

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage & Mulch Certification Program

Introduction

Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) offers certification of forage and mulch products in Iowa according to the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) standards. The standards are designed:

- to provide some assurance to all participants that forage or mulch certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard.
- to provide continuity between the various states and provinces in this program.
- to limit the spread of noxious weeds.

Certification allows products properly labeled to be shipped into restricted areas in the United States and Canada where only forage and mulch certified under the NAISMA standards can be used.

How to Apply for Certification of Products

Submit field inspection application forms to ICIA at least 3 weeks prior to the expected cutting date. Late applications cannot be guaranteed to be accepted into the program and will result in late fees being assessed if accepted.

Complete applications include:

1. An Application for Field Inspection (1 per field)
2. Field map
3. Production Agreement (1 per year)

A field is defined as the area occupied by one crop, covered by one inspection report and not divided by streams, public roads, other crops, or other barriers that materially increase the difficulty of inspection.

A storage site is defined as any location where harvested certified forage or mulch will be stored pending sale.

Once your application is received, an inspector will contact you to determine the best time for inspection.

General Field Standards

1. Fields and storage sites shall be free of the noxious weeds and undesirable plant species identified in Appendix A.
2. The fields and storage sites must be inspected by ICIA within 10 days prior to cutting or harvesting.
3. Products shall be inspected in the field of origin. The field includes the surrounding ditches, fence rows, roads, easements, grass waterways, or a buffer zone surrounding the field.

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4. Fields and storage sites which contain noxious weeds or undesirable plant species (as identified in Appendix A) may be certified if the following requirements are met:
 - 4.1 The noxious weeds and undesirable plant species in the field were treated to prevent seed formation or seed ripening to the degree that there is no danger of dissemination of the seed or the propagating parts of the plant capable of producing a new plant.
 - 4.2 The noxious weeds and undesirable plant species were treated not later than the rosette to bud stage (or boot stage for grass species classified as weeds) prior to cutting or harvesting.
 - 4.3 The treatment method is not limited to:
 - 4.3.1 Burning
 - 4.3.2 Mowing or cutting
 - 4.3.3 Roguing
 - 4.3.4 Chemicals
 - 4.4 If noxious weeds have not been treated and are present in areas adjacent to the field, an isolation/buffer strip at least 10 feet wide must be established between the field and the area infested with noxious weeds. The strip can be established by mowing or cultivation.
5. An Inspection Report will be issued by ICIA after field inspection and will indicate if the field requirements are met.

Field Inspections

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the crop is inspected before harvest.

Field inspection is a thorough visual examination of the forage or mulch production site by the inspector to determine if certification standards are met. The inspection follows these guidelines:

1. There will be a minimum of two entry points per field.
2. There will be a minimum of one entry point per each 10 acres for fields over 20 acres.
3. Each point of entry shall be at least 150 feet into the field, and each additional 150 feet shall constitute an entry point. Travel shall be uninterrupted, proceeding through the field being inspected.
4. The entire field border shall be walked or driven.
5. Field shall be inspected within 10 days of harvest.
6. An inspector may not inspect fields of which said inspector has ownership or financial interest.

If a field does not pass inspection- i.e. noxious weeds in the field or lack of required isolation/buffer strips, the applicant may request a re-inspection once corrections are made. Once corrections are complete, contact ICIA requesting re-inspection to verify the required corrections have been made. A re-inspection fee will be charged. An inspector will verify the corrections are made.

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Storage Site Inspections

1. The storage site will be inspected during field inspection.
2. The site must be free from noxious weed seeds and noxious weeds capable of producing seeds during the time the certified product will be stored.
3. Product stored at a site not inspected or at a site not meeting requirements is not eligible for certification.

Certification Labeling

Certification labels will be issued for eligible product by ICIA upon request by the applicant after harvest is complete. Each bale must be individually labeled to finish certification on the product.

To request labels from ICIA, complete the Certification Tag Request on the Inspection Certificate with the following and submit it to ICIA:

1. Date of Cutting
2. Number and type of bale harvested
3. Average Weight per bale
4. Number of Tags desired at this time
5. Signature and Date
6. Payment for labels

The applicant is responsible for putting the labels on the bales before it is sold and transported. Certification is not complete until labels are attached.

Interstate Shipment

Interstate shipment of certified product may be accompanied by a transit certificate if required by the receiving party or another entity. Official transit certificates are available from ICIA upon request.

Applicant's Responsibilities

1. Complete the application for field and storage site inspection at least 3 weeks prior to cutting for forage.
2. Prepare the field for inspection. Treat noxious weeds and undesirable plant species (see Appendix A) in and adjacent to the production field as described in the standards. If noxious weeds in adjacent areas are not treated, a 10-foot-wide isolation/buffer strip must be established by mowing or cultivation.
3. Confirm the field was inspected before harvest. Fields harvested before inspection by ICIA cannot be certified. Notify ICIA if harvest is a week out and you have not been contacted by an inspector.

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4. Maintain the identity of all forage or mulch harvested from fields meeting certification standards. The forage or mulch must be stored in an inspected storage site separate from uncertified forage or mulch. A written record of certified material stored at this site shall be maintained.
5. Request certification labels.
6. Attach the certification labels provided by ICIA to eligible forage.
7. Keep accurate records of the amount of product harvested from each field including where the product is stored after harvest. The following records must be maintained and made available upon request by ICIA:
 - 7.1 The number and average weight of bales harvested.
 - 7.2 The exact location of the inspected site where bales are stored.
 - 7.3 Harvest date.
 - 7.4 Field number(s) and location(s) of the field(s) where the product was produced.
 - 7.5 Copies of all certification documents.
 - 7.6 Current inventory records.

Iowa Crop Improvement Association's Responsibilities

1. Supply each grower with instructions and materials for making applications for field and storage site inspection.
2. Inspect fields and storage areas in a timely manner.
3. Issue labels for qualified product upon request.
4. Issue transit certificates for eligible products upon request.
5. Publish a directory of producers of certified noxious weed seed free forage.
6. Maintain records including field applications, inspection reports and serial numbers of labels issued.

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Appendix A : NAISMA Noxious Weed and Undesirable Plant List

| Common Name | Latin Name | Common Name | Latin Name |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Absinth wormwood | <i>Artemisia absinthium</i> | Musk thistle * | <i>Carduus nutans</i> |
| Austrian fieldcress | <i>Rorippa austriaca</i> | Orange hawkweed | <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i> |
| Buckthorn * | <i>Rhamnus</i> spp. Excludes <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> | Oxeye daisy | <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> |
| Buffalobur | <i>Solanum rostratum</i> | Perennial pepperweed | <i>Lepidium latifolium</i> |
| Bull thistle * | <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (Savi.) Tenore | Perennial sowthistle * | <i>Sonchus arvensis</i> |
| Canada thistle * | <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Plumeless thistle | <i>Carduus acanthoides</i> |
| Common burdock | <i>Arctium minus</i> | Poison hemlock | <i>Conium maculatum</i> |
| Common crupina | <i>Crupina vulgaris</i> | Puncturevine | <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> |
| Common mullein | <i>Verbascum Thapsus</i> | Purple loosestrife | <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> |
| Common tansy | <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> | Quackgrass * | <i>Agropyron repens</i> |
| Common teasel | <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> | Rush skeletonweed | <i>Chondrilla juncea</i> |
| Cutleaf teasel | <i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i> | Russian knapweed * | <i>Centaurea repens</i> |
| Dame's rocket | <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> | Scentless chamomile | <i>Matricaria perforata</i> or <i>M. milaceum</i> |
| Dalmatian toadflax | <i>Linaria dalmatica</i> | Scotch thistle | <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> |
| Diffuse knapweed | <i>Centaurea diffusa</i> | Sericea Lespedeza | <i>Lespedeza cuneata</i> |
| Dyers woad | <i>Isatis tinctoria</i> | Spotted knapweed | <i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i> DC |
| Field bindweed * | <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> | Squarrose knapweed | <i>Centaurea virgata</i> |
| Field scabious | <i>Knautia arvensis</i> | St. Johnswort | <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> |
| Henbane, Black | <i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> | Sulfur cinquefoil | <i>Potentilla recta</i> |
| Hoary Alyssum | <i>Berteroa incana</i> | Tall buttercup | <i>Ranunculus acris</i> |
| Hoary cress * | <i>Cardaria</i> spp.; <i>Lepidium draba</i> | Tall thistle * | <i>Cirsium altissimum</i> |
| Horsenettle * | <i>Solanum carolinense</i> | Tansy ragwort | <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> |
| Houndstongue | <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> | Vipers Bugloss/Blueweed | <i>Echium vulgare</i> |
| Johnsongrass | <i>Sorghum halepense</i> | Wild oats | <i>Avena fatua</i> |
| Jointed Goatgrass | <i>Aegilops cylindrica</i> | Wild proso millet | <i>Panicum miliaceum</i> |
| Leafy spurge * | <i>Euphorbia esula</i> | Yellow hawkweed | <i>Hieracium caespitosum</i> (Dumort) |
| Meadow knapweed | <i>Centaurea pratensis</i> | Yellow starthistle | <i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> |
| Medusahead | <i>Taeniatherum caput- medusae</i> | Yellow toadflax | <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> |

* Iowa Primary Noxious Weed