

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 16

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Weed Officer Corner

Last season was a good year for weed growth. We had trouble getting sprayers into the county to spray for those of you who wanted it done by someone other than yourself.

This year we have three companies that would like to have your business. See page 5 in the newsletter for their information.

Also this year, in order to receive cost share you will need to pick up the chemical from the weed board. Have a great summer season.

Merlin Leithold

Grant County Weed Officer

Grant County Weed Board

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Board Members for 2023:

President—Leonard Gerhardt

Vice—Dick Woodbury

Director—Morris Haase

Director—Denis Tibor

Director—Drew Gaugler

Director—Marty Meyer

Director—Walker Sabin

NDSU Extension Agent -

Tessa Osterbauer

PROGRAM FOR 2023

Spraying Program

Seems like every year we have problems getting commercial sprayers into the county to spray for those of you that request it. Last year was no exception. The weather always is a factor, but sometimes their workload, before they come here, can be a problem. This year, we have three, yes 3, sprayers that have expressed the desire to spray in the county.

Randy Lyons, Buffalo, SD, has sprayed in the county for the past several years. He has ground rigs and is again charging \$122.50/hour.

Pro Ag Solutions, Bismarck, will be coming in to spray with drones. They are charging \$400/hour or \$15/acre.

Zenker Spraying, LLC (Steven Zenker, Carson) will be spraying with ground rigs. They will be charging \$120/hour. See page 5 for more details.

Cost Share

Cost Share for 2023 is again set at 70% on the chemicals (Tordon, Plateau, Milestone, Facet L, Method and DuraCor). Again this year, is the request for cost share form. This form is required to receive cost share. 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. To purchase Tordon, you will need an current private or commercial applicators license.

SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR ALL PRICES AND REQUIREMENTS

Spray Logs

We have spray logs available for you to use. We don't require them, but if you are ever inspected by the ND Dept. of Ag. pesticide inspector, the inspector will expect you to have them filled out. You can make your own as well, but still have one. It may save you a lot of money is a lawsuit too.

NOXIOUS WEEDS THAT WILL BE COST SHARED IN 2023

Leafy Spurge

Canada Thistle

Absinth Wormwood

Yellow Toadflax

Black Henbane

Palmer Amaranth****

**** Only on non cropland, and must be inspected prior to spraying by

Merlin Leithold, weed officer, and Tessa Osterbauer, ext. agent

BIO-CONTROL

We have had a leafy spurge bug day for 26 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 survivability over the winter. We should know by the mid to latter part of June, if we will be having a bug 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 properly. 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 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. Every plant that has a reduction in seed production helps. The monarch butterfly also helps with the control of Canada thistle. We have not released a rust fungus and with the dry conditions they are very slow to get a decent control.

STATE SCHOOL LAND

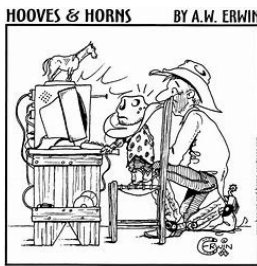
If you are leasing state school land from the Department of ND Trust Lands (Formerly State Land Dept.) remember that it is your responsibility to control the noxious weeds. They do provide an excellent cost share program.

Contact them for more details.

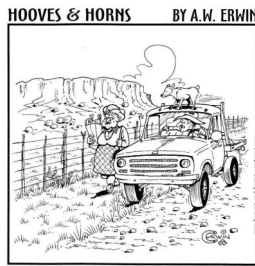
County cost share is not available for school land.

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

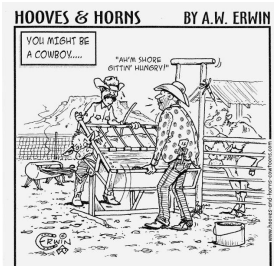
A LITTLE COUNTRY HUMOR



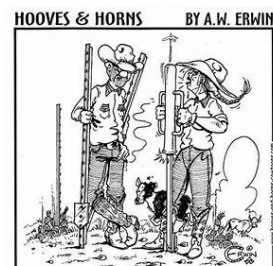
"See, Pop, I found yer missin' cow.... She's on Facebook and has 641 friends."



"Knock-off the sweet talk, Cowboy! The last time I got in that truck I spent the whole day openin' gates! I'm savin' myself for a man with cattle-guards!"



"If yew've ever surgically removed something an' had it fer supper later that same day."



"If you recall, I was there too! And this was not one of our wedding vows!"

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.

NUMEROUS CHEMICALS BEING SOLD BY WEED BOARD AT ELGIN WEED BUILDING

As in past seasons,, we will be selling chemical at our building in Elgin.

We remind you that in order to receive cost share, the chemical must be purchased from us in Elgin at the weed building.

Besides Tordon, Plateau, Milestone, Facet L, Method and DuraCor, we also will have Escort, Surfactant, MSO, FreeLexx, Amine, blue dye and defoamer for sale.

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. DuraCor has milestone in it. It does an excellent job on Canada thistle and Absinth wormwood and some broadleaves as well. It has NO control on Leafy Spurge. You can tank mix with Tordon for a one time sweep of spurge and wormwood and thistle.

Plateau has NO control on Canada Thistle.

Facet L is for spurge only. Does well under most tree species. Excellent control of Leafy Spurge.

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.**

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

COUNTY NOXIOUS WEEDS

Waterhemp
Hoary Cress
Black Henbane

COST SHARE DEADLINE - Freeze up

Since we no longer allow chemical being purchased from a dealer as eligible for cost share, there is no need for a deadline. You receive your cost share when you pick up your chemical. We provide cost share for Leafy Spurge, Canada Thistle, Absinth Wormwood, Yellow Toadflax, Palmer Amaranth and Black Henbane.

If you have commercial sprayers spray for you, you will be billed from us for the chemical, with the cost share deducted from your bill.

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.

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 a fairly new state noxious weed, **and it was found in Grant County in 2019 and again in 2021**. 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.

Recently the sites where we found it came from sunflower screenings that were fed to livestock. If you feel you have it, 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.

In 2021, it was found mainly in non cropland. The producer used Tordon/Amine/Liberate on it and had excellent results. But by the time it was discovered, many plants had gone to seed. Palmer can be eradicated, but producers need to be on top of it as soon as they can, and stay with a good spray program.

Above all remember this. It is still your land. Any weeds found on your land **ARE** your weeds, your problem, regardless of how they got there. We are here to assist you in eradicating the weeds. We don't have the resources to do it for you.

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

COST SHARING CHEMICALS IN GRANT COUNTY

I thought I would take the effort to again explain how cost share works in general. Sum of your land taxes go to the weed board to fund the weed control program. We receive 4 mills to run the program.

Some of that money goes for the general operation of the program, which includes spraying county roads, the rest for cost share, approximately 40%. We also receive money from the state for reimbursement of cost share. To receive state money, certain requirements have to be met. Also, the money a county gets is based off of rangeland acres in a county. So if you ever wonder why we cannot cost share chemicals for use in cropland, it's because we cannot get a portion reimbursed for them from the state. We receive around 50% reimbursement for cost share, which in turn helps maintain a stronger cost share program.

State funds come through the ND Dept. of Ag., from a fund called the EARP fund. It is monies collected from registrations of chemicals to be sold in the state. Anything with chemical in it, even flea and tick collars for your dog and cat. Some seem to think that money is from state tax dollars. It is not. We also receive grant money each biennium for infrastructure. Part of the weed building funding is a result of that. The spray truck is a part of that, as is the equipment on it.

If we didn't receive state funds, we could not have a cost share program, or if we did, maybe 20% cost share tops.

We also get paid from the NDDOT to spray the paved highways within the county. The profit from those roads pay for the maintenance of the spray truck, and also covered the expense of purchasing the truck, the part that the state grant did not cover. We put up that building in Elgin and purchased a truck without directly using taxpayer money. The weed board at the time was pretty proud to accomplish that.

FORMS

If you need a form, whether it be a request for cost share form, chemical request 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. My e mail is leithold@westriv.com.

I will have all three 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, North Dakota, and Montana. PLC provides noxious weed spraying for our agriculture clients and oil and gas clients. A fleet of spraying pickups and water hauling equipment is Available to meet your needs. Our spraying rate is \$122.50/hour. This includes the spraying unit and operator. The chemical will be picked up

we will pick up in Elgin at the weed control building, and you will be billed for that from the weed department.

You are again required to fill out a chemical request form BEFORE we can spray for you. Contact Merlin for a form. These forms can be given or sent to Randy or Merlin. Please give Randy a call to discuss your weed control needs. His contact is 605-858-9020 or email prairieland@sdplains.com.

Pro Ag Solutions are based out of Bismarck, ND. They spray with Drones. This a relatively new concept to spray noxious weeds, but most likely the future as well. They were established in 2021 by Corey Palm, who has 20s years I the ag business. They charge two different ways. One is \$15/acre. The other is \$400/hour. They can cover 26 to 40 acres/hour, depending on the size of the drone. They would also pick up the chemical from the weed building in Elgin, and bill you for the labor, while the weed department would bill you for the chemical, less cost share on certain chemicals.

Contact Corey Palm at 701-516-4660, email at ProAgSolutionsND@gmail.com, or visit their website at www.proagsolutionslic.com



Steven Zenker is from Carson. He sprayed for the weed board many years ago. Steven will be running with two units. They will also have a water truck. They will pick up the chemical from the weed building in Elgin, and will bill you for the labor, while the weed board will bill you for the chemical, less cost share.

Zenker Spraying's rate for 2023 is \$120/hour, spraying time only.

Get in touch with Steven at 701-202-5497. You can also contact Merlin to get on his list.

COST SHARE GUIDELINES

Chemical	Price	Net Cost After Cost Share @ 70%	Gallon or Quart Limit	Net Cost/Acre
Tordon22K	\$51/gallon	\$15.30/gallon	30 gallons	1 qt/\$3.82
DuraCor	\$93/gallon	\$27.90/gallon	5 gallons	1 pt/\$3.48
Plateau	\$119/gallon	\$35.70/gallon	5 gallons	10oz/\$2.70
Milestone	\$71/quart	\$21.30/quart	20 quarts	6oz/\$3.99
Facet L	\$126/gallon	\$37.80/gallon	2 1/2 gallons	32oz/\$9.45
Method	\$344/gallon	\$103.20/gallon	2 1/2 gallons	6oz/\$10.59

CASH ONLY

Purchasing chemicals directly from the weed board is cash only, no charging. Only charging is when an applicator picks up chemical for you.

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 2023

If you have read the newsletter, you may see that the cost share remains at 70%. Some of the chemicals have shown a slight increase, but fortunately, not as severe of a increase as last season.

Remember, only place to receive cost share is to purchase your chemical directly from the weeds board.

Chemical Costs This Year Will Be

Amine 2-4D—\$ 23.00 /gallon - 2 1/2's

FreeLexx—\$ 31.00/gallon - 2 1/2's

Tordon 22K—\$ 51.00 /gallon - 1's or 2 1/2's

Liberate—\$ 29.00 /gallon - 1's or 2 1/2's

Plateau—\$ 119.00 /gallon - 1's

MSO—\$ 20.00 /gallon - 2 1/2's

Milestone—\$ 71.00 /quart

DuraCor—\$93.00/gallon - 1's

Facet L—\$126.00/gallon - 2 1/2's

Method—\$344.00/gallon - 2 1/2's

Escort—\$2.80/ounce - 8 ounce bottles

We also have on hand Blue dye and defoamer.

With new chemicals coming into the market each year, we cannot carry some select chemicals due to inventory room. They are also not cost shared. Contact me if you are interested in a certain specialty chemical, and I can get it for you, only if it is labeled for rangeland or grassland.