

Utah County Noxious Weed Control Policy

A. Statement of Intent

The Utah County Noxious Weed Control Program will function and enforce in accordance with the State of Utah Noxious Weed Act and Utah County Code 7.11 to organize, supervise, and coordinate a noxious weed control plan for Utah County including chemical, mechanical, and biological control practices.

B. Annual Coordination of Meetings

The Utah County Weed Control Board shall hold an annual coordination meeting each calendar year prior to the start of the weed season. All organizations concerned with weed control and the public are welcome to attend. Notice of the meeting shall be posted in compliance with County Code and State Law. The main purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and approve noxious weed control efforts for the coming year. The approval of the annual general notice of noxious weeds within the county (Utah State Code 4-17-109) will be discussed at this meeting as well.

A final meeting of the year shall be held at the end of the calendar year. The main objective of this meeting is to inform the Utah County Weed Board of the weed control activities for the past season and to discuss possible priorities for the following year. The *Annual Weed Progress Report* will be created after the items discussed in this meeting and submitted by the Utah County Weeds Supervisor to the Utah Department of Agriculture.

Additional board meetings may be held during the year to discuss pressing weed control issues such as new noxious weed discoveries, noxious weed law violations, and code enforcement appeals.

C. Board Membership

Chairman- Utah County Commissioner

Role:

- Preside over and conduct the board meetings.
- Provide positive and energetic leadership.
- Act as spokesman for the weed board with other county commissioners.

Vice Chair- Appointed by Weed Board

(appointment shall be for the length of a four-year term)

Role:

- Assist the Chairman as requested.
- Preside at and conduct board meetings in the absence of the Chairman

All Board Members:

Role:

- Attend all meetings of the Utah County Weed Board
- Report infestations of noxious weeds to the board and the weed supervisor
- Know the Noxious Weed and Seed Laws

- Be willing to share knowledge and understanding of weed problems and weed control.
- Set an example of good weed control on personal farms, ranches, home grounds, and on any land under your control or supervision.

D. Other Roles

Weed Supervisor

Role:

- Direct Weed Control Program for Utah County Weed Board.
 - Receive and investigate violations of Noxious Weed Act
 - Determine and send out individual notices for Noxious Weed Act violations.
 - Peruse code compliance if necessary.
 - Plan, coordinate, and supervise weed control efforts made by the Weed Control Division
 - Keep records of work accomplished.
- Oversee Noxious Weed Fee Certification inspections for Utah County Land Use Ordinance 14.12.C.9.
- Report annually to Weed Control Board
- Attend all meetings of the Utah County Weed Board
- Keep minutes of all meetings
- Create an agenda for board meetings.
- Provide consultation for best noxious weed control practices.

USU extension Agent

Role:

- Provides support to the program by being the lead for education outreach.

Utah Department of Agriculture Agents

Inspector

Role:

- Part of an inspector's job is to monitor products being sold by a variety of retailers, orchards, and other agricultural related businesses. If noxious weed products (plant or seed) are being sold, U.D.A.F. can impose regulatory authority and stop the sale of these products. (Utah Seed Law, Utah Administrative Code R68-8). Involvement with local weed boards helps both agencies be more aware of issues developing within Utah County. Agencies can work together with issues at hand.

Invasive Species Mitigation Program Manager

Role:

- I.S.M. grant funds could provide or have provided funding to address large-scale noxious weed issues within Utah County. I.S.M. Program Manager oversees county boards throughout Utah are following Utah State Code 4.17 regulations. Involvement with meetings helps County awareness of potential or approaching weed issues and possible funding source for weed control projects.

E. Weed Control Division Service Area

Any individual, corporation, municipality, governmental agency, or organization owning, leasing, or controlling property within Utah County may request consultation for best weed control practices by the Utah County Weed Control Division. All requests for control services will be referred to a commercial companies/applicator. Utah County Weeds Division may perform control services on County maintained/owned properties, on project areas approved by the Utah County Weed Board, or on other areas as directed by Utah County Government.

Property owners are encouraged to participate in noxious weed control activities by locating, identifying, and controlling specific infestations on their individual properties. The Utah County Weeds Division shall conduct noxious weed control activities within Utah County. In the case of weed control adjacent to organic farms, the County may actively spray up to the property boundaries including all County Road rights-of-way and easements. The responsibility to provide a "no-spray" buffer remains with the property owner. If noxious weeds are present on organic farms, the property owner can opt to control said weeds in compliance with this policy, County code, and State law with non-chemical applications if the control is effective. However, if the property owners are unable to control weeds in an appropriate manner, the property may be declared a public nuisance in compliance with Utah County Code 7.11.110 and the Utah County Weeds Division would control the weeds accordingly at the expense of the property owner.

F. Weed Control Priorities

1. Control of noxious weeds or any plant deemed a nuisance or hazard on property within the county.
2. Control of noxious weeds on water ways including lakes, ponds, streams, drainage, and irrigation systems. Also, control of non-noxious plants which impede the water flow in irrigation systems when that control can be accomplished as part of the noxious weed application.
3. Control of noxious weeds on non-crop land areas such as rangeland, wet pastures, fence lines, vacant land, rights-of-way, easements, county roadsides, etc.

The State of Utah has adopted a noxious weed list with prioritization within Utah Administration Code R68-9. This prioritization has 4 different class categories with different actions called for mattering on the class. The State's prioritization will be followed unless the Utah County Weed Board approves the Utah County Weeds Division to address it as a different classification than the State's prioritization.

Utah County Weed Board may also declare other weeds not on the State list as "County Noxious Weeds" in compliance with Utah State code 4-17-107(3a). If a plant species is declared as a Utah County Noxious Weed, the Utah County Weed Board shall determine what classification it is to be recognized within the county using the same classifications as the State's prioritization list.

G. Weed Control Fee Schedule

Code Compliance Work – Cost of herbicide and labor used, plus equipment rates defined in Utah County Code, Fee Schedule for Public Works.

Grant Projects –All treatment costs are covered by use of project funding.

Noxious Weed Certification- \$100 inspection fee as defined in Utah County Code, Fee Schedule for Public Works.