

North American Weed Free Forage Certification Standards

INTRODUCTION

These standards were formerly known as “Regional Weed Free Forage Certification Standards”.

There is a growing demand in North America for the use at certified weed free forage and mulch as a preventive program in Integrated Weed Management Systems to limit the spread of noxious weeds. The goal of this standard is to provide a guideline to set minimum requirements for uniform participation of the various provinces and states in the program.

The states and provinces Alberta (AB), Idaho (ID), Montana (MT), Nevada (NV), Oregon (OR), South Dakota (SD), Washington (WA), Wyoming (WY), Colorado (CO), Nebraska (NE), North Dakota (ND), Kansas (KS), and Utah (UT), have agreed to the following standards.

I. STANDARDS

The standards are designed

- * to provide some assurance to all participants that forage certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard.
- * to provide continuity between the various provinces and states in the program
- * to limit the spread of noxious weeds through forage and mulch

Forage shall be free of those noxious weeds or undesirable plant species identified in Appendix 4-A.

1. Forage shall be inspected in the State/Province of origin by proper officials or authority.
2. Forage shall also be inspected in the field of origin (field shall include surrounding ditches, fence rows, roads, easement rights-of-way, or a buffer zone surrounding the field.)
3. Field shall be inspected prior to cutting or harvesting by the proper officials or authority
4. Forage which contains any noxious weeds, or undesirable plant species, as identified in Appendix 4-A, may be certified if the following requirements are met.
 - a. Field upon which the forage was produced was treated to prevent seed formation or seed ripening to the degree that there is no danger of

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- dissemination of the seed, or any injurious portion thereof from such noxious weeds, or undesirable plant species, or the propagating parts of the plant are not capable of producing a new plant.
- b. Noxious weed(s) or undesirable plant species was treated not later than rosette to bud stage, or boot stage for perennial grass species classified as weeds, prior to cutting or harvesting.
 - c. Treatment method can include but is not limited to: 1) burning, 2) mowing, cutting or roguing, 3) mechanical methods, or 4) chemicals.
5. An inspection certificate (Appendix 4-B) shall document that the above requirements have been met (1.4) based upon a reasonable and prudent visual inspection as outlined in Appendix .
 6. Interstate shipment of forage shall be accompanied by a transit certificate (Appendix 4-C) and/or certification marking (Appendix 4-D) issued by proper officials or authority in the state/province of origin. Shipments into restricted areas not accompanied by the proper transit certificate or certification marking may be rejected. (A standardized regional certification marking template has been developed. (Appendix 4-D) Use of the standard regional marking template is recommended. A certification marking system will ultimately be developed by the proper officials or authority in the state/province of origin.)
 7. Exemption:
 - a. Pellets and pelleted milled feeds may be certified in the field or may be certified based on official testing by a state/province seed lab for weed seed viability. Proof of results shall be submitted to the State/Province Department of Agriculture.
 8. If a transit certificate is required, only an original transit certificate will be acceptable. Using a transit certificate or certification marking for forage from fields other than the one specified shall constitute a violation of the North American Weed-Free Forage Standards and local authorities may take actions.

Disclaimer: North American Weed Free Forage Certification Standards (formerly known as Regional Weed Free Forage Certification Standards) may not meet the forage quality standards

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adopted by the Hay Marketing Task Force of the American Forage and Grassland Council.

Attached as part of the regional forage certification standards is the Regional Designated Noxious Weed list (Appendix 4-A). For additional information, contact the North American Weed Management Association, Phone: 970-229-0352; Fax: 970-223-3779.

- Appendix 4-A: Regional Designated Noxious Weed List or Undesirable Plant Species List
- Appendix 4-B: Inspection Certificate Standards
- Appendix 4-C: Transit Certificate Standards
- Appendix 4-D: Forage Tag Template
- Appendix 4-E: Field Inspection Standards
- Appendix 4-F: Definitions
- Appendix 4-G: Addition Or Deletion To The Regional Weed List

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Appendix 4-A
Regional Noxious
Weed List

Designated Noxious Weed List
or
Undesirable Plant Species List

Absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) ND, WA, [P] [F]
Bermdagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) UT [P] [F]
Black henbane (*Hyoscyamus nicer*) AB, ID, WA [A or B] [F]
Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*) ID, OR, WA [A][N or F]
Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) AB, ID, KS, MT, NE, ND, NV, OR, SD,
UT, WA, WY [P] [F]
Common burdock (*Arctium minus*) AB, WY [B] [F]
Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*) ID, MT, OR, SD, WA [A] [F]
Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*) MT, NV, OR, SD, WA
[P] [F]
Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) AB, WA, WY [P] [F]
Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) AB, ID, MT, NV, OR, SD, WA,
WY [P] [F]
Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) AB, CO, ID, MT, NV, OR, SD, UT,
WA, WY [B or P] [F]
Dyers woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, WY [A or B or P] [F]
Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) AB, KS, ND, MT, OR, SD, UT,
WA, WY [P] [F]
Hemp (marijuana) (*Cannabis sativa*) ND [A] [F]
Hoary cress (*Cardaria* spp.) AB, ID, KS, MT, ND, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA,
WY [P] [F]
Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*) NV [P] [N]
Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) WA, WY [B] [F]
Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*) ID, KS, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA [P]
[F]
Jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*) ID, WA [A] [F]
Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) AB, CO, ID, KS, MT, NE, ND, NV, OR,
SD, UT, WA, WY [P] [F]
Matgrass (*Nardus stricta*) ID, OR [P] [F]
Meadow knapweed (*Centaurea pratensis*) ID, OR, WA [P] [F]
Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) NV, OR, UT [A] [F]
Miliun (*Miliun vernale*) ID [A] [F]
Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) AB, ID, KS, NE, ND, NV, OR, SD, UT,
WA, WY [B] [F]
Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) MT, ID, WA [P] [F]
Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) AB, WA, WY [P] [F]
Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) ID, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA,
WY [P] [F]
Perennial sorghum (*Sorghum almum*) UT [P] [F]

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Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*) AB, ID, ND, NV, SD, WA, WY [P] [F]
Plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*) NE, SD, WA, WY [A or B] [F]
Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) ID, NV, OR, WA [B] [F]
Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*) ID, WA [A] [F]
Purple loosestrife (*Lythnln salicaria*) AB, ID, MT, OR, SD, WA, WY [P] [F]
Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*) AB, KS, OR, UT, WY [P] [F]
Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) ID, MT, OR, SD, WA [P] [F]
Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*) AB, CO, ID, KS, MT, ND, NV, SD, UT, WA, WY [P] [F]
Scentless chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*) AB [P] [F]
Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) ID, WA [P] [F]
Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) ID, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY [B] [F]
Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) KS [P] [F]
Silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*) ID, OR, WA [P] [N or F]
Skeletonleaf bursage (*Ambrosia tomentosa*) ID, WA, WY [P] [N or F]
Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) AB, CO, ID, MT, ND, OR, SD UT, WA, WY [B or P] [F]
Squarrose knapweed (*Centaurea virgata*) OR, UT [P] [F]
Sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*) MT [P] [F]
Syrian beancaper (*zygophyllum fabago*) ID, WA [P] [F]
Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) ID, OR, WA, MT [B or P] [F]
Toothed spurge (*Euphorbia dentata*) ID [A] [N or F]
Wild oats (*Avena fatua*) AB, WY [A] [F]
Wild proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum*) OR, WY [A] [F]
Yellow hawkweed (*Hieracium pratense*) ID, WA, MT [P] [F]
Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) AB, ID, MT, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA [A] [F]
Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) AB, ID, OR, SD, WA, WY [P] [F]

Forage (feed, hay, straw or mulch) will be inspected in the field or origin (field will include ditches, fence rows, roads, easement, right-of-way, or buffer zone, surrounding the field). Field will be inspected for the fifty-three (53) weed species listed above prior to cutting or harvesting. The number of weed species are subject to change due to additional states or provinces joining the association or the addition of other weed species added to State Noxious Weed lists.

[A] Annual
[N] Native
[B] Biennial
[P] Perennial
[F] Foreign Origin

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Appendix 4-B Inspection Certificate Standards

Certificate of Inspection Minimal Requirements:

1. State agency information (address and phone number).
2. County agency information (address and phone number).
3. Inspection Certificate numbering system.
4. Producer name, address, and phone number).
5. Legal description of property being inspected or field number.
6. Acres inspected.
7. Package/Bale size.
8. Number of bales or tonnage.
9. Commodity/Forage type.
10. "Meets Regional Standards" statement.
11. Inspection date.
12. Inspector signature.
13. Comment section.

Appendix 4-C Transit Certificate Standards

Transit Certificate Minimal Requirements:

1. State agency information (address and phone number).
2. County agency information (address and phone number).
3. Transit Certificate numbering system.
4. Transporter name, address, phone number.
5. Consignee name, address, phone number.
6. Specific destination.
7. Reference to Inspection Certificate number.
8. Comments section.
9. Commodity/Forage type.
10. Package/bale size.
11. Number of bales or tonnage.
12. Type of Certification Marking used.
13. Issuer signature, Title, and phone number.
14. Issue Date.
15. Statement: "Only original copies are accepted".

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Forage Tag Template

Forage Identification Requirements

1. The words - “North American (or Regional) Weed Free Forage Certification Program”.
2. A number system (for tracking purposes).
3. Province/state of issue.
4. Province/state telephone number (responsible official).
5. A statement that the product is “Certified to the North American (or Regional) Standards”.
or
Special blue and orange twine.

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Field Inspection Standards

Minimum Guidelines For Field Inspections:

The inspector will follow the following inspection procedures

1. There shall be a minimum of two entry points per field
2. There shall be minimum of one entry point per each 10 acres.
3. Each point of entry shall be at least 150 feet into the field, and each additional 150 feet traveled shall constitute an entry point. Travel shall be uninterrupted, proceeding through the field being inspected.
4. The entire field border shall be walked or driven.
5. Fields shall be inspected within 10 days prior to harvest.
6. The storage area shall also be inspected and meet the standards.
7. An inspector may not inspect fields of which said inspector has ownership or financial interest.

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Appendix 4-F Definitions

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1. Certification Markings - tags, blue and orange colored twine, and galvanized wire.
 2. Cubes - hay harvested with equipment which forms the hay into small compact self-binding units. These are not considered pellets as defined in this document and therefore the field of origin must be certified.
 3. Forage - hay, straw, mulch, cubes and pellets.
 4. Noxious Weeds - those weeds including any weed seed or propagative plant parts, designated by the Regional Weed Free Forage Committee
 5. Pellets - agglomerated feed formed by compacting and forcing through die openings by a mechanical process. If heat is not used in the process, the field of origin must be certified.
 6. Proper official/authority
 - A. Representative of that State's Dept. of Agriculture.
 - B. Weed Supervisor or Weed Superintendent.
 - C. University Extension Agent.
 - D. An individual designated by that State's law or regulations. This individual will be trained and certified in accordance with the state's/province's standard operating procedures.

Appendix 4-G Addition Or Deletion To The Regional Weed List

The following procedures should be followed for the addition or deletion of species to the Regional Weed List.

Criteria for species considered for the regional list.

1. Identified as a problem or potential problem by a state/province.
2. A petition be sent to the RWFF committee from a state/province Department of Agriculture or other authority for noxious weeds requesting listing to the Regional Weed List..(Petition should contain a risk assessment with information on impacts to natural resources and forage resources at state/province and/or regional level).

Species considered for deletion should show why the species is no longer a problem using criteria of #2 above.

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Procedures for listing a species.

1. Petitioner send copy of the request to add or delete a species to the RWFF Committee Chairman 90 days before the RWFF Committee Meeting.
2. Request should include a risk assessment on impacts to natural resources and forage resources, a description of the plant and 3 color slides (Kodachrome 64 if possible).
3. The RWFF Committee Chairman will mail information packets to committee members 60 days in advance of the committee meeting.
4. The proposed species should be listed in the NAWMA logue and also on the NAWMA Home Page before the committee meeting.