Agenda: Noxious Weed Advisory Committee (NWAC)

Date: November 15, 2026

Time: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: In person at the MnDOT Training and Conference Center at 1900 County Road I, Shoreview, MN in Room 9 and online. Click here or on the link in the calendar appointment to join the online Teams meeting.

Meeting materials including the agenda, previous meeting minutes, risk assessments, an assessment recommendation summary, a low fecundity cultivar screening tool, membership lists for both the seed and noxious weed advisory committees, current bylaws and the Seed Program Advisory Committee's Noxious Weed Seed Extension (assessment) are in the Google Drive folder **Meeting Materials**.

Topic: Introductions, 10:00 – 10:15

Topic: Approval of Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes, 10:15 – 10:20

Topic: MDA and Member Updates and Old Business

Listing Subcommittee Updates – Laura (10:20 – 10:30, 10 minutes)

- Based on feedback from the September meeting, updates have been made to the yellow archangel risk assessment. The document "Yellow archangel TO NWAC SEPT 11 02 track changes" has been added to the NWAC Sharepoint folder for 2026 Risk Assessments. Updates include highlighting Minnesota natural areas with yellow archangel reports, moving the EDDMapS future range prediction maps to Question 6C with additional context, and adding the first Minnesota herbarium specimen (2008) information to Question 6A.
- Jim Calkins (MNLA) provided additional horticultural valuation information for the species being assessed. This information has been added to the risk assessments (see Sharepoint link above). Angelica tree, bristly locust, creeping bellflower, empress tree, and yellow flowered teasel were not found to be economically important. Economic data had been collected on yellow archangel previously and was already in the document presented in September. Jim's full report "Estimated Economic Values for 2026-2028 Landscape Plant Risk Assessments - October 30, 2026" has been added to the Sharepoint link above.
- Low fecundity cultivar assessment tool final version will be discussed today.

Management and Policy Subcommittee and Grants Updates – Emilie (10:30 – 10:40, 10 minutes)

Seed Program Advisory Committee Updates – Mike (10:40 – 10:50, 10 minutes)

Topic: New Business, 10:50 – 1:45 with a 30 minute lunch break

Prepare to vote on species regulatory recommendations in December – Laura (10:50 – 11:10, 20 minutes)

For species being voted on in December: if NWAC members have additional questions on the assessments or additional information they would like to see added to the assessments, please share that information at this time. This will give authors time to find answers and incorporate information before the December voting meeting. It is hard for authors to find information on the fly on voting day. It is also hard for representatives of organizations to change their planned votes on the fly on voting day. Use this time on the agenda to share thoughts and concerns on the species being voted on so that members have time to hear and consider your ideas. There is an assessment recommendation summary in the Google Drive folder **Meeting Materials**.

Legislative update and subcommittee assigned work/priorities procedure – Tony (11:10 – 11:30, 20 minutes)

Break 11:30 – 11:40

Bylaws update – Emilie and Tony (11:40 – 12:00, 20 minutes)

Current bylaws were updated in 2020 and are in the Google Drive folder **Meeting Materials**.

Lunch (12:00 – 12:30, 30 minutes)

Screening Tool Final Version for Evaluating Low Fecundity Cultivars Questions and Discussion – Laura (12:30 – 12:50, 20 minutes)

There is a document called MIPN Cultivar Screening Tool 1.0 in both the 2026 Risk Assessments and Meeting Materials folders. This document was developed by a working group convened by the Midwest Invasive Plant Network. It was presented in September. This is an opportunity for further questions and discussion. There will be a vote at our December meeting on whether to use this tool.

Cultivars that plant breeders/sellers have asked to be assessed in 2027:

- Glossy buckhorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) cultivar 'Ron Williams' Fine Line
- Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) cultivar “NCBX1” Sunjoy ‘Todo’
- Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) cultivar ‘ORSTBT3x1’ StoneFree™ Berry Bold™ seedless barberry
- Japanese barberry with purple foliage (*Berberis thunbergii* var. *atropurpurea*) ‘ORSTBT4x1’ StoneFree™ Afterglow™ seedless purple barberry.

Potential wording for the December vote: “The NWAC Listing Subcommittee should use the MIPN low fecundity cultivar screening tool in 2027 on the cultivars that are currently awaiting review. The Listing Subcommittee will present the results of those assessments at the September 2027 full NWAC meeting. At that time, they will also discuss any issues and potential amendments they see as needed for the MIPN low fecundity screening tool.”

- A “yes” vote would authorize the NWAC Listing Subcommittee to use the MIPN cultivar screening tool on the four species listed above.
- A “no” vote would mean that no cultivars will be assessed in 2027 for potential exemption and alternative screening methods would need to be discussed in 2027.

Topic: Membership, Next Meeting Date and Goals, 12:50 – 1:00

Membership terms and open seats

- There are open seats for the Association of Minnesota Counties and an Environmental Organization.

Next meeting date

- Next meeting will be on December 15, 2026. There will be voting on regulatory recommendations based on risk assessments and a presentation by Lee Frelich with updates about buckthorn management and the role of earthworms with buckthorn invasion.

Future meeting goals

- Invite a foraging task force member to present on foraging and noxious weeds
- Assisted migration - Superior National Forest’s plan was recommended by a committee member
- Presentation from a township about weed management
- Presentation about goats and buckthorn control research
- MITPPC presentation on the online sales of invasive plants
- Invasive species management along right of ways – reach out to MI DOT
- Stiltgrass presentation
- Future update from Leech Lake Dept of Resource Management about use of steam/hot water for invasive plant control

Adjourn