



# NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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The North Dakota Weed Control Association is comprised of county weed officers, county weed boards, government agencies, and others interested in controlling noxious and invasive weeds in North Dakota. The county weed boards and weed officers are responsible for controlling noxious weeds in the county and township road rights-of-way. They also encourage all landowners and land operators to control the spread of noxious weeds on their lands. Weed officers are a resource for landowners for identifying weeds and providing appropriate control recommendations primarily on grasslands. North Dakota has over 12 million acres of grasslands, rangelands, and native prairies. Adding in all the acres of right-of-way, well over ¼ of the state is in non-crop acres that our members are watching over.

First off, on behalf of the Association, I want to thank NDSU Plant Sciences, NDSU Extension and the other parties for supporting the Noxious Weed Specialist position and the hiring of Dr. Quincy Law. After meeting him we feel he will be an asset to the Plant Sciences department and to weed officers across the state. We also want to thank Dr. Joe Ikley and Dr. Brian Jenks for assisting the weed officers during the interim period and for assisting Dr. Law in starting his research program. It is much appreciated.

Thirteen weeds are on the state noxious weed list, with several counties adding various weeds on their county weed list. Palmer amaranth was added to the state list in 2019. Since then, Palmer has been identified in thirteen counties. The sources of infestation include used equipment purchased from southern states where Palmer is growing wild, custom harvesters, possible planting seed contamination, and the feeding of screenings. Most infestations were rather small and easily controlled. However, the infestations related to the feeding of screenings covered hundreds of acres of cropland and pastures in several counties. Our weed officers in these counties are working with Extension and the landowners on programs to control the spread and the hopeful elimination of Palmer amaranth.

Our greatest fear regarding these Palmer infestations is the establishment of Palmer populations in areas that are difficult to access, i.e. the creeks and draws of watershed areas. These could be avenues for Palmer to access cropland of our many major and minor crops. We have heard that the minor crops like pulses, which have very few herbicide options, could potentially be wiped out if Palmer infests those cropland acres. We also know that Palmer amaranth has exhibited herbicide resistance to 8 and possibly 9 modes of action, severely limiting herbicide options in corn, soybeans, sugarbeet, sunflower, and other crops. This fall in Grant County, one operator who fed screenings has had over 200 acres of hay land and pasture and 60 acres of cropland infested with Palmer. He has spent over \$3400 on herbicides to control small Palmer plants on the pasture and hayland. Also, he was not able to harvest the hay on that hay land, further costing him money. There is scant documentation of herbicide control methods for grassland. We need credible control recommendations in grasslands to stop new infestations.

Palmer amaranth is not our only topic of concern. Our concerns are:

1. Palmer amaranth. We need further research on control options in pasture and grasslands and continuing education of our members.
2. Group 4 herbicide resistance. Tordon and 2,4-D have been used for over 50 years and are the go-to herbicides for controlling most noxious weeds in grasslands. However, observations in recent years suggest that the effectiveness of these chemicals to control certain noxious weeds is declining, and we need to develop appropriate control measures to counter.
3. Evaluation of herbicide tank mixes of newer herbicides. Several herbicides have come on the market in recent years, we would like to know if and how we can mix them for enhanced control. We would like to see research results so we can be confident in our recommendations.
4. Identification of new invasive weeds that could establish in North Dakota. Education of our members and the public is critical to identify these weeds before they become established.

We ask the Committee to consider these potential solutions:

1. One FTE research support staff member to assist the Noxious Weed Research Specialist in his wide-ranging weed species research program across the state.
2. AES operational funds to support the Noxious Weed Research Specialist program and travels across the state.
3. We support the Agronomic Pathology and Soils Field Lab facility (Waldron Hall replacement) to provide adequate space for the Noxious Weed Research Specialist program.

We feel that if these solutions are implemented, they will go a long way in providing the information needed by our weed officers and land operators in controlling noxious and invasive weeds across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Travis Jepson  
President NDWCA  
January 4, 2022

**From:** Wolf, Stanley <WolfS@casscountynd.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 10:00 PM

**To:** Schwengler, Melissa <melissa.schwengler@ndsu.edu>

**Cc:** Travis Jepson (scweedcontrol1@me.com) <scweedcontrol1@me.com>; Merlin Leithold (ndwca@westriv.com) <ndwca@westriv.com>

**Subject:** SBARE paper

Melissa,

The North Dakota Weed Control Association is submitting a paper to the SBARE committee. Please see the attached file containing the paper presentation and kindly forward to the committee.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me via the email address below or on my cell phone 701-730-6786.

Please confirm that you have received this message.

Thank you

Stan Wolf

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, NDWCA

***Stan Wolf***

Weed Control Officer

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