DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Noxious and Invasive Weed Program

2025 Annual Report

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Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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Contents

Mission Statement

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Noxious and Invasive Weed Program serves to protect Minnesota's citizens, economy, and agricultural and natural resources from the negative impacts of invasive plants and noxious weeds.

Program Operations

The Noxious and Invasive Weed Program (NIWP) conducted many projects in 2025 and initiated a new funding milestone created by the Minnesota Legislature to support county agricultural inspector (CAI) and Designated Employee duties under the Noxious Weed Law (NWL). Along with the NIWP's many partners, the program confirmed new plant species, conducted numerous trainings, coordinated weed biocontrol, organized noxious weed treatments, collaborated with the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee and its constituents, and surveyed, monitored, and managed sites with confirmed high-priority noxious weeds like Palmer amaranth.

This annual report highlights some of the important work that was accomplished this year. The NIWP is built on a commitment to provide the highest level of service and assistance to Minnesotans, and the MDA encourages anyone interested in invasive terrestrial plants and noxious weeds to visit the NIWP program webpages. If you have questions, contact the NIWP at noxiousweeds.mda@state.mn.us.

New County Finds of Eradicate Species

The MDA is required to report new confirmations of prohibited eradicate noxious weeds by county (Minnesota Statute 18.79, subd. 18(b). The following three species were confirmed in new counties in 2025:

- Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) was confirmed in Dakota County. The infestation was first reported by a Minnesota Department of Transportation employee in September, and management began shortly after.
- Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) was confirmed for the first time in Otter Tail County in November. It was a small infestation and is being managed.
- Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) was confirmed for the first time in Rice County in November. Planning began for treatments in the spring of 2026.

Confirmation of New Invasive Plant Species in Minnesota

To stay aware of potential threats from the spread of invasive plants from entering the state, the MDA works closely with its in-state partners and neighboring state officials to share information regarding the spread of species of concern that are not currently regulated in Minnesota. Outreach and prevention are the best practices to keep invasive plants from entering the state, but when they are confirmed, the MDA works quickly to investigate and map locations, alert local officials, and report these species to the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee (NWAC) for potential inclusion in a risk assessment to determine if regulation is necessary.

Not all invasive plants become regulated as noxious weeds in Minnesota. However, to determine if a species meets the definition of a noxious weed and should be regulated to prevent its spread to new areas, the MDA is committed to tracking and providing outreach for known invasive plant species that may be a threat to the state. Two new invasive plant species of concern were confirmed in Minnesota this year. These species are not regulated in Minnesota.

Silver vine (*Actinidia polygama*), a potentially aggressive woody vine, was confirmed in Stillwater on May 29, 2025. This woody vine was found by a volunteer during a Minnesota PlantWatch survey for rare native plants.

Figure 1. Silver vine grows vigorously and will climb trees into the canopy.

Dewberry (*Rubus caesius*), a low growing invasive forest understory plant, was confirmed in Minnetonka on September 24, 2025. This bramble was found by a contractor working on buckthorn removal and vegetation restoration.

Figure 2. Dewberry is a low growing bramble with small fruit.

Noxious Weed Advisory Committee (NWAC)

The NWAC Listing Subcommittee updated eight risk assessments of species that are currently regulated in Minnesota and completed one new assessment for hardy kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*). The full committee voted in December to approve the Listing Subcommittee's recommendations and sent them to the commissioner for review. The commissioner approved the recommendations outlined in Table 1. The Noxious Weed List webpage was updated immediately following the commissioner's decision.

Table 1. The nine species' risk assessments that were completed in 2025 and the recommendations made to the commissioner of agriculture.

Scientific name	Common name	Recommendation
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese barberry	*Restricted with exemptions for low fecundity cultivars only and add a three-year phase out for cultivars currently allowed.
Euonymus alatus	Winged burning bush	**Restricted with exemptions for low fecundity cultivars only.
Toxicodendron radicans and T. rydbergii	Poison ivies	Deregulate
Amaranthus palmeri	Palmer amaranth	Remain prohibited eradicate
Centaurea jacea	Brown knapweed	Remain prohibited eradicate
Cynanchum louiseae	Black swallow-wort	Remain prohibited eradicate
Cardamine impatiens	Narrowleaf bittercress	Remain prohibited control
Lythrum salicaria and L. virgatum	Purple loosestrife	Remain prohibited control
Actinidia arguta	Hardy kiwi	Do not list

*** Japanese barberry -** change from allowing certain cultivars to be sold, to prohibiting all cultivars with the exception of the following five cultivars. There is a 3-year nursery production phase out of cultivars currently sold that are not listed below. The phase out ends December 31, 2028

- The following four WorryFree® cultivars:
  - 'UCONNBTCP4N' (PP30,095): Crimson Cutie® produced <= 1.5 seed/plant 3/16 years under evaluation
  - 'UCONNBTB039' (PP30,128): Mr. Green Genes® produced 1 seed per plant in years 2012 and 2013
  - 'UCONNBTB048' (PP30,127): Lemon Glow® produced no seeds between 2008-2021
  - 'UCONNBTB113' (PP30,094): Lemon Cutie® produced no seeds between 2008-2021
- The following Proven Winners® Sunjoy® cultivar:
  - 'NCBT1' (PP30,330): Mini Maroon®

**** Winged burning bush -** allow the sale of only the following cultivars:

- 'NCEA1' (Fire Ball Seedless ™)
- 'ZeroSeed' (ZeroSeed Blaze ™)

Summary of Report on Freedom Honeysuckle Seed Germination

'Freedom' honeysuckle (*Lonicera* x 'Freedom') is a popular cultivar planted for living snow fences, windbreaks, and as an ornamental. This cultivar is a Tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) hybrid. Tatarian honeysuckle is regulated as a restricted noxious weed in Minnesota. These regulations include hybrids such as 'Freedom'. This means that it can't be imported, sold, or transported in Minnesota. Individuals representing the green industry, transportation departments, and conservation districts expressed concern that they could no longer utilize this plant. Some suggested it may be sterile or near sterile because it is a hybrid. Low seed production is a rationale for exempting specific cultivars from regulation. If 'Freedom' proved to be sterile or near sterile, it could be evaluated for exemption.

The MDA responded by collecting and testing seeds for germination and viability. An average of 63.7% of seed was viable. The MDA concluded that 'Freedom' produces sufficient viable seeds to be an invasive plant threat. The request for an exemption based on seed production will not move forward.

Noxious Weed Law

The MDA trained 15 new CAIs in February. MDA staff hosted a refresher course for all CAIs to review Noxious Weed Law (NWL) statutes and CAI duties; 53 CAIs attended the webinar. MDA staff also hosted a webinar for municipalities on weed management that 90 participants attended. Staff also gave presentations to counties that hosted meetings for their local weed inspectors.

The NWAC Management and Policy Subcommittee met several times to discuss and refine updates to the NWL statutes. The changes were intended to clarify language and create a more useful permitting system for transportation, research, and possession (i.e., for identification and education purposes) of noxious weeds. At the time of publication, the recommended changes are under review by the Revisor's Office for consideration for inclusion in the 2026 Governor's Budget.

Education and Training

The NIWP was involved in a variety of education and training events throughout the state. This outreach is critical to the success of the program's mission. By educating partners and the public, the NIWP is increasing the number of people throughout the state that are observing, reporting, and helping to prevent and manage invasive plants and noxious weeds. The following is a list of some of the major education and training events that the MDA hosted or participated in this past year.

- Printed new knotweed factsheet.
- Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI) weed identification training on February 12, 2025, with 63 participants.
- Outdoor group webinar on March 5, 2025, on poison ivy and other toxic plants to over 200 participants.
- Shade Tree Short Course on March 11, 2025, and March 12, 2025, with approximately 30 participants.
- Weed identification training to Department of Administration staff on March 20, 2025.
- CAI short course weed identification training on July 23, 2025, in Mankato with approximately 45 participants.
- Noxious weed disposal at the Solid Waste Administrators Association conference on September 18, 2025.

- Two webinars for CAI grant recipients on the grant processing timeline and on the grant reimbursement process, with a total of 100 participants.
- The Weed of the Month column reached a milestone with over 20,000 subscribers, and the *Smarty Plants* podcast continues to increase the number of streaming downloads and views on YouTube.

Weed Biocontrol

The MDA's Weed Biological Control Program began in 1997. The goal of the program is to promote the use of approved host-specific biological control agents for targeted species to manage large infestations that would otherwise be difficult to control using other methods. Biological control agents are host-specific to the target plant and are commonly insects, though they can also be diseases and pathogens too. Several insect biological control agents are currently available to manage three noxious weeds in Minnesota, and the NIWP oversees activities for two species: leafy spurge (*Euphorbia virgata*) and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*). The primary goal is to establish biological control agents at specific locations across the state, protect them, allow them to develop for several years into collectible populations, and then coordinate with CAIs and other partners to redistribute them to new locations.

Leafy Spurge

Seven leafy spurge biocontrol sites were monitored in Clay, Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, and Ramsey counties. At a site in Clay County, 28,000 beetles were collected on June 24, 2025, and 17,000 were collected on July 1, 2025. They were released at sites in Becker, Carver, Clay, Douglas, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Murray, and Otter Tail counties.

Figure 3. Yellow flower bracts of leafy spurge show a dense infestation in 2018 compared to sparse leafy spurge in 2025.

2018 2025

Spotted Knapweed

A spotted knapweed insectary site (root weevil rearing site) in Pine County was monitored on August 1, 2025. Release locations at Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area were monitored August 13, 2025.

The NIWP requested and received 1,000 root weevils from Montana through a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Program to support state weed biocontrol efforts. These weevils were released August 5, 2025, at a site in Washington County; August 7, 2025, at two sites in Pine County; and on August 8, 2025, at a site in Otter Tail County.

Collaborations

Tree of Heaven

Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) was confirmed in Dakota County on September 25, 2025. Tree of heaven is a prohibited eradicate noxious weed and presents unique management challenges. Practices such as mowing or cutting without applying herbicide stimulate aggressive lateral root and shoot growth. The tree is also a host for the invasive insect, spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), which has been destructive to a variety of plants and crops in eastern states.

The infestation is in a Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) right of way and extends onto two private properties. The MDA and MnDOT met with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), United States Forest Service (USFS), and Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff to assess the site and discuss an initial management plan.

The infestation has approximately 10-15 large trees, 15 foot or taller, growing on private properties, and a mass of shorter trees that were likely mowed in the MnDOT right of way. The infestation covers approximately one acre. The MDA awarded the Dakota SWCD a small grant to work with the landowners and conduct an initial treatment. The MnDOT has already completed an initial treatment on their right of way, and treatments are planned on the two private properties in spring 2026.

The MDA will continue to work with the MnDOT and the Dakota SWCD to facilitate treatments and monitor the site.

Knotweeds

The NIWP collaborated with the MN DNR to utilize United States Forest Service (USFS) funding to treat non-native knotweed (*Polygonum* sp.) populations across southeastern Minnesota using a Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI) crew.

The CCMI crew treated non-native knotweed along five waterways: North Fork Zumbro River (Mazeppa area); Zumbro River from Hammond to Thielman (Figure 4); South Fork Zumbro River, Rochester (within the city); South Fork Zumbro River in Choice WMA; and Maple Creek AMA (Basswood and Bearpaw Roads and MN43) (Figure 5). These waterways span multiple counties, including Wabasha, Olmsted, and Fillmore. The CCMI crew also treated terrestrial infestations at private and municipal sites throughout Olmsted, Winona, and Houston counties. Overall, the CCMI crew treated 80 infestations and 129 acres in five counties.

The CCMI crew conducted treatments throughout a variety of challenges including finding small infestations within dense vegetation, no cell signal, and high waters due to recent rains. It was a huge achievement and many challenges were overcome.

Importantly, infestations along the Zumbro River from Hammond to Thielman (Figure 4) have been treated repeatedly over multiple years and many are no longer present. This is exciting to see that repeated treatments have been successful in combatting knotweeds along this high priority waterway that empties into the Mississippi River. The CCMI crew also surveyed two upstream waterways of the Crystal Springs Hatchery non-native knotweed infestation and didn't find any knotweed. This information will impact future treatment plans.

Figure 4. Zumbro River infestations from Hammond to Thielman. Orange balloons marked "B" indicate infestations. This portion of the waterway has been treated repeatedly over multiple years, and many infestations are no longer present.

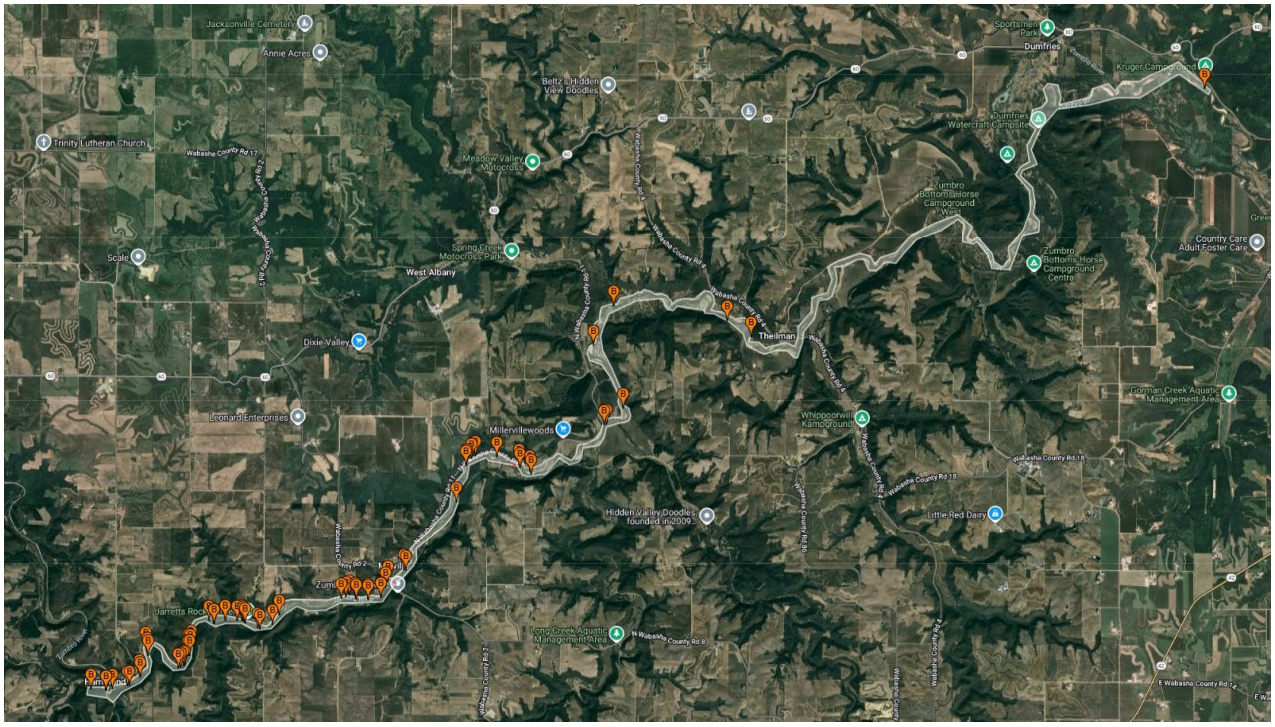
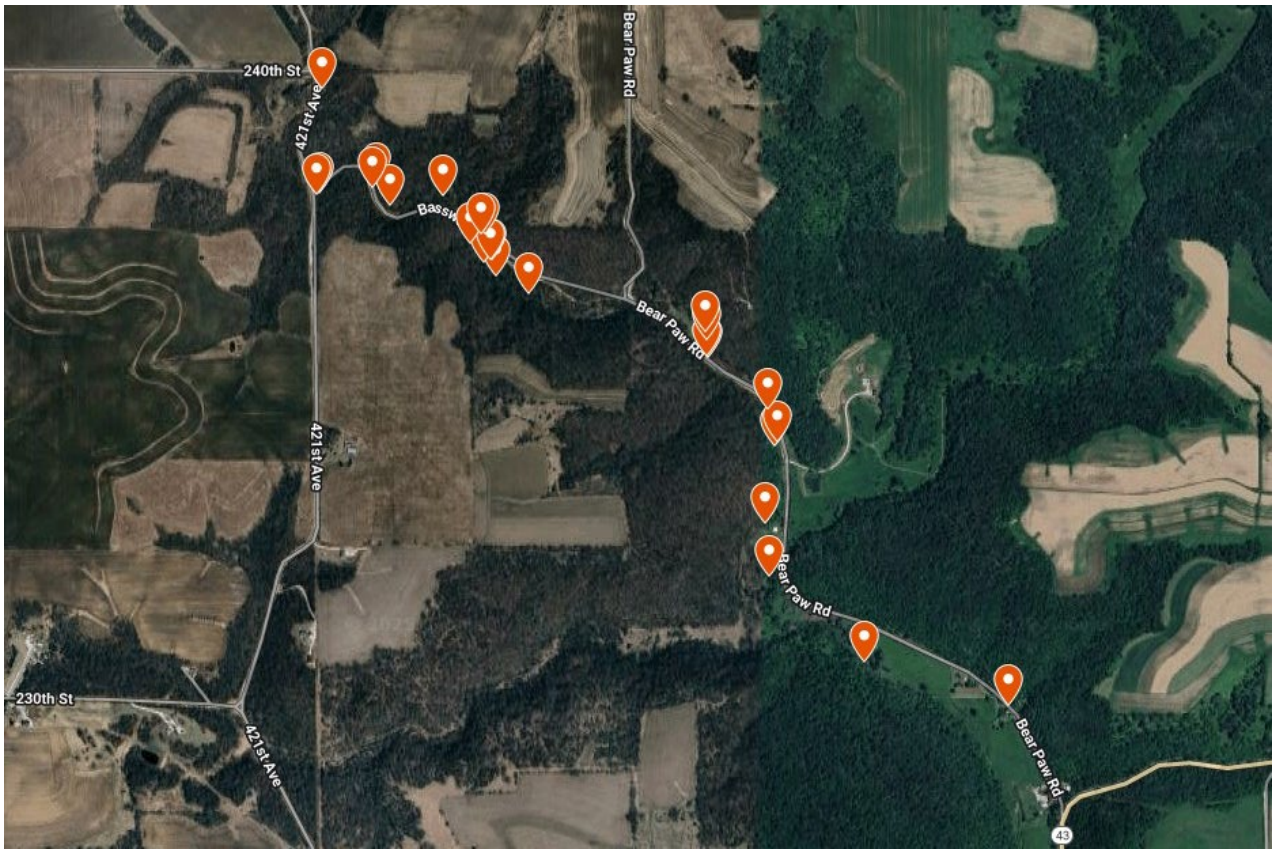


Figure 5. Maple Creek AMA infestations (Basswood and Bearpaw roads and MN43). Red balloons indicate infestation. These infestations were previously treated by Fillmore County SWCD, and the MDA is hopeful that repeated treatments will help prevent infestations downstream.



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Project (GLRI)

This MDA led project is a collaboration with numerous local partners in Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties. The goal is to provide funds and assistance to survey, map, and treat targeted noxious weeds in the Minnesota portion of the Great Lakes Basin. Highlights for 2025 include:

- Wild parsnip management was done at sites in Carlton and Lake counties
- A crew mapped and controlled non-native honeysuckles and buckthorns in Lake and St. Louis counties.
- Follow-up treatments for buckthorn were done in Lake and St. Louis counties
- Many new knotweed locations are mapped in spring and summer in preparation for treatments. Knotweed was treated at 69 locations in Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties in late summer
- Fall buckthorn survey and management activities in Lake County

Surveys

The MDA Plant Protection Division (PPD) had two employees become fully licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to operate Drones. This certification ensured all drone operations were conducted safely, legally, and in compliance with federal regulations. Having in-house, FAA-licensed drone operators allowed the MDA to explore how drone technology could be incorporated into the MDA's pest detection and management work and to build internal capacity for future aerial data collection efforts.

Throughout 2025, these licensed operators completed almost 100 drone flights in support of the MDA's ongoing work. The flights provided valuable aerial perspectives that would have been difficult, time-consuming, or costly to obtain using traditional ground-based methods. Drone use technology allowed the MDA to collect accurate, timely data across large or remote areas, improving both efficiency and decision-making.

These drone flights were conducted for a wide range of purposes. They were used to assess the spread of noxious weeds, complete plant and crop health assessments, and detect insect and disease infestations. Drones also helped determine whether treatment efforts had been successful and allowed surveys of terrain difficult to access on foot or by vehicles, enhancing the NIWP's ability to monitor, evaluate, and respond effectively in the field.

Figure 6. Aerial image of vegetation along a waterway. Use of drones allowed PPD staff to scout for invasive plants along a waterway that would otherwise be difficult and time consuming to walk along.

Figure 7. Aerial image of a crop field showing a distinct patch of weeds.

Figure 8. Aerial image of pigweed growing in a soybean field. Drone use has made it easier to scout large agricultural areas efficiently and identify areas of concern, especially for Palmer amaranth. This allows inspectors to focus manual inspections on priority locations, saving time.

Figure 9. A tree smothered with roundleaf bittersweet vines, illustrating the extent of invasive growth. The drone has allowed for easier and more comprehensive visualization of forest canopies and detection of infestations difficult to see from the ground.

Figure 10. Aerial imagery showing the boundary between a wetland and forest where buckthorn is present. The drone was used to document and visualize the impacts of buckthorn removal within the park. Images were collected early in spring, when buckthorn begins leafing out.

Grants

Noxious Weed Grant 2025 Recipients

In Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), 13 projects totaling $150,000 were awarded though the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant.

Funds awarded to cities, counties, townships, conservation districts, and tribal nations, were used to purchase equipment and supplies, conduct mapping and outreach activities, and hire private applicators to manage noxious weeds.

Grant projects were awarded up to $15,000 to be spent within one year to support local activities.

Since 2017, the MDA has awarded over $1.7 million to local municipalities and tribal nations for projects addressing noxious weeds throughout the state. Cumulatively, grant recipients have surveyed over 19,000 acres and 8,000 roadside miles of land for noxious weeds, resulting in over 11,000 acres and 4,000 roadside miles treated for noxious weeds.

Although funding is limited in scope, the grants have had positive impacts on participating communities. A frequently reported benefit is increased awareness of noxious weeds among landowners. Organizations are also improving weed management practices, including earlier identification of noxious weeds, and better treatment timing.

Table 2. FY25 award recipients by organization, county, and award amount.

Organization	County	Award Amount	Project Title
Anoka Conservation District	Anoka	$15,000	Anoka County Noxious Weed Management
Becker Soil and Water Conservation District	Becker	$9,000	MDA Noxious Weed Grant 2025
Burnhamville Township	Todd	$1,045	Parsnip weeds
City of Columbia Heights	Anoka	$4,000	Columbia Heights Community-based Invasive Plants Management
Hubbard County	Hubbard	$11,783	Brown Knapweed 2025
Norman Soil and Water Conservation District	Norman	$15,000	Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant FY 2025
Prairie Island Indian Community	N/A	$11,000	FY 2025 Noxious Weed Management
Scott Soil and Water Conservation District	Scott	$15,000	Scott CWMA FY2025
St. Louis County	St. Louis	$15,000	SLC Continues the Fight Against Knotweed and Parsnip
Todd County	Todd	$15,000	Preventing Palmer Amaranth Spread
Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District	Wadena	$10,500	2025 Wadena Noxious Weed Financial Assistance Project
Washington Conservation District	Washington	$15,000	Emerging Invasive Species in Washington County 2025
Wright County	Wright	$15,000	Roadway Mapping and Treatments

County Agriculture Inspector Grant 2025

During the 2025 Legislative session, the Minnesota Association of County Agriculture Inspectors (MACAI), with assistance from the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), lobbied to secure funding for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to support CAI duties under the NWL. The appropriation was written as a grant to be administered by the MDA, with funds distributed evenly among qualified applicants meeting legislative criteria.

This grant marks a funding milestone for the CAI position. Historically, the CAI position is mandated by the state but funded by counties through property tax revenues. As more mandates have been passed on to counties, funding and priority for weed management have decreased, and the time available for CAIs to enforce the NWL has varied by county. The grant is intended to help standardize the CAI duties and encourage county and municipal governments to increase detection, management, and enforcement efforts related to noxious weeds in their jurisdictions.

Grant contracts are currently in process. The MDA will formally announce recipients in early spring 2026 after all grant contracts are finalized.

Palmer Amaranth

In 2014, the MDA, with assistance from the University of Minnesota Extension (Extension) and other stakeholders, began an aggressive zero-tolerance program for the disruptive agricultural weed Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*). This species was added to the Prohibited Eradicate Noxious Weed List two years before it was first discovered in the state. The goal was to develop early awareness among farmers, landowners, and land managers, so that once it was discovered, immediate action could be taken. Farmers and landowners were encouraged to report suspect pigweeds to the MDA and Extension for further investigation. In fact, the first and many subsequent findings in the state have occurred through farmers and crop consultants informed about Palmer through the MDA and Extension outreach efforts.

Palmer amaranth was confirmed in Minnesota during the 2016 fall harvest period. Since then, the MDA has received 124 reports spanning 33 counties where Palmer was suspected to have been introduced through several pathways, including planting seed, manure, livestock feed, and equipment. After intensive investigation of each report, Palmer amaranth has been confirmed at 45 of the 124 reported sites (36%) in 18 counties (Table 3).

The following report highlights data from 2025 with previous years data provided for comparison. For more detailed information, please email the MDA Weed Program at noxiousweeds.mda@state.mn.us.

Table 3. Number of locations where Palmer amaranth was suspected or introduced, confirmed locations, and the confirmation percentage by calendar year (numbers represent cumulative sites over time).

Calendar Year	Cumulative Introduced or Suspected Palmer Sites	Cumulative Confirmed Palmer Sites	Percentage of Sites with Confirmed Palmer
2015	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	31	15	48%
2017	53	21	40%
2018	70	23	33%
2019	73	26	36%
2020	76	29	38%
2021	88	35	40%
2022	92	38	41%
2023	94	40	43%
2024	121	44	36%
2025	124	45	36%

In 2025, Palmer was confirmed at one new site in the state (Table 4). The MDA is also collaborating with four landowners to control Palmer at four sites where regrowth persists. All Palmer plants discovered in 2025 were destroyed by NIWP staff on site prior to any mature seed production. Two additional sites were reported this year where Palmer amaranth seed was introduced but was not found growing (Table 6).

Outreach by the MDA, Extension, statewide crop consultants, and other stakeholders has allowed for the continued quick reaction when reports are received, allowing for plants to be managed before they produce and spread more seed. The newly confirmed site, the two sites planted with infested Palmer seed in 2025, and the four sites experiencing regrowth, will be priority locations for survey and inspection by the MDA in 2026.

Table 4. Palmer amaranth presence and recurrence by calendar year.

Calendar Year	First Time Palmer Sites	Recurring Palmer Sites
2015	N/A	N/A
2016	15	0
2017	6	2
2018	2	0
2019	3	0
2020	3	1
2021	6	2
2022	3	4
2023	2	1
2024	4	1
2025	1	4

The MDA defines a Palmer site as the total acres for a jurisdictional property where Palmer has been confirmed. A site is usually a contiguous piece of property, not separated by legal boundaries. For example, a row-crop field managed by a farmer or landowner that is an individually defined property on a county plat map. Typically, the area occupied by Palmer plants is usually smaller than the total acres. In general, when Palmer is confirmed at a site, it is found in a portion or several portions of a site, although on occasion a few sites have had Palmer distributed throughout.

Table 5. Number of site acres impacted by and managed for Palmer amaranth in Minnesota by calendar year.

Calendar Year	Estimated acres affected	Acres being managed or monitored	Percentage of Acres with Palmer vs. Total Suspected Locations
2015	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	114	204	56%
2017	269	512	53%
2018	183	2,479	7%
2019	43	2,521	2%
2020	103	2,490	4%
2021	112	534	21%
2022	102	560	18%
2023	151	345	44%
2024	509	854	60%
2025	669	1,017	66%

Since sites are typically exposed to the same equipment and undergo similar seeding and land management practices, the total site acreage is monitored, measured, and reported. Monitoring the entire site ensures that plants do not germinate in previously undetected areas and allows for management plans to be adjusted when necessary. In 2025, a total of 1017 site acres were monitored by the NIWP, with 669 of those acres (66%) being directly managed for Palmer plants (Table 5). The percentage of total site acres to acres with Palmer growing at the site is dependent on the size and number of sites reported each year, and this can vary considerably (Table 5).

Table 6. Number of Palmer locations being monitored, new introductions, and confirmations by calendar year.

Calendar Year	Total Sites Being Monitored	New Site Locations	Confirmed Palmer Sites (new and recurring)
2015	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	31	31	15
2017	53	22	8
2018	71	17	2
2019	73	3	3
2020	46	3	4
2021	27	12	8
2022	23	4	7
2023	15	2	3
2024	37	4	5
2025	39	3	5

For the MDA to consider an infested location to be eradicated, Palmer must not be found growing for three consecutive years. In 2025, five sites in three counties reached three or more years without Palmer found growing. Three of these five sites had previous Palmer infestations. Currently, five infested sites in five counties are being intensively managed because Palmer was found for the first time this year (one site) or continues to reappear (four sites). The MDA will continue its robust management for these five sites in 2026 and will monitor the remaining 29 suspect sites.

The number of newly confirmed locations with Palmer has remained similar in recent years, with only five locations confirmed in 2025. Following a statewide advertising campaign launched in 2022, along with outreach, cooperator training, and research by the MDA and the University of Minnesota Extension, farmers and landowners are paying greater attention to herbicide resistant weeds like Palmer amaranth. They are also implementing best management practices to reduce the spread of weed seeds through a variety of identified pathways. These efforts are helping to slow the spread of Palmer within Minnesota.

Farmers and landowners remain the state's greatest asset to battling Palmer amaranth and limiting the impact on Minnesota agriculture. Research by the NIWP partners in Extension and at the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Sciences is providing ways for farmers to better manage aggressive herbicide resistant weeds like Palmer. The MDA encourages landowners and residents to report suspected pigweed through the MDA's Report a Pest online form. Early reporting allows NIWP to confirm and manage this important agricultural pest more quickly. For more information about Palmer amaranth, visit the NIWP webpage and become amaranth aware.

Acknowledgements

The NIWP thanks the Minnesota Legislature for its continued support over the past decade. 2025 presented many challenges for the NIWP's federal partners, and their commitment and professionalism to their jobs and perseverance throughout this challenging year is very much appreciated.

The MDA is grateful to its many state, county, municipal, and university partners for their collaboration and contributions. Many thanks to both the CAIs and the members of the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee (NWAC) who help guide and support the NIWP. The CCMI has been instrumental in helping the NIWP manage infestations of high priority noxious weeds like knotweeds and Palmer amaranth.

Finally, kudos to private landowners and farmers for managing noxious weeds on their properties. You are the backbone of noxious and invasive weed management in Minnesota!