

Herbaceous Weed Control

Conservation Practice WV Job Sheet

Code 315



DEFINITION

This practice pertains to the removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants.

PURPOSE

Landowners can use this practice to:

- Enhance accessibility, quantity, and quality of forage and/or browse.
- Restore or release native or create desired plant communities and wildlife habitats consistent with the ecological site.
- Protect soils and control erosion
- Reduce fine-fuels fire hazard and improve air quality

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all lands except active cropland where removal reduction, or manipulation of herbaceous vegetation is desired.

This practice does not apply to removal of herbaceous vegetation by prescribed fire (use Prescribed Burning - 338) or removal of herbaceous vegetation to facilitate a land use change (use Land Clearing - 460).

CRITERIA

Treatments to control herbaceous weeds may be either:

- mechanical
- biological
- chemical
- any combination of the above

These may be used alone or in combination with one another. They are often more effective and better maintained if they are used in combination or concurrently.

NRCS cannot develop biological or chemical treatment recommendations except for biological control utilizing grazing animals. NRCS can provide some types of biological and/or chemical control references if they are necessary, but at a minimum refer to the NRCS pesticide screening information (Win-PST) provided with this jobsheet if chemical application is required.

Common Noxious Herbaceous Weeds

There are many species of herbaceous weeds that occur throughout West Virginia in terrestrial as well as aquatic habitats. The table below lists a few of the most common species that have the potential to be invasive and/or noxious where they occur. They are listed without respect to whether they have been “legally” identified as West Virginia Noxious Weeds.

COMMON NAME	SPECIES
plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
curled thistle	<i>Carduus crispus</i>
spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>
musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
mile-a-minute	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>

COMMON NAME	SPECIES
Japanese stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>
poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
water milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
yellow iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>

Refer to Section II of the WV FOTG for more information regarding noxious and potentially invasive species.

Terrestrial Wildlife and Pollinators

When possible apply this practice outside the ground nesting bird season (March 15 – July 15).

In order to preserve those native plant species that most wildlife rely on as food or cover, target only invasive and/or non-native species that threaten those plant communities. If habitat for native pollinators is a principle concern, apply any required herbicide treatment during evening hours or after dark when pollinators are less active.

It should be noted that even species listed in this document provide may be attractive to pollinators and other wildlife. If wildlife (especially pollinators) are currently using these species as the primary food sources, attempt to remove them as quickly as possible during times of inactivity to allow more native sources to replenish the supply of food.

Most pesticides do not discriminate between harmful and beneficial insects. Use formulations that are safest for bees when possible. Utilize the lowest lethal rates in conjunction with the most targeting method to minimize the risk. Avoid broad spectrum herbicides when possible.

Formulation	Hazard Level to Pollinators
Dust	Worst
Wettable Powder	
Flowable	
Emulsifiable Concentrate	
Soluble Powder	
Solution	
Granular	Least

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Safety: Weed management practices should always be applied using NRCS or EPA approved materials and procedures. Operations must always

comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances. Always dispose of herbicides and herbicide containers in accordance with the label directions and comply with all federal, state and local regulations.

Refer to the results of the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (Win-PST) risk assessment for the risks associated with pesticides. Pay particular attention to the Pesticide Active ingredient Rating Report or other reports dealing with the soil types located on the property. These reports identify such items as solubility, the ability for the pesticide to move in the soil, toxicity to fish and wildlife and leaching.

A safety plan for individuals exposed to chemicals, including telephone numbers and addresses of emergency treatment centers and the telephone number for the nearest poison control center.

SAFETY INFORMATION	
National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) (Non-Emergency Information)	1-800-858-7384 Monday to Friday 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time
Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTRAC)	1-800-424-9300

Remember to follow all label requirements for any pesticides as well as, mixing/loading setbacks from wells, intermittent streams and rivers, natural or impounded ponds and lakes, and reservoirs.

If applicable you should post signs, according to label directions and/or federal, state and local laws, around fields that have been treated and follow the restricted entry intervals.

Read and follow label directions and maintain appropriate Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). MSDS and pesticide labels may be accessed on the Internet at: <http://www.greenbook.net/>

Calibrate any application equipment according to recommendations before each seasonal use and with each major chemical and site change.

Inspect and replace any faulty equipment used to implement this practice (i.e. sprayers, mowers, etc)

Maintenance: Landowners should maintain records of weed control for at least two years. Herbicide application records must be in accordance with [USDA Agricultural Marketing](#)

[Service's Pesticide Recordkeeping Program](#) and state-specific requirements.

Remember that follow-up treatments are usually necessary to achieve complete removal..

Following the initial application, some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of weed problems is to be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing re-treatment should be performed while it is small and most vulnerable to the treatment procedures.

The success of this practice is determined by evaluating post-treatment regrowth of the target species after sufficient time has passed to monitor the situation and gather reliable data. The length of these evaluation periods will depend on the species being monitored, the proximity of seeds to the site, how the seeds are transported (wind or animals) and the methods and materials used. It may be necessary to re-apply this practice depending on a various factors.

SEE ALSO:

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Science and laboratories, Pesticide Recordkeeping Program (PRP) available at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/>

National Pesticide Information Center - NPIC is a cooperative agreement between Oregon State University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency available at: <http://npic.orst.edu/index.html>

The Greenbook Group – Chemical Data Delivery Solutions available at: <http://www.greenbook.net/>

SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the WV NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Information in this job sheet is considered part of the conservation plan.

Herbaceous Weed Management – WV Job Sheet

Client:	Farm #:
Applicable Field(s):	Tract #:
Designed By:	Date:

PURPOSE (check all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance accessibility, quantity, and quality of forage and/or browse.
<input type="checkbox"/> Restore or release native or create desired plant communities and wildlife habitats
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect soils and control erosion
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce fine-fuels fire hazard and improve air quality

CHEMICAL CONTROL – If applicable, complete the following table for control of undesirable herbaceous species using chemical methods.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to the attached Information	Field # _____	Field # _____	Field # _____
Landuse			
Acres			
Primary Soil Type			
Specie(s) to be controlled			
Estimated % pre-treatment vegetation/cover density			
Planned % post-treatment vegetation/cover target density			
Chemical application method ¹			
Application dates			
Second application dates (if applicable)			
Target plant growth stage at application			
WIN/PST risk assessment attached or included (To be completed by NRCS)			

¹ **Chemical Application Method** – List as **backpack sprayer, spray boom, aerial, spot** or **other** (describe in the additional procedures section)

List any special mitigation, timing considerations or other factors (such as soil texture and organic matter content) that must be considered to ensure the safest, most effective herbicide application; or see the attached references. **Follow all label and safety requirements when applying pesticides.**

MECHANICAL CONTROL – If applicable, complete the following table for control of undesirable herbaceous species using mechanical methods.

<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to the attached Information	Field # _____	Field # _____	Field # _____
Landuse			
Acres			
Species to be controlled			
Estimated % pre-treatment vegetation/cover density			
Planned % post-treatment vegetation/cover target density			
Method of application (equipment)			
Date(s) of application			
Second application dates (if applicable)			

Additional techniques, procedures or references to be followed:

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL – If applicable, complete the following table for control of undesirable species using biological methods.
Note: Biological control is typically not recommended for the control of invasives in woodland.

<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to the attached WVU Cooperative Extension Service Information	Field # _____	Field # _____	Field # _____
Landuse			
Acres			
Species to be controlled			
Estimated % pre-treatment vegetation/cover density			
Planned % post-treatment vegetation/cover target density			
Type(s) of livestock to be utilized			
Type(s) of livestock to be utilized			
Stocking Rate			
Grazing Dates			
Secondary Grazing Dates (if applicable)			
Other biological control method			

Additional techniques, mitigations precautions or procedures or references to be followed:

Herbaceous Weed Management – WV Job Sheet

If needed, an aerial view, map or a sketch of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Operation and Maintenance or Additional Specifications or Notes:

Follow the procedures and methods for Operation and Maintenance as outlined in the section of this document entitled "Operation and Maintenance". **Additional:**

Questions regarding the establishment, operation or maintenance of this practice should be directed to:

_____ at _____

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.