



Douglas County

Provided by Douglas County Weed Management

DOUGLAS COUNTY UNDESIRABLE PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. Introduction

A. Why the plan is being written

1. Compliance with the Undesirable Plant Management Act

B. Goal

Implementation of the law,
Public education,
Public support for the program.

C. Severity of the weed problem in Douglas County

1. Approximately 97,000 acres within Douglas County are infested with undesirable weeds and this is a growing figure which constitutes a present threat to the continued economic and environmental value of the lands within Douglas County.

D. The control of undesirable weeds is of importance to county residents, federal and state governmental agencies and the business community.

II. Statement of the Weed Problem

Colorado Law declares the following weeds to be undesirable and Douglas County concurs:

List A of the Colorado Noxious Weeds-In Douglas Co Priority are required to be eradicated

Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)

Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*)

Yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis)

Myrtle spurge (Euphorbia myrsinites)

Dyer's woad (Isatis tinctoria)

Mediterranean sage (Salvia aethiopsis)

Medusahead (Taeniatherum caput-medusae)

Rush skeletonweed (Chondrilla juncea)

Squarrose knapweed (Centaurea virgata)

Meadow knapweed (Centaurea pratensis)

Camelthorn (Alhagi pseudalhagi)

Common crupina (Crupina vulgaris)

African rue (Peganum harmala)

Cypress spurge (Euphorbia cyparissias)

Sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata)
Tansy ragwort (Senecio jacobaea)
Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata)
Giant salvinia (Salvinia molesta)

THE FIRST 5 OF LIST B ARE ALSO DESIGNATED TO BE ERADICATED IN DOUGLAS COUNTY.

List B species in order of Douglas County Priority

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)
Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*)
Salt cedar (*Tamarix chinensis*, *T. parviflora*, and *T. ramosissima*)
Plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*)
Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)

THE REMAINDER ARE TO BE CONTAINED AND SUPPRESSED.

Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)
Hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*)
Dalmatian toadflax, broad-leaved (*Linaria dalmatica*)
(narrow-leaved) (*Linaia genistifolia*)
Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)
(less common Scotch thistle) (*Onopordum tauricum*)
Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)
Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)
Chinese clematis (*Clematis orientalis*)

List B species continued: to be monitored and managed as funds are available.

Absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*)
Black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)
Bouncingbet (*Saponaria officinalis*)
Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)
Corn chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*)
Cutleaf teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*)
Dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
Mayweed chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*)
Moth mullein (*Verbascum blattaria*)
Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)
Sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)
Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*)
Quackgrass (*Elytrigia repens*)
Redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)
Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
Spurred anoda (*Anoda cristata*)

Venice mallow (*Hibiscus trionum*)
Wild caraway (*Carum carvi*)
Yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*)

The C list of weeds are so common that the control of them is left up to the landowners discretion, but technical assistance will be given. List C of the Colorado noxious weed list comprises the following noxious weed species:

Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)
Common burdock (*Arctium minus*)
Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
Downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*)
Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
Halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*)
Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)
Jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*)
Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)
Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)
Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theophrasti*)
Wild proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum*)

Problem areas include roadsides, railroad lines, drainage areas, municipal areas, housing subdivisions, private property, national forests, state parks as well as other county, state and federal lands.

Control of undesirable weeds within problem areas shall be the responsibility of the land owner. Cooperative agreements shall be drawn between the parties to assist municipalities and state and federal entities.

III. Plan of Work: Objectives & Implementation

- A. Short term goals (1-5 years)
 - 1. Educate the residents of Douglas County regarding the problems caused by undesirable weeds and the benefits of controlling those weeds.
 - 2. Control the undesirable weeds along county roadways, open spaces and parks.
 - 3. Redo 25% of the weed mapping of Douglas County.
 - 4. Assist private landowners in developing a management plan for those private lands adjacent to county roadways, open space and parks and along watersheds.
- B. Long term goals (5-10 years)
 - 1. Continue the process of educating Douglas County residents regarding the problems caused by undesirable weeds and the benefits of controlling these weeds.
 - 2. Manage weeds so as to reduce or eliminate pesticide use.
 - 3. Maintain control of undesirable weeds along county roadways, county parks and open space.
 - 4. Complete and update the weed mapping of Douglas County to include a

record of control measures by county, private, state and federal entities and the evaluation thereof.

5. Finish management plans for those private lands adjacent to county roadways.
6. Assist in implementation of management plans for State Parks, US forest lands and railroad lands.
7. Continue to develop management plans for private lands in Douglas County with land owners.
8. Assist in implementation of cooperative management plans for municipalities.

IV. Implementation

A. Public Education

1. Provide information concerning the Weed Law
2. Provide information on biology and management of targeted weeds
3. Develop educational materials, displays, slides, etc.
4. Educate the media
5. Targeted audience for public education
 - a) Farmers and ranchers
 - b) Horse groups
 - c) Homeowners associations
 - d) Government entities
 - e) Youth groups
 - f) Schools
 - g) Other

B. Weed Control Methods

1. Set criteria for control of each undesirable weed
 - a) Preventative measures (i.e. overgrazing, weed free hay & mulch)
 - b) Biological - continue cooperating with the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture in releasing insects to help manage weeds.
 - c) Cultural
 - d) Mechanical
 - e) Chemical
 1. Have signs warning residents that weed spraying is ahead,
 2. As possible, publish notice for public awareness, the herbicide treatment schedule for each week.
 3. Use proper spraying techniques in areas where beekeeping is conducted.
 4. Chemicals shall be used by county personnel as outlined by the implementation policy manual approved by the BCC. (To get a copy contact the county weed inspector)
2. Expand information and demonstrate control strategies for control of rare species of noxious weeds.
3. County undesirable weed mapping program
 - a) Map newly listed weed infestations within Douglas County

- b) Record and evaluate control measures by the county, state, federal and private entities
 - 4. Cooperative agreements
 - a) Federal, state and county rights-of-ways
 - b) Municipal agreements
 - c) State and federal lands
 - d) Other governmental entities
 - e) Business entities
 - f) Private landowners
 - 5. Non-compliance
 - a) Private lands: Section 35-5.5-109 of HB 90-1175
 - b) Public lands: Section 35-5.5-110 of HB90-1175
 - c) Federal and State lands: Section 35-5.5-111 of HB 90-1175
 - d) Public rights of way: Section 35-5.5-112 of HB 90-1175
- C. Short and long term needs
 - 1. Continue to generate educational and supportive materials for the public

V. Development of Special Management Areas

- A. Delineate areas requiring intensive management. Intensive management could require extensive mowing and/or use of insects or livestock and/or herbicide applications and/or reseeding.
- B. Delineate areas requiring lower levels of management
- C. Target public education and management towards A & B of above.
- D. Examples of Special Management Areas
 - 1. Areas where individuals have been identified as being environmentally sensitive to herbicides from a doctor's report or guidelines from Colorado Department of Agriculture
 - a. Advance notification of state registered chemically sensitive persons, when spraying in the neighborhood. We would notify those individuals of our proposed schedule one week in advance. Also a phone call would be attempted 24 hours in advance. If no answer, an attempt would be made to contact individuals the morning of scheduled herbicide applications.
 - b. Adopt-A-Highway program, for those who are chemically sensitive and use mechanical control of weeds on designated right of way stretches to reduce their possible contact with herbicide treated areas.
 - 2. Public water supplies
 - 3. Specialty crop areas
 - 4. Community project areas - Adopt-A-Highway program
 - 5. Water ways
- E. Public input
 - 1. Public meetings at selected locations

VI. Evaluation

- A. Have we met our timetable of work?
- B. Have we met our goals?
- C. Is the public satisfied with our effort?