

BRIDGEWATER Weed Control POLICY

Bridgewater Township Rice County, Minnesota

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enact guidelines for noxious weed control and reporting on Township rights of way and private property. Private property, Township property and Right of Way (ROW) within the Township are under the control of the Township Board Supervisors AKA Weed Inspectors.

Weed Inspectors can order the control or eradication of noxious weeds as defined by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on any land within their jurisdiction (MN statues 18.80 and Weed Inspectors Guide Page 4) The current listing of noxious weeds from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is attached as Attachment C. The Township Board may utilize employees or hire contractors to eradicate noxious weeds. Employees of the Township can apply chemicals for weed control. Using a contractor with licenses and proper insurance will protect the Township from liability. Using employees of the Township would fall to the Townships insurance policies. Supervisors/Weed Inspectors are not authorized to spray for weeds; they are to order the control of weeds.

SECTION 1: GENERAL WEED CONTROL POLICY

1. Utilize licensed contractors when possible and practical.
2. Township employees who will be spraying for the Township should get a license. See Section 2 1.a.
3. Township employees are not allowed to spray for other townships or cities unless a contract is in place for resources, equipment, chemicals, etc.
4. Weed Inspectors (supervisors), employees who spray and contract applicators are to review and follow the "Local Weed Inspectors Guide" See Attachment A
5. Weed Inspectors are to attend the annual Noxious Weed Enforcement Training. See Section 2 2.a
6. Landowners, where weeds needed special attention in prior years should be contacted in February and March about planning a noxious weed control program for these areas. Letters should be sent by the Township Board.
7. Weed Inspectors, employees who spray, or contract applicators, should tour the Township to identify and map noxious weed areas by the third week in June. Weed Inspectors should then provide instructions on the area to spray.
8. Weed Inspectors, employees who spray and contract applicators should then tour the Township in mid to late August to note if the application process was successful or new areas developed and take appropriate steps.
9. Annual weed inspection reports are to be filed annually with the Rice County Ag inspector. See Section 2 2.a see attachment B.

SECTION 2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

1. Applicators license contact.
 - a. Minnesota Department of Agriculture MDA – 651-201-6615
 - b. Brian Clark 651-508-2597
2. Rice County Agriculture Inspector
 - a. Trent McCorkell – 507-332-6168
3. Minnesota Township Insider Volume 45, Issue 2. Spring of 2025 Pages 12-13
4. For more information concerning the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law and statewide listed noxious weeds, please visit: www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-and-invasive-weed-program
5. Noxious weed enforcement forms can also be downloaded or printed from this web site: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/cailist/caiforms>
6. County Ag Inspectors list: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/cailist>
7. Training videos for local inspectors can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/noxious-invasive-weed-program>.
8. For identifying and providing control options for noxious weeds. This publication can be found at: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf>

Glossary

Inspector or Local Weed Inspector

As defined in the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law: “Inspector means the commissioner (Department of Agriculture), agent of the commissioner, county agricultural inspector, county-designated employee, local weed inspector, or assistant weed inspector.”

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