State Pesticide Law. We will also be publishing this notice in the official county paper. We hope this does not inconvenience anyone. This is for your protection as well as ours. It is better to be proactive ahead of time then reactive after a problem occurs.

### Cost Share 2020

If you have read the newsletter, you may see that the cost share remains at 65%. Like was said last year, unless we get an increase in our state allocation next year, it remains unlikely that we will raise the percent. Just too many weeds growing.

### Chemical Costs This Year Will Be

- Amine 2-4D—\$ 11.50 /gallon - 2 1/2's
- Tordon 22K—\$ 44.00 /gallon -1's or 2 1/2's
- Liberate—\$ 24.00 /gallon - 1's or 2 1/2's
- Plateau—\$ 101.00 /gallon - 1's
- MISO—\$ 13.00 /gallon - 2 1/2's
- Milestone—\$ 71.00 /quart
- Curtail—\$39.00/gallon - 2 1/2's

We also have on hand Blue dye and defoamer.

With new chemicals coming into the market each year, we do carry some select chemicals, but they are not cost shared. Contact me if you are interested in a certain specialty chemical.