

CACHE COUNTY WEED CONTROL POLICY

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Cache County weed control program will function in accordance with the 1971 Utah State Noxious Weed Act and Cache County Ordinance (79-11) to organize, supervise, and coordinate a noxious weed control plan for Cache County.

Cache County encourages commercial and private weed control efforts where possible. The county weed control personnel will provide noxious weed control in areas where terrain, organizational problems, or special equipment requirements make it difficult for commercial or private control efforts to succeed.

Current weed control practices will be used including chemical, biological, cultural and mechanical methods.

ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETINGS

The County Weed Board shall initiate quarterly coordination meetings each year. All organizations concerned with weed control should be invited to have a representative in attendance. The following agencies should be invited:

Utah Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, State Trust Lands, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Cache County Extension, Union Pacific Railroad, Pacific Corporation, Queststar, and irrigation companies.

Cache County personnel from the Weed Department as well as the Road Superintendent and the County Executive should be in attendance. Any other interested parties or citizens should be notified of these meetings through a notice in the newspaper.

The purpose of the spring meeting will be to inventory and record current problem areas, discuss and record any new infestations, discuss effective weed control efforts, discuss and coordinate county priorities with the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) priorities, and plan and organize the year's weed control program.

The two mid year meetings will be held to discuss pressing weed control issues such as new weed discoveries, weed law violations, and enforcement.

Another meeting shall be held in the fall to inform the Weed Board of the activities of the Weed Control Department for the past weed season and to discuss possible county priorities for the CWMA the following year. The *Annual Weed Progress Report* should be presented and a summary of the results of the summer's activities should be discussed.

WEED CONTROL SERVICE AREA

Any individual, corporation, municipality, governmental agency, or organization owning, leasing, or controlling property may request the services of the County Weed Control Department in accordance with weed control priorities established and approved by the Weed Board and the Cache County Council.

Property owners are encouraged to participate in the weed control process by locating, identifying and controlling specific infestations on their individual properties. The Weed Control Department reserves the right to schedule commercial application equipment when the County equipment is not available.

WEED CONTROL PRIORITIES

1. Control of noxious weeds on County property. Control of any plant deemed a nuisance or hazard on County property.
2. Control of noxious weeds on steams, drainage, and irrigation systems. Also, control of non-noxious plants which impede the water flow in irrigation systems when that control can be accomplished as part of the noxious weed application.
3. Control of noxious weeds on non-crop land areas such as rangeland, wet pastures, fence lines, vacant land etc.

CATEGORIES OF WEEDS

For the purpose of organizing and funding control programs, the weeds are classified into three categories. The categories are INVADING and SPECIAL EMPHASIS WEEDS, OTHER WEEDS and SPECIAL PROJECT WEEDS.

1. **INVADING AND SPECIAL EMPHASIS WEEDS** are those found in small localized infestations. These weeds may or may not appear on State or County noxious weed lists, but are emphasized because of their potential threat. Weeds considered invaders in Cache County are: YELLOW STAR THISTLE, DIFFUSE KNAPWEED, RUSSIAN KNAPWEED, SPOTTED KNAPWEED, SQUARROSE KNAPWEED, DALMATIAN TOADFLAX, YELLOW TOADFLAX, BUFFALOBUR, BLACK HENBANE, HALOGETON, WILD PROSO-MILLET, PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE, PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED, SCOTCH THISTLE, MUSK THISTLE, LEAFY SPURGE, BERMUDAGRASS, JOHNSONGRASS, and ST. JOHNSWART. Equipment and labor may be provided by the County as provided for in the *Weed Control Fee Schedule* (see pg. 3). The property owner is responsible for monitoring and spot treating the infestation.
2. **OTHER WEEDS** is the designation given those noxious weeds and other weeds whose infestation is of a general nature throughout the County. Grasses that pose a fire hazard are included in this category. The full cost of treating these weeds will be assumed by the property owner. Noxious weeds in this category are: SMALL WHITE TOP, FIELD BINDWEED, CANADA THISTLE, DYERS WOAD, QUACKGRASS, MEDUSAHEAD, GOATSRUE, and POISON HEMLOCK.
3. **SPECIAL PROJECT WEEDS** are those weeds that will be given special consideration due to circumstances and available funding. Aerial spraying is under this category.

All requests for agriculture crop spraying and residential yard and/or garden spraying will be referred to commercial applicators. Spraying of specific noxious weeds in these described areas will be given special consideration.

WEED CONTROL FEE SCHEDULE

The following charges will be effective for the 2003 spraying season.

1. **GENERAL**

LABOR COST	\$12.00 per man/per hour
EQUIPMENT	\$20.00 per truck/per hour
ATV COST	\$20.00 per hour
CHEMICAL	Cost of the amount of chemical(s) used

2. **INVADING and SPECIAL EMPHASIS WEEDS** -- One acre or less \$15.00 stop charge to the property owner. Over one acre, chemical cost will be payed by property owner.

3. **OTHER WEEDS** -- Property owners will pay all chemical, equipment, and labor costs. Any property owner who will not or cannot provide access to their property for the County trucks and power spray equipment, will pay chemical and labor costs for backpack or Herbie spraying. Municipalities requesting County Weed Department services through Inter-local Agreements will be charged chemical, labor, and equipment costs.

4. **SPECIAL PROJECT WEEDS** -- Will be considered upon funding available.

5. A **MINIMUM FEE** of \$30.00 (total cost of labor, equipment & chemical) will apply to all site visits made by Weed Department personnel and vehicles in response to requests for weed control, except as provided otherwise in category 2.

Requests for services or contracts with Cache County Weed Department which, due to distance, terrain, or special personnel requirements, create expenses not anticipated in the above guidelines (categories 1 through 5), will be negotiated on an individual basis with the County Weed Supervisor and, if necessary, the County Executive.

PUBLICATION OF NOXIOUS WEED NOTICE

Before May 1 of each year a general notice of the noxious weeds in the County must be posted in at least three public places in the County. The same notice must be published in a newspaper or other publication of general circulation within the County.

The following is a list of weeds declared noxious by the state of Utah:

Bermudagrass	Yellow Starthistle
Field Bindweed (Morning Glory)	Quackgrass
Perennial Pepperweed (Tall Whitetop)	Russian Knapweed
Canada Thistle	Squarrose Knapweed
Dyer's Woad	Diffuse Knapweed
Johnsongrass	Spotted Knapweed
Leafy Spurge	Hoary Cress
Musk Thistle	Medusahead
Scotch Thistle	Purple Loosestrife

The following weeds are declared noxious by Cache County:

Goatsrue	Puncture vine
Poison Hemlock	

NOTIFICATION OF PROPERTY OWNERS FAILING TO CONTROL WEEDS

Property owners, or the person in possession of a piece of ground, may be given notice personally or by certified mail that the weeds on their property must be controlled. The notice shall include the specific actions required to control weeds on the property and a specific time frame for completion. If no action is taken to remedy the situation the property may be declared a public nuisance.

If the owner or person in possession of the property fails to take action to control the noxious weeds within five working days after the property is declared a public nuisance, the County Weed Department may, after reasonable notification, enter the property, without the consent of the person in control of the property and perform any work necessary to control the weeds. Any expense incurred by the County in controlling the noxious weeds is paid by the property owner or the person in possession of the property. These charges must be paid within 90 days after receipt of the charges. If not paid within 90 days after notice of the charges, the charges become a lien against the property and are collectible with the general property taxes.

ATTEST:

Cache County Council

Jill N. Zollinger
Cache County Clerk

H. Craig Petersen
Chairman

Date

revised 03/03