

U.S. National Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants

EDRR Fact Sheet

Randy G. Westbrooks, Whiteville, North Carolina. USA. – February 1, 2012.

Overview of the Delaware Noxious Weed Program

The purpose of the Delaware Noxious Weed Program is to help the public control state listed noxious weeds that may become established on their property.

Currently, there are four plant species that have been designated as State Noxious Weeds in the state of Delaware. This includes:

- [Johnsongrass \(*Sorghum halepense*\)](#) (Listed in 1970)
- [Canada Thistle \(*Cirsium arvense*\)](#) (Listed in 1982)
- [Bur Cucumber \(*Sicyos angulatus*\)](#) (Listed in 1986), and
- [Giant Ragweed \(*Ambrosia trifida*\)](#) (Listed later).

Delaware law requires that these weeds not be allowed to exceed 24 inches in height or be allowed to produce seed – on any property in the state.

Information about Control of Delaware State Noxious Weeds.

Clearly, acceptable control of any of the four listed species is expensive, time consuming and requires intensive management. So, the main objective of the Delaware Noxious Weed Program is to provide assistance to farmers, landowners and homeowners in managing them. The Noxious Weed Unit of the Plant Industries Section of the Delaware Department of Agriculture has information available on specific chemical and mechanical treatment methods which can provide effective control for each of the listed species.

Plant Industries Section Equipment Loan Program.

The Plant Industries Section has an equipment loan program to further assist the public in the control of the four listed State Noxious Weeds. The Department of Agriculture owns several pieces of herbicide application equipment, which is available, at no charge, to farmers and other qualified individuals for the control of these species. This service has been very popular as it allows the landowner to control the weeds – *as mandated by law* - without making a large financial investment in specialized equipment. It also increases compliance with the State Noxious Weed Law.

For more information about the program, or to report a site where Delaware Noxious Weeds are suspected of growing, please contact Todd Davis with the Delaware Department of Agriculture, in Dover, Delaware. Todd may be reached by phone at 302-698-4581 or e-mailed at Todd.Davis@state.de.us.

Online Resources:

Delaware Department of Agriculture (URL: <http://dda.delaware.gov/default.shtml>)

Delaware Noxious Weed Program (URL: <http://dda.delaware.gov/plantind/noxious.shtml>)

Delaware Invasive Plants Booklet (URL: http://dda.delaware.gov/publications/plant_industries/DEInvasPlntBklt.pdf)