

THE NOXIOUS WEED

The Annual Grant County Weed Board Newsletter

County web site— *www.grantcountynd.com*

Official weed board e mail—*leithold@westriv.com*

Volume I Issue 12

April, 2019

Weed Officer Corner

Last season, I saw two different times that a producer planted alfalfa and ended up with noxious weeds throughout the field, very likely from the seed. One case was Hoary cress, the other field was Houndstongue. Please be vigilant when planting new grasses. If a plant looks out of place, it very likely may be a weed. Feel free to contact myself or the extension office, and we will assist you. Have a great season.

Merlin Leithold

Grant County Weed Officer

Grant County Weed Board

6135 Hwy 49

Elgin, ND 58533

**Merlin Leithold, Weed Officer
& Secretary**

Phone 701-220-7908 (cell)

Or 701-584-3204 (home)

E mail

leithold@westriv.com

Board Members for 2019:

President—Eddy Ulrich

Vice—Dick Woodbury

Director—Denis Tibor

Director—Matt Neiderman

Director—Leonard Gerhardt

Director—Morris Haase

Director—Drew Gaugler

PROGRAM FOR 2019

Spraying Program

First of all, we apologize for not getting anyone sprayed last season. When the company we had hired failed to come, and we contacted another one, who wanted to spray, and he also backed out, not a good year.

The board decided to change the way we run the program. One major factor is liability to the county. We will keep a list of sprayers that are willing to spray for landowners. The sprayer can pick up the chemical from our weed building, we will bill you the landowner for the chemical, and you will receive the bill for labor from the sprayer. You will either contact us or the sprayer to get on the schedule. You will also need to sign a form allowing the sprayer to pick up your chemical from us. I have enclosed a form in the newsletter, sign and send back after you have hired a sprayer.

Cost Share

Cost Share for 2019 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 three forms. The spray log, the cost share request form, and the chemical 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 2019

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 each year. We had a very successful field day last summer, depending on populations, we hope to have one again this summer. Depending on the temps in May. 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 realize that you would not like it either.

Canada Thistle bio-control is a lot slower in reproduction than 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. Contact Jerry Saude @ 328-1919 or e mail him at jsaude@nd.gov

A LITTLE COUNTRY HUMOR

BEWARE OF DOG

Upon entering the little country store, the stranger noticed a sign saying? DANGER! BEWARE OF DOG! posted on the glass door. Inside he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor besides the cash register. He asked the store manager, "Is THAT the dog folks are supposed to beware of?" "Yep, that's him," he replied. The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?" "Because," the owner replied, "before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

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, and Hoary Cress.

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 applicators 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.

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.**

CASH ONLY

Purchasing chemicals directly from us is cash only. **NO CHARGING**, unless through your sprayer. We have been lenient in the past, but we cannot afford to carry chemicals on account. We are not a retailer. We are providing a service to you.

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

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. Last fall, Leafy Spurge regrew and bloomed after it rained.

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.

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.

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.

PALMER AMARANTH PROTOCOL

As many of you have heard, Palmer Amaranth is now a state noxious weed. 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, 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, parts of Minnesota, and parts of South Dakota, It has been found in 2018 in several counties in eastern North Dakota.

If you think you have Palmer Amaranth, contact either myself or the Tessa Keller, 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 Keller, extension agent at 701-622-3470 or I can be reached at 701-220-7908.

CONTRACT SPRAYERS

As you may have read earlier in the newsletter, we are doing the landowner spraying differently this year. We have been, on your behalf, trying to find sprayers. Unfortunately, they are not knocking at the door.

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

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

On the next page you will find his information. He plans on being in the county around the middle of June for a couple of weeks, and then again the last week of August, into the first week of September.

Now, you can either contact him, to get your spraying done, or you can contact me as well. 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.

Remember, fill out the chemical request form, send it to me, and 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 chemical request form, 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 all three forms on hand at the weed building in Elgin this season 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 2019 spraying rate is \$115.00 per hour. This includes the spraying unit and operator. It is up to the landowner to supply the chemical.

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

or email 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 a 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 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 2019

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
- MSO—\$ 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.

The MSO that we have this year has Lecitech in it. This helps with drift and penetration of the chemical.