



# Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter

Summer 2013

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Vol. 33



## We Need YOU – to get Sensitive Crop Notifications!

Sign up to get e-mail notifications when crop info is added to your spray area. It's easy! Go to [www.driftwatch.org](http://www.driftwatch.org), select Nebraska from the map, then click "applicators," then "register here." Select your area of interest and fill in your contact information.

Nebraska DriftWatch is a tool to increase communication between sensitive crop growers and pesticide applicators. An easy-to-use map allows you to see where these commercial sensitive crops are in relation to your planned spray site. The e-mail system will let you know when something is added in your area of interest. There are resources for helping you understand why certain crops are more sensitive than others, and which chemicals are more likely to drift. In addition, there are resources for reducing the likelihood of drift.

Nebraska DriftWatch has been gaining in popularity with sensitive crop growers. Currently, there are approximately 330 growers in 69 counties. The count of locations by crop category is shown below:

Crop Type	# Sites	# Growers
Beehives	56	39
Certified Organic	238	58
Fruits	29	25
Grapes	153	137
Greenhouse - high tunnel	12	11
Nursery Crops	19	17
Orchard	23	19
Other	19	13
Vegetables	65	51
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>370</b>

DriftWatch now has a new seamless map which will be beneficial to applicators who work in multiple states. These nine states are now accessible from the same map: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. (Note: if you want applicator e-mail notifications from more than one state, you will need to register in each of those states). DriftWatch also shows locations of approved commercial wind farms for the whole country – not just those states participating in DriftWatch. In addition, web links to states having similar sensitive crop viewers are available from the main DriftWatch page.

## Plastic Pesticide Container Collections Underway

Over 1,000 tons. That's the amount of empty, plastic pesticide containers UNL Extension's plastic pesticide container recycling program has helped collect and recycle from across Nebraska over the past 21 years.

The program accepts pressure-rinsed or triple-rinsed 1- and 2.5-gallon plastic pesticide containers. They must be cleaned and drained, inside and out. Caps, labels, booklets, and slipcover plastic labels must be removed, since they cannot be recycled as part of the program. Those items should be disposed of as normal, solid waste. Glued-on paper labels can be left on the container. Rinsate should be returned to the spray tank.

Of the 38 sites involved in the program, 21 accept 15-, 30- and 55-gallon plastic crop protection chemical, crop oil, and adjuvant drums. Drums must be thoroughly rinsed before delivery to collection sites and should not



be cut or opened in any way. Mini-bulk, saddle tanks, and nurse tanks, which can be made of fiberglass or plastics not compatible with the recycling program, are not accepted.

Nine sites collect year-round, 14 collect May through August, 11

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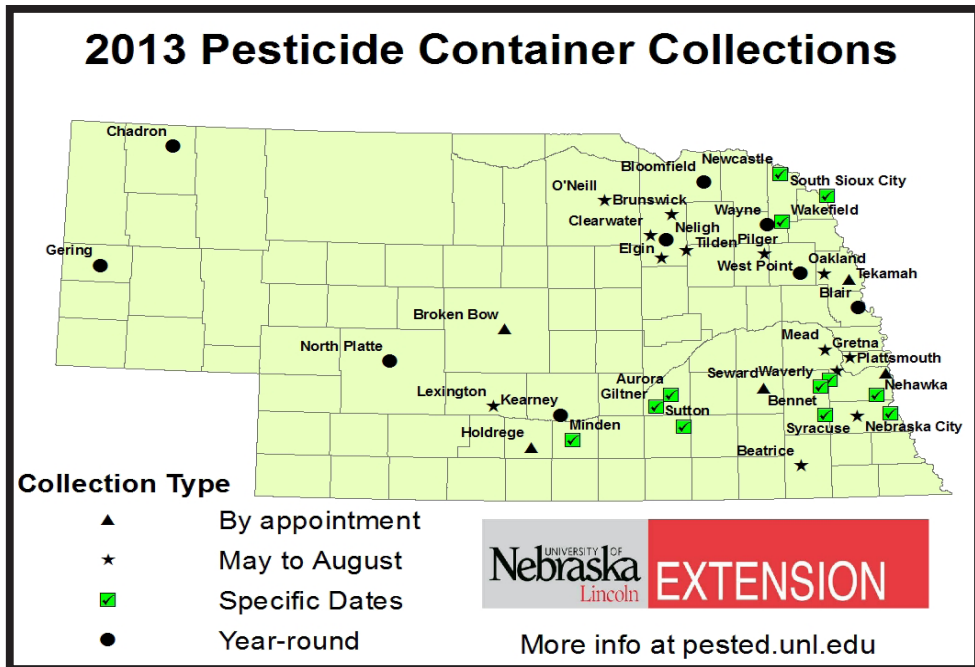
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collect on specific dates, and 4 are by appointment only.

Plastic from collected containers is turned into industrial and consumer products like shipping pallets, drain tile, dimension lumber, and parking lot tire bumpers. Last year, about 35 tons of containers were collected.

A map of the collection locations is shown at the right. A full list of recycling sites, guidelines, and program information and details is on UNL's Pesticide Safety Education Program web site at [pested.unl.edu](http://pested.unl.edu).

Program funding is by a national coalition of agri-chemical manufacturers through the Agricultural Container Recycling Council, Washington, DC.



## From the Front Porch

Tim Creger

Over the nearly 20 years I have been associated with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's (NDA) Pesticide Program, I have had many opportunities to observe a broad cross-section of behaviors and attitudes toward pesticides.

When it comes to regulating pesticides, NDA is charged with what appears to be opposing missions: protect the public from the negative effects of improperly applied pesticides, while at the same time assure the public that pesticides are beneficial. At first glance, it might seem it would be impossible to achieve success in both areas at the same time. However, promoting the beneficial uses of pesticides also provides an excellent opportunity to explain to applicators the risks to sensitive crops, children, vulnerable populations, domestic animals, the environment, and wildlife. Indeed, there are perhaps as many pesticide applications in homes, health care facilities, restaurants, and schools as there are in agriculture.

NDA's Pesticide Program is designed to focus our efforts in three core areas: pesticide registration, applicator certification and effective enforcement. All three are needed to

accomplish the goals of risk reduction and product availability. Here is how the three parts work together:

- NDA registers over 11,000 pesticides in order to assure the public the products they buy and use have been reviewed by the U.S. EPA, that the risks and benefits are adequately studied, and that illegal or improperly labeled products are not allowed in the marketplace.
- With the assistance of the University of Nebraska Extension and the Pesticide Safety Education Program, NDA licenses over 30,000 individuals to apply pesticides as part of their occupation. In order to obtain and retain the license, applicators must attend recertification training intended to assure they are competent to apply toxic chemicals. Once licensed, applicators are only allowed to buy and use those pesticides registered by NDA and covered by their license.
- NDA conducts hundreds of inspections annually and initiates enforcement actions for the more serious violations when necessary, in order to assure the public that bad actors are not allowed to continue to cause

harm. Financial penalties are sometimes necessary when the violation is especially serious, or the person or company committing the violation does so repeatedly or with intent. NDA also takes enforcement actions for unregistered or improperly labeled pesticides, as well as against those applicators applying pesticides without a license or correct category of license.

NDA's Pesticide/Fertilizer Program is carried out by a fairly small number of dedicated, hard working people; some who have been with the agency since the program began in 1993. We keep a philosophy of reasonable common sense in mind when administering the program and enforcing the law. We see value in bringing people together with diverse interests when problems arise, in order to bring all sides of the matter together for an equitable discussion. In everything we do, we try to keep in mind the long-term impacts of the decisions we make and the policies we create. It is true we can't satisfy everyone all of the time, but the program is effective and largely appreciated by the vast majority of people we regulate, and by the public who expect it.

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## Pollinator Protection

The decline of honey bees and other pollinator populations continues to be a national concern. NDA encourages all applicators and producers to become aware of the pesticide issues in this discussion, and take this into consideration when making pesticide application decisions. Web links to more info:

An EPA-USDA press release with key findings of the Honey Bee Health report ([bit.ly/EPAUSDApr](http://bit.ly/EPAUSDApr))

Report on the National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health ([bit.ly/USDAbee](http://bit.ly/USDAbee))

Dust from pesticide treated seed planted with pneumatic equipment has been identified as a potential cause of acute bee kills. Presentations and some recordings are available from a March 2013 Pollinator Summit, where EPA, pesticide registrants, seed treaters, equipment manufacturers, and beekeepers discussed the issues. ([bit.ly/beesummit](http://bit.ly/beesummit))

Pollinator Partnership brochures for applicators and land managers ([bit.ly/MXnZss](http://bit.ly/MXnZss))

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## NPDES Pesticide Permits

Recently, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) received a complaint regarding a pesticide application. The property in question had received an application of herbicide labeled for aquatic uses; however, the applicator also combined it with a spray pattern indicator, which turned the water bright blue. This is a violation of the NPDES Pesticide Permit and Nebraska Title 117. The Pesticide General Permit, as well as Nebraska Title 117, prohibits any discharges that affect the color, odor, or turbidity of any stream in Nebraska. This means that marker dyes may not be used on aquatic applications. Should a situation arise where a marker dye is absolutely necessary, please contact Travis Porter at (402) 471-4209 or Steve Goans at (402) 471-2580 for authorization prior to using the dye.

## Certification Wrap-up

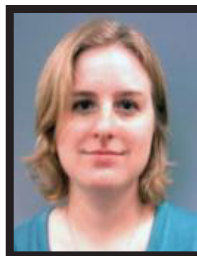
NDA, the University of Nebraska, and many private associations recently wrapped up a successful certification season. During the certification season, which primarily runs from January through mid-April, 10,120 commercial, non-commercial, and private applicators renewed or initially obtained their certification to apply pesticides in Nebraska. Those applicators attended one of 288 training or testing sessions offered this season, where over 2,927 exams were administered. NDA would like to thank all who helped make this possible, and hopes that everyone has started planning for next season's meetings.

Note: In order to receive our newsletter, and to get recertification info from the Pesticide Safety Education office at UNL prior to your license expiration, please let NDA know when you have a change of address.

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## New Certification Specialist

Please welcome Kay Kromm, Certification Specialist for the Pesticide Program. In this position she is responsible for the licensing and certification of Nebraska's pesticide applicators. She has worked for the Department since 2007, previously as the State Survey Coordinator with the Entomology Program. Kay is from Wisconsin, where she studied Forestry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before moving to Nebraska, she worked with the gypsy moth program at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. When not at work processing licenses, Kay cares for her infant daughter, gardens, and trains for half marathons.



## Free Record Keeping App

UNL Extension's Pesticide Safety Education Program presents "PeRK" — a free mobile pesticide application recordkeeping app. This app is designed to meet all Nebraska state law requirements for RUP pesticide recordkeeping and would be a handy tool for keeping track of all pesticide use from year to year. PeRK uses a device's GPS coordinates to note location of the application. Download the app here: [bit.ly/UNLPeRK](http://bit.ly/UNLPeRK)

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## Recent Changes in Rodenticide Labels

The following document was created and published by the Association of Structural Pesticide Control Officials (ASPCRO) as a tool to aid applicators and regulators in understanding and interpreting EPA's recently revised rodenticide labels. The article is reprinted in whole, with permission from ASPCRO. NDA is a State agency member of ASPCRO, and, as such, agrees with the information published in the article.

Here is a brief background about the document. In 2009, EPA concluded a lengthy reassessment of all rodenticide products. In its Risk Mitigation Decision (RMD), EPA required all rodenticides used outdoors to limit applications within 50 feet of "buildings," and made no mention of whether rodents not listed on the label could also be targeted. A revision to the RMD released by EPA in 2012 now allows rodenticides labeled for outdoor use to be placed up to 100 feet from "man-made structures," which would include things such as outdoor grain storage bulkheads, feed bunks, concrete pads, and port-a-potties. It specifically does not allow fencelines to be classified as a man-made structure. Finally, the RMD revision specifically lists only three commensal rodents as target pests: house mice, Norway rats, and roof rats. No other rodents, therefore, are allowed to be targeted by outdoor placement of the products specified.

## Rodenticide Risk Mitigation Decision Compliance



- This document applies only to rodenticide baits labeled for use against house mice, Norway rats and roof rats (commensal rodents) containing any of the ten currently registered active ingredients (AI):
  - **First Generation Anticoagulants:** *Warfarin, Chlorophacinone, and Diphacinone*
  - **Second Generation Anticoagulants:** *Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum, and Difethialone*
  - **Non-Anticoagulants:** *Bromethalin, Cholecalciferol, and Zinc Phosphide*
- **Does not** apply to rodenticides labeled only for rodents other than commensal rodents such as voles, ground squirrels and pocket gophers.
- **Does not** apply to commensal rodent tracking powders as these products were re-registered separately (with new label language) in 2009.

### Products in the Marketplace:



- Manufacturers were required to have products comply with the RMD by June 4, 2011. Non-compliant products could not be shipped after that date.
- Twelve of Reckitt-Benckiser's D-Con products do not comply with EPA's RMD. Due to a federal court decision, Reckitt may continue to sell these products until EPA completes the formal cancellation process, initiated in January 2013. Although D-Con products may continue to be sold, as of April 2013, at least one state has initiated regulatory action to remove these products from consumer markets. Check with your state lead agency for pesticides to determine current status in your state.
- Distributors are still allowed to sell rodenticides obtained prior to June 4, 2011, including non-compliant products.
- Users can use rodenticides obtained prior to June 4, 2011, following the attached container label, until depleted.

	<b>Type of Rodenticide Product:</b>		
	<b>Consumer Products</b>	<b>Pest Control Products</b>	<b>Agricultural Products</b>
<b>Active Ingredients Availability:</b>			
Non-anticoagulants	Available	Available	Available
1 <sup>st</sup> Generation Anticoagulants	Available	Available	Available
2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation Anticoagulants	Not Available	Available	Available
<b>Package Requirements:</b>			
Non-anticoagulants	1 pound max. - must include at least one bait station – above ground use only	4 pound min.- above ground and in burrow uses	4 pound min. – above ground and in burrow uses
1 <sup>st</sup> Generation Anticoagulants	1 pound max. - must include at least one bait station – above ground use only	4 pound min. – above ground and in burrow uses	4 pound min. – above ground and in burrow uses
2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation Anticoagulants	Not allowed	16 pound min. – above and in burrow uses	8 pound min.* - above ground and in burrow uses
<b>Formulations Available:</b>			
Block and other Securable Formulations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pellets, Liquids, Meals, Treated Grain	None allowed	Yes	Yes
<b>Distribution Channels:</b>			
Non-anticoagulants	Products may be sold anywhere	Only available through Pest Control Outlet Distribution. <b>Not</b> allowed to be offered for sale at Hardware, Grocery, Department, Etc.	Only available at Ag Distribution and Farm Supply Stores. <b>Not</b> allowed to be offered for sale at Hardware, Grocery, Department, Etc.
1 <sup>st</sup> Generation Anticoagulants (See package size and bait station requirements)			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation Anticoagulants	Not allowed for sale to consumers		

\* These packages will have label language prohibiting use in residential buildings.

### Bait Stations For Residential Consumer Rodenticide Products: Tier I-IV

	Tier	Qualifications
	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resistant to opening by child under 6 years old</li> <li>• Indoor use only</li> <li>• Non-refillable – one time use</li> <li>• Not reasonably anticipated to release other than small quantities of bait</li> </ul>
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamper resistant for children</li> <li>• Indoor use only</li> </ul>
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamper resistant for children and dogs</li> <li>• Indoor use only</li> </ul>
	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamper resistant for children and dogs and weather</li> <li>• Indoor and outdoor use</li> </ul>

## Common Products

The currently registered AIs can be found in hundreds of branded products. The following is not intended to be a complete listing. It only provides some examples of some of the most common products in use. (07-20-12) No recommendation is being made.

First Generation Anticoagulants	Common AI %	Predominant Manufacturers	Common Brand Names
Chlorophacinone	0.005	Liphatech J.T. Eaton	Rozol, Ortho Rodenticide Products AC 90
Diphacinone	0.005	Bell Laboratories J.T. Eaton Haaco/Neogen	Ditrac, Erazo Ag, Tomcat Bait Block Ramik (Green, Brown, Mini)
Warfarin	0.025	Haaco/Neogen Scimetrics	Rodex Kaput Rat & Mouse
<b>Second Generation Anticoagulants</b>			
Brodifacoum	0.005 0.0025	Bell Laboratories d-Con Haaco/Neogen Scimetrics Syngenta	Final & Jaguar d.Con Havoc Kaput Doom Talon, Weatherblok
Bromadiolone	0.005	Bell Laboratories Farnam Liphatech PelGar (U.K.) Unichem (Slovenia)	Confrac, Hawk Just One Bite Maki, Boot Hill Brigand Ratimor
Difenacoum	0.005	Haaco/Neogen Victor/Woodstream	DiKill Multi-Kill
Difethialone	0.025	Liphatech	Generation, Hombre, BlueMax, FirstStrike, d-Con
<b>Non-Anticoagulants</b>			
Bromethalin	0.01	Bell Laboratories Haaco/Neogen J.T. Eaton Liphatech PM Resources	Fastrac, Rampage, Tomcat (Bromethalin) CyKill Top Gun Gunslinger Assault
Cholecalciferol	0.075	Bell Laboratories	Agrid, Terad3
Zinc Phosphide	2.0	Bell Laboratories Haaco/Neogen	ZP Pelleted Bait Prozap

### Significant Label Changes Affecting Use – including recent changes:

- All outdoor applications must be made within 50 feet of a “building”. *On 3-20-12 the EPA agreed to change this to within 100 feet of a man-made structure except that fences are not considered structures.*
- All outdoor above ground applications must be in a tamper-resistant bait station. *On 3-20-12 the EPA agreed to revise this for pest control and agricultural uses to also allow:*
  - *burrow baiting with 1<sup>st</sup> generation anti-coagulant and non-anticoagulants within or beyond 100 feet of structures*
  - *burrow baiting with 2<sup>nd</sup> generation anticoagulants within 100 feet of man-made structures*
- The “urban” / “non-urban” language was eliminated, making it legal to place bait stations outdoors on a farm (subject to the distance restrictions listed above).
- The language “can only be used to control house mouse, roof rat and Norway rat” was added to products if the manufacturer had not provided data for other species. This precludes the deliberate application of a rodenticide to control any rodent pest species not listed on the label. Previously applicators could use a product for non-commensal rodents, such as deer mice or pack rats under the 2ee exemption of FIFRA.

### Useful Websites:

- <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats/>
- <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats/consumer-prod.html#risk>
- <http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/controlling/rodents.htm>



## Water Quality Picture is Clear

Many of Nebraska's rivers, streams, and lakes continue to receive pollutant amounts that exceed water quality standards. The active ingredient, atrazine, is one of those pollutants which, in excessive amounts over extended periods of time, has an effect on aquatic life. The corresponding map shows stream segments that have been identified as being impaired due to excessive atrazine amounts. These results are found in the 2012 Integrated Report ([bit.ly/RNXB93](http://bit.ly/RNXB93)), an extensive summary of all surface water monitoring conducted by NDEQ to determine whether beneficial uses are being met under the Clean Water Act. These waterbodies have 10% or more of the samples which exceed a flow-weighted load. That is, as flow increases, so does the allowable amount of pollutant.

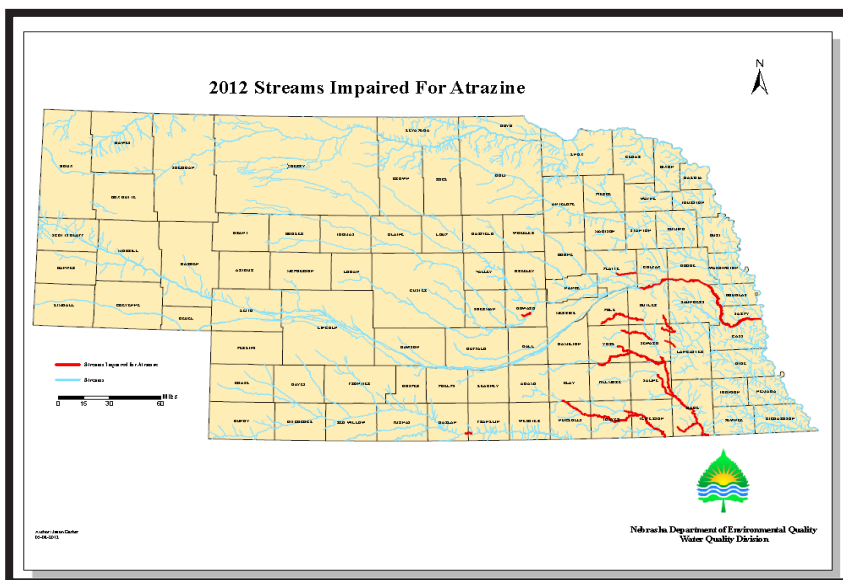
Eventually, streams with identified impairments will have a total maximum daily load (TMDL) developed, a document which identifies the source(s) of the pollutant and estimates the amount of pollutant reduction needed to meet water quality standards. Many of the stream segments shown here have TMDLs developed, with atrazine load

reductions of 30 to 70% needed to meet water quality standards.

So what happens next? How do we get from here to there? The answers are not simple. Several areas have formed watershed groups to address their pollutant problems, including atrazine. Options range from run-off reducing field management practices, such as residue management and terraces, to using filter strips and more diverse crop rotations, to simply using atrazine alternatives or applications that are better timed to avoid runoff events. It may take a combination of

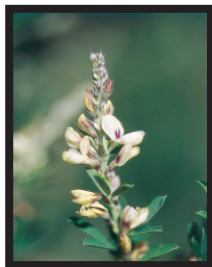
several of these practices across a large portion of each watershed (i.e., many individuals and landowners) to make a difference, and we strongly encourage applicators and producers to consider all options.

NDA is working with NDEQ, Natural Resource Districts, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, and others to address the problem in these areas, and at some point may have to discuss regulations as part of the answer. More info on pesticides and water quality is located at the Pesticide Program page ([bit.ly/NDAPP](http://bit.ly/NDAPP)).



## Sericea Lespedeza Declared Noxious Weed

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) recently declared sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata* G. Don), as a statewide noxious weed. Sericea lespedeza is a perennial that grows well in grasslands and pastures, as well as along roadsides and drainage areas. It is mainly found in southeast and southcentral Nebraska, though it has the potential to invade range and grasslands statewide.



A herbarium record shows that sericea lespedeza was first collected in Richardson County in 1974, but has spread to 3,000 acres in Nebraska. The reason for introduction is unknown. It may have been from contaminated seed or hay, because it has been promoted in other states for wildlife habitat, and is used as a hay crop in the southern United States.

Sericea lespedeza grows from 2 to 4 feet tall and can be identified by its alternate leaves. Lower leaf surfaces tend to have short hairs. Stems are straight, slender, and grooved and can have short hairs. Flowers, which bloom in late summer, range in color from white to cream to light yellow.

It is an extremely aggressive invader of range and pastureland.

Dense monocultures are formed due to its ability to sprout from root crowns. Established sericea lespedeza plants will reduce or eliminate competing native vegetation thus, impacting native ecosystems and reducing carrying capacity for livestock (it is not palatable to most livestock).

A combination of two or more control methods (mechanical, chemical, etc.) is the best approach when controlling sericea lespedeza. By utilizing several control options, odds become greater that more plants will be controlled. Existing infestations spread rapidly through seed dispersal, which can be carried by wildlife, livestock, contaminated hay, vehicles, and equipment.

Continued monitoring and follow-up are essential for maintaining and reducing infestations.

Everyone's cooperation is needed in identifying and preventing new infestations. Early vigilance and action will prevent the huge cost of controlling large stands of sericea lespedeza. Making sericea lespedeza a noxious weed statewide allows County Weed Control Authorities to educate landowners on how to identify sericea lespedeza, make them better prepared to spot new infestations and eliminate small infestations before they become widespread.

In addition to sericea lespedeza, Nebraska has 11 noxious weeds: Canada thistle, leafy spurge, musk thistle, plumeless thistle, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, saltcedar, phragmites, Japanese knotweed, and giant knotweed. The addition of sericea lespedeza to the noxious weed list will aid in efforts in preventing its spread beyond southeastern Nebraska. It is the responsibility of each landowner to control noxious weeds growing on their property.

If you have questions about controlling sericea lespedeza or any of Nebraska's noxious weeds, contact your county weed control superintendent or the NDA Noxious Weed Program Manager at (402) 471-6844.

### **Good Neighbors Control Noxious Weeds**

## **Maps Show Pesticide Use**

The U.S. Geological Survey recently released annual county pesticide use estimates for the lower 48 states, in both tabular and map form. These estimates, derived from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service data for approximately 458 active ingredients, span from 1992 to 2009. Pesticide use estimates from this study are suitable for making national, regional, and watershed assessments of annual pesticide use; however, the reliability of estimates generally decreases with scale. See [on.doi.gov/ZeWkuR](http://on.doi.gov/ZeWkuR) for more info.

## **Pesticide Poisoning Just an Exposure Away**

*Derry Stover, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services*

Pesticide poisoning is an often overlooked but serious health threat. The risks are especially high during the summer for workers in agriculture, pest control, groundskeeping, and others who handle pesticides.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Occupational Safety and Health Program is encouraging all applicators to take pesticide exposures seriously this summer and contact the Nebraska Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222, if pesticide poisoning is suspected.

While the number of pesticide poisonings have declined in the past decade, data show that this issue is still of particular concern in the state. Between 2008 and 2012, the Nebraska Regional Poison Center received about 300 work-related pesticide exposure calls. This number is likely much higher because it is estimated that only 10 percent of pesticide poisoning cases are reported to Poison Control Centers.

Nebraska also has one of the highest work-related pesticide poisoning rates in the country, which was two to three times higher than the national rate in the past decade. In 2010, the state's work-related pesticide poisoning rate was 4.31 per 100,000 employed persons over the age of 16. This was the third highest rate in the U.S., behind Iowa and North Dakota.

Pesticide exposures can occur when chemicals enter the body through the skin, eyes, mouth, or lungs. While some pesticides pose a low health risk to humans if label instructions are followed, others are very toxic and require special precautions.

Coming into contact with certain pesticides over a short period of time, such as during mixing or applying, can result in acute poisoning and can cause health effects like skin irritation, stomach pain, diarrhea, nausea, dizziness, headaches, excessive

sweating or tearing, and respiratory problems.

Applicators may not know that even exposures to very small amounts of some types of pesticides over a long period of time, known as chronic poisoning, can lead to an increase in the risk of neurological effects, reproductive disorders, allergic reactions, and cancer.

Following all instructions on the pesticide label will help prevent accidental exposures. Always wear personal protective equipment indicated on the pesticide label, such as gloves and goggles. Knowing the toxicity and health risks of a particular pesticide before it is applied is also important in reducing health risks after exposures occur.

If poisoning is suspected, symptoms are observed, or a significant pesticide exposure occurs:

- Call the Nebraska Regional Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 (call 911 if an emergency).
- If health symptoms are severe or ongoing, get medical care from a physician or an emergency room.

The poison center has trained health care professionals available 24 hours a day and can help applicators assess the situation, recommend first aid and treatment, provide information about the chemical, and answer further questions.

For more information about pesticide poisoning, visit the Nebraska Occupational Safety and Health Program website at [bit.ly/NDHHSocc](http://bit.ly/NDHHSocc).

**Department of Agriculture  
Noxious Weed Program  
(402) 471-2351**

Mitch Coffin - Manager

Tammy Westbrook - Pesticide and Noxious  
Weed Program Staff Assistant

David Boschult - (*northeast*)  
(402) 416-4595

Brandon Schaneman- (*southeast*)  
(402) 416-5587

Jeff Lampmann - (*west*)  
(402) 416-5642

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**Department of Agriculture  
Pesticide/Fertilizer Program  
(402) 471-2351**

Tim Creger - Manager

Donene Lewis - Pesticide/Fertilizer  
Staff Assistant

Kay Kromm - Certification/WPS Training

Buzz Vance - Pesticide and Fertilizer  
Registration Specialist

Craig Romary - Water Quality/Buffer Strip/  
Endangered Species

Herbert Bates - Case Review Officer

Inspectors:  
Kevin Holdorf - (*Omaha metro region*)  
(402) 234-2225

Rich Franchini - (*north central region*)  
(402) 529-6808

Clayton Haman - (*southeast region*)  
(402) 471-2394

Jeff Elsen - (*Panhandle region*)  
(308) 254-7640

Eric Fuentes-Ruiz - (*southwest region*)  
(308) 995-2158

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Greg Ibach, Director

Craig Romary, Editor

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Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Plant Industry  
P.O. Box 94756  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4756