

# SWCD STREAM

Wabasha County Soil & Water Conservation District



**SWCD WABASHA COUNTY SWCD**  
 Wabasha County Soil & Water Conservation District  
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[WabashaSWCD.com](http://WabashaSWCD.com)

**WABASHA SWCD'S  
 MOST WANTED  
 INVASIVE SPECIES**

Cardus acanthoides or Plumless thistle is a common enemy that many have fought and few have won. Native to Eurasia and introduced to America in the 1870s, this nasty plant has invaded open grasslands, pastures throughout Minnesota. Plumless thistle grows 3 to 5 ft tall with stems that are branched and covered in numerous spiny leaves. It is highly invasive to disturbed habitats and can quickly replace desirable plants, creating large monocultures that significantly lessen the biological diversity and productivity of native landscapes. It is a common pasture weed that reduces the availability of desirable forages leading to the economic hardships for livestock producers. To control, prevent flowering throughout the season by pulling plants, mow or even clipping off flower heads. Mowing repetitively over the course of several years is very effective in eliminating plant development. Glyphosate based herbicides are effective in controlling thistle populations but needs to be used on a multi-year schedule.

Cost-share for the removal of Plumless Thistle and other invasive species is available so contact your local SWCD technician Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or [katelyn.abts@mnsd.net](mailto:katelyn.abts@mnsd.net).

**WANTED**

**PLUMLESS THISTLE**



Scan this QR code for more info or visit the MN Dep of Ag Noxious Weed List.

**July-August 2025 News**

- Planting trees? We have some tree tubes left in stock, \$4.00 for the 72"
- The SWCD is looking for a retired farmer to help us transport our rental no-till drill to the farms where used, seasonal spring & fall. Call us if interested, (651) 565-4673
- Free well tests are still available throughout the MN Dept of Health. Fill out an online form by either scanning the QR code below or call 651-560-2045 to fill out the form by phone



# Weeds, Weeds Everywhere

Now is the time of the year when a certain yellow flower is blooming on every roadside, every pasture and every prairie. No one dares to touch this plant for fear of severe rash and blisters that can last for weeks. Wild parsnip, one of the most famous noxious weeds in Minnesota, is noticeable more than ever. A noxious weed is defined as harmful or injurious weed designated by an agricultural or other governing authority as a plant that is harmful to agricultural or horticultural crops, natural habitats or ecosystems, or humans or livestock. This includes other weeds such as bull thistle, Canada thistle, wild carrot, poison hemlock, narrowleaf bittercress and leafy spurge to name some common ones. While not all noxious weeds are toxic to people, they compete with native species for resources and most of the time, dominate. You may have questioned, why are these species so good at taking over? Why aren't they invasive in Europe and Asia from where they came? Most of the time, these weeds are kept in check by natural predators, competitors and environmental conditions but in Minnesota, the only thing that can keep weeds in check are humans.



Different weeds have different treatment methods and treatment timings so it's very important to do some research before beginning your attack. The most common method of weed control is repetitive mowing. Mowing before a flower can go seed slowly depletes the seed bank but mowing at the wrong time can expedite the infestation by spreading the seeds. Many species can be mowed up until early July but shouldn't be touched with anything other than herbicide once the flower comes to head.



Herbicides used in controlling noxious weeds typically contain the active ingredient glyphosate. Other herbicides can be effective, but it depends on the species and the habitat that is being treated in. Most weeds need to be treated for multiple consecutive years until the population dies out. Follow directions on the product label and avoid windy days, avoid application during or directly prior to a rain event, and be careful to ensure spray only hits target species to avoid chemical drift onto soil and other plants as much as possible. For more information on noxious weed control, scan the QR code or visit the MN Noxious Weed List page at [mda.state.mn.us](http://mda.state.mn.us).

**Cost-share for herbaceous weed removal is available but limited. Call Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or email [Katelyn.abts@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:Katelyn.abts@mn.nacdnet.net). Landowners with projects larger than 5 acres are encouraged to sign up for EQIP (See notice below).**

## EQIP Sign-up Deadline is Coming Fast



EQIP or Environmental Quality Incentives Program has a 2025 deadline of **August 1<sup>st</sup>** to sign-up for possible financial assistance in enacting conservation practices such as:

- Invasive Species Removal (Woody or Herbaceous)
- Grassed Waterways
- Cover Crop
- Prairie Strips
- Conservation Cover (Pollinator Planting)
- Prescribed Burning
- Windbreak Renovation & Establishment
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Grade Stabilization
- Control Basins
- Manure Storage
- Prescribed Grazing
- Feedlot Projects
- Water and Sediment Control Basins
- Grade Stabilization Structures
- Terraces



For more information, call Christina Taylor at 651-560-2057 or email [christina.taylor@usda.gov](mailto:christina.taylor@usda.gov)

## Free Nitrate Testing for Private Well Owners!

Come down to the Wabasha County fair on August 1<sup>st</sup> to test your well water for nitrates. To participate, collect a cup of water from your well in a clean plastic bag or glass container and bring to the Wabasha

SWCD table. Results will be provided to you within 15 minutes. These will not be certified lab results but they will give you a good idea on the nitrate levels present in your well water.

