

Specific Certification Standards NCCIA Noxious Weed Free Forage and Mulch

I. General Certification Standards as Applied to Weed Free Forage and Mulch

These certification standards comply with the Weed Free Forage Certification Standards developed by the Weed Free Forage Committee of the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA).

II. Definitions

Field

Field is 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 field or portion of a field may be certified. If the certified forage or mulch field is also being inspected for certified seed production, indicate the corresponding seed production field number(s) on the application form.

Cubed hay

Harvested with equipment which forms the hay into small compact self-binding units. These are not considered pellets as defined in this document, and therefore the field of origin must be certified.

Forage (hay, straw, mulch)

Any crop, including alfalfa, grass, small grains, straw, and similar crops and commodities, that is grown, harvested, and sold for livestock forage, bedding material, or mulch or related uses and the byproducts of those crops or commodities that have been processed into pellets, cubes, or related products.

Noxious Weeds

Those plant species, including any weed seed or propagative plant parts, designated by the North American Weed Free Forage Committee in Appendix A and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Pellets

Agglomerated feed formed by compacting and forcing through die openings by a mechanical process.

Propagules

Any part of a plant capable of enabling it to reproduce (may include seeds, roots, and/or stolons).

III. Field and Storage Site Inspection Standards

- a) Forage/mulch field and storage sites must be inspected by NCCIA weed free certification specialist to be eligible for certification
- b) Forage, mulch and storage sites must be free of those noxious weeds and undesirable plant species identified in **Appendix A**.
- c) Forage and mulch shall be inspected in the field of origin. The field inspection must include surrounding ditches, fence rows, roads, easements, grass waterways, or a buffer zone surrounding the field. Applicants must supply maps to field and storage sites.
- d) The field and storage sites must be inspected by at least 10 days prior to cutting or harvesting.
- e) Fields and storage sites containing weeds found in **Appendix A** may be certified if the following requirements are met:
 - i. Noxious weeds are treated to prevent seed formation or seed ripening to

the degree that there is no danger of dissemination of the seed or other propagules capable of producing a new plant

- ii. The noxious weeds are treated no later than the rosette to bud stage (boot stage for grass species) prior to cutting or harvesting
 - iii. The treatment methods can include but are not limited to:
 1. Burning
 2. Mowing
 3. Rogueing
 4. Chemical
- f) Fields or parts of fields may be rejected if they contain excess weeds not listed in **Appendix A**.
 - g) If noxious weeds have not been treated and are present in areas adjacent to the field (or portion of), an isolation/buffer strip (10' minimum) must be established between the harvested area and the infested area.
 - h) Pellets and Pelleted milled feeds must be certified in the field of origin if heat is not used in the process. If heat is used (minimum 140°F), pellets may be certified base on official testing by the NCDA seed laboratory for weed seed viability.
 - i) Field Inspection Reports will be issued by NCCIA indicating that the above requirements have been met based upon the field inspection.
 - j) Products passing field inspection shall be eligible for receive a Transit Certificate for a fee.
 - k) Product that is processed further at a bale conversion site or “cutter” is only eligible to be sold as NAISMA weed free if the “cutter” is a member of NCCIA and passes a facility inspection conducted by an NCCIA trained inspector.
 - l) Cubed hay may also be certified if field of origin and storage has been certified by NCCIA.

IV. Maintaining Identity of Harvested Forage

The applicant must keep accurate record of the amount of forage/mulch harvested from each field including storage site. The following records must be maintained and must be made available upon request by NCCIA.

- a) The number and average weight of harvested unit
- b) Exact location of storage
- c) Date of harvest
- d) Field location (GPS of field centroid) or Field ID #
- e) Copies of certification document
- f) Total product shipped

V. Total Production

- a) A copy of total product shipped must be provided to NCCIA annually

VI. Annual Certification Markings and Labeling

The following are accepted labeling practices:

- a) Special yellow and purple twine (intertwined)
 - i. Twine is ordered in October and shipped in January.
 - ii. At least one strand of purple and Yellow twine must encircle the bale
- b) Bale Tags or Weed Free Product Certificates, available from NCCIA
- c) Transit Certificate, available from NCCIA and are required for out of state shipments.

Appendix A: North American Designated Noxious Weed and North Carolina Noxious and Undesirable Weeds

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

Yellow hawkweed (*Hieracium pratense*)
Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)
Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

Additional weeds designated as

Prohibited noxious in North Carolina:

Balloon vine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.)
Crotalaria (*Crotalaria spectabilis*)
Itchgrass (*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*)
Jimsonweed (*Datura stamonium* L.)
Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)
Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)
Witchweed (*Striga* spp.)
Bushkiller (*Cayratia japonica*)
Yellow Fieldcress (*Rorippa sylvestris* L.)
Lythrum (all spp.)
Mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata* L.)
Puncturevine (*Tribulusterrestris* L.)
Beach Vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*)
Uruguay Waterprimrose (*Ludwigia hexapetala*)
Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Additional weeds designated as

undesirable by NC Crop Improvement Association :

Dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.)
Bermudagrass* (*Cynodon dactylon*)
Wild mustard (*Brassica kaber* var. *pinnatifida*)
Wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*)
Wild onion (*Allium cacdense*)
Wild garlic (*Allium vneale*)
Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*)
Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*)
Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*)
Mary's Grass (*Microstegium vimineum* var. *imberbe*)
Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*)

*Bermudagrass permitted in the case of Bermudagrass forage