



NORTH DAKOTA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Meetings @ Baymont Inn, Mandan

BOD Meeting March 24th, 9:00 am

Annual Conference

January 5—7, 2016

NEWSLETTER

In order to cut costs with rising printing costs and higher postage prices, we asked for your email addresses to send you the newsletter via email. For those who have not yet signed up, we are asking you to send an email to ndwca@westriv.com and you will be put on the list. We realize that some of you want to continue with the paper letter, and you will continue to receive it if you so desire.

Also, as weed boards get new members, please let us know, so we can update our list. We find where former members continue to receive the newsletter, and new members do not. Unless we are notified, we have no idea the comings and goings of board members.

Presidents Message

Greetings,

Hope things are going well for everybody this winter. Some areas of the state are getting some snow coverage but a majority of the state is short on snow cover and allowing the frost to go deep. As we all know that will not stop the spread of the weeds we are trying to control. There are many areas that are not lacking moisture from last fall so the weeds might have a head start on us. With the prices for livestock there might be more money available by landowners for weed control as long as the weed boards are able to impress on the landowner the need for control of noxious weeds on their land.

Thank you to all the people that attended the 31st annual ND Weed Control Association Convention. The information presented at the Commissioners Forum helps the weed boards by getting them up to date on the use of the Data loggers, pesticide inspections, biological agents and the use of your TAG monies. There were many good topics covered during the main sessions some of which were the use of drones, an update on the Waters of the US and an update on the invasive plants of Palmer Amaranth and Japanese Knotweed. There is a lot of time and effort going into research that we do not know about, but it benefits all of us.

There are many activities planned for this year. The education committee will be setting up the sprayer schools and possibly more detailed 4-wheeler and UTV safety. The other committees are getting set up and will be getting more active as spring comes upon us. As president you may contact me with any concerns, problems or ideas, or if you like you may contact any of the board members or committee members. They can be found by going to our website: www.ndweeds.homestead.com.

We are all trying to accomplish the same objective: Control the spread of noxious weeds within our state.

Have a safe and productive season!

Derrill Fick, 2015 President

Watch out for Palmer amaranth weed this year

By Mikkel Pates, Agweek

FARGO, N.D. — South Dakota farmers have discovered Palmer Amaranth weed and North Dakota officials are urging farmers to keep a sharp eye for a “spawn of evil” during harvest.

South Dakota State University weed scientists say the weed was found in a sunflower field in Buffalo County next to the Missouri River in central South Dakota.

“Palmer Amaranth is a vigorous weed that is a member of the pigweed family that also includes common water hemp, redroot pigweed, prostrate pigweed and others,” says Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Science Coordinator.

The weed is native to the southwest U.S. It is an annual and reproduces only by seed. Scientists don’t know whether seasons are long enough in North Dakota for it to produce viable seed, or whether that seed can overwinter, Olson says. The weed has already reproduced in Pennsylvania, Iowa and Michigan.

Olson is concerned that the area next to the Missouri River might provide a favorable microclimate for overwintering. He’s not alone.

“It is certainly the most formidable weed that the American grower has ever encountered,” says Richard Zollinger, North Dakota State University Extension weed specialist. “The only refuge where this weed has not been reported is Minnesota and North Dakota. It appears that once established eradication is impossible.”

Zollinger adds that no state has been able to return the land to a weed-free status for the weed after it is discovered.

“Knock on wood, no one has told us they have found this miserable, wicked spawn of evil in North Dakota,” Zollinger says.

Zollinger is encouraging harvest time combine operators and truck drivers to keep an eye out for the weed this year. He suggests people go to Page 137 of the North Dakota Weed Control Guide, available at Extension Service offices.

He notes that Bob Hartzler, an Iowa State University counterpart to Zollinger, has been watching the weed’s progression and reports that farmers range in vigilance from “very concerned to little interest.”

Zollinger endorses these three suggestions from Hartzler:

- Look for infestations on roadsides, around grain bins and storage areas and along field edges. He has discovered it in “the most unexpected places.”
- Eradicate small infestations where discovered. Hand pulling is the most obvious because it’s resistant to glyphosate.

“You burn it to make sure that the whole plant gets combusted and that no seed is transported by birds or any other method back to the field,” Zollinger advises.

- Be careful not to confuse water hemp with Palmer amaranth. The main difference is that Palmer amaranth has slender 2-foot-long seed heads, versus water hemp and other similar weeds that have seed heads of six inches or less.

“That’s the most easily identified,” Zollinger says.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Merlin Leithold, lobbyist

Legislatively, it has been very busy early, but has been somewhat quieter closer to crossover. Crossover is when all bills that passed in the Senate or the House, cross over to the other side for hearings and votes. If amendments are added in the second half, then that bill, if passed, goes to a conference committee made up of Senators and Representatives. They decide what stays and what goes. This is the time in the life of a lobbyist that you don't have any idea what can happen, but you do a lot of one on one work.

HB 1055 would change mills to percentages. It has passed the House, and will go to the Senate. I monitored this bill. All that it does to weed boards is instead of mills we would now have to work with percentages. This is a 133 page bill, as it addresses the entire tax code. It passed the House.

SB 2144 is only 87 pages long. This bill is the Governor's consolidation of tax levies bill. Originally, the bill took out the word noxious and added the phrase "to control weeds or grass along county or township roads". I testified against this. The bill was amended adding noxious back in, taking out grass and adding undesirable vegetation. We can live with that. Also, this bill consolidates our two levies of two mills each into one levy of four mills, max. Weed boards can still get additional funds through the county general fund. It passed the Senate.

SB 2009, the ND Ag. Department budget, came through the Senate with noxious weed funding in tact.

HB 1456 would ask the Federal Government to return access lands around Lakes Oahe and Sakakawea to the state. This idea has been kicked around for at least 10 years. Your association has always been active in this. This bill was amended to gut everything except leaving only Morton and Emmons Counties in it. It passed the House.

We also monitored several other bills, and have a couple of new ones on the radar to watch, and possibly testify for or against. Should be an interesting second half.

If anyone has anything they would like to know or have heard, feel free to send me an e mail.

Education Committee Report

Stan Wolf, possibly Derrill Fick, and I will be traveling to Napoleon Public School to present the plaque and t-shirt to Kelly Zimmerman, the 2014 poster contest winner, on February 26 at 2 pm. We will also hand out t-shirts to the entire class at this time. Following the award presentation, Stan will be giving a brief power point presentation dealing with noxious weeds.

Next week I will be meeting with Derrill and Eric to set up dates and locations for the spray schools. These will be set up for some time in May. You will receive further information when the dates and locations are set.

I will also be attempting to set up training to certify people to provide training for ATV safety classes in the state. I hope to have enough sites to facilitate easy access to the certification. Again, I will work with Eric to find dates that will work as well as possible locations. I will keep everyone posted on progress.

I am planning on going around to schools to get more participation on the poster contest for 2015. By making personal contact and showing what some of the previous winners' t-shirts look like as well as explaining what our organization does, we hope to get more participants.

Dan Dew, Education Committee Chairman

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CORNER

Well, it seems that only last week we had our annual meeting, and before you know it we will be getting ready to spray. Now, while you have the time, go on our website, www.ndweeds.homestead.com. Terry Volk keeps it running for us, and he has done an excellent job. Click on the vendors button on the home page. That will take you to all the vendors who attended our meeting. You can access their information, and link to their websites as well. Also, we post all our meeting dates, and all the minutes are archived there as well. We are working to put older minutes on there as well. Your board of directors is working with the state FSA office and the NDDA to sort through the new farm program. At the March board meeting, we are hoping to meet with them to discuss these issues. If we have something to report, we will put it on list serve and post it to our website as well.

CONVENTION UPDATE

On behalf of the NDWCA board of directors, thank you to all of you who attended the 31st annual convention in Mandan this past January. On Thursday morning the weather was crappy, but the later part of the day turned out better. Hopefully all made it home safely. For those of you who could not make it, we hope to see you next January, in Mandan.

We are always looking for speaker topics or for ideas to make each year better than the previous year. Feel free to contact any board member, or myself, if you have an idea.

Thank you to all our vendors and sponsors. Your support is greatly appreciated. To our members, when you do business with these folks, thank them for their support as well.

North Dakota Weed Control Association
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