

# **INDIANA NOXIOUS WEED SEED FREE FORAGE & MULCH CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

There is growing demand in North America for the use of certified noxious weed seed free forage and mulch as a preventative program to limit the spread of noxious weeds. For purposes of this document, forage includes hay, cubes and pellets. Mulch includes straw for animal bedding, mulching or other uses. This voluntary certification program is designed to assure these products, sold with proper certification identification, meets minimum standards designed to limit the spread of noxious weed seeds. Buyers are provided assurance that forage and mulch certified through this program meets these minimum standards.

The Indiana Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) is the designated official seed certifying agency in the State of Indiana - authorized to certify seeds, plants or plant parts. ICIA has also been designated as the official Noxious Weed Free Forage and Mulch Certification Agency for Indiana by the Director of Purdue Agricultural Research Programs in consultation with the Office of the Indiana State Chemist and Seed Commissioner.

These certification standards comply with the Weed Free Forage Certification Standards developed by North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA). NAWMA has established minimum standards to allow uniform participation by states and provinces in the program. Forage and mulch certified under the ICIA certification program with proper certification markings attached will be eligible to be shipped into restricted areas in the United States and Canada where only forage and mulch certified under the NAWMA Standards can be used.

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 weed through forage and mulch

The various field and storage site inspections that are an integral part of this program minimize the opportunity for the certified products to contain noxious weed seeds. However, the production and distribution of certified material depends on the integrity of those participating in the program. ICIA makes no warranty of any kind, express or implied, including the warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. There are no warranties that extend beyond the description of the face thereof.

## **II. APPLICATION FOR FIELD AND STORAGE SITE INSPECTION**

Applicants desiring to have their forage and/or mulch certified must apply to the Indiana Crop Improvement Association on the application form supplied by the Association. Forms are available upon request from the Indiana Crop Improvement Association, 7700 Stockwell Road, Lafayette, Indiana, 47909; phone 866-899-2518; email at [icia@indianacrop.org](mailto:icia@indianacrop.org).

Mulch field inspection applications must be received no later than May 15th. Forage field inspection applications must be received 4 weeks prior to cutting. Late applications may result in the field inspection not being made. If such inspections can be arranged, a late application fee may be assessed.

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. 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.

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

## **III. GENERAL STANDARDS**

Fields and storage sites shall be free of those noxious weeds and undesirable plant species identified in Appendix A.

1. In Indiana, forage and straw production fields and storage sites shall be inspected by ICIA.
2. Products shall be inspected in the field of origin. The field shall include the surrounding ditches, fence rows, roads, easements, grass waterways, or a buffer zone surrounding the field.
3. The fields and storage sites must be inspected by ICIA prior to cutting or harvesting.
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:
  - a. The noxious weeds and undesirable plant species in the field in which the forage or mulch is being produced 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.

- b. 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.
  - c. The treatment method can include but is not limited to:
    - Mowing or cutting
    - Roguing
    - Chemicals
  - d. If noxious weeds have not been treated and are present in areas adjacent to the field, an isolation/buffer strip must be established between the crop to be harvested and the area infested with noxious weeds. This strip must be no less than 10 feet wide. The strip can be established by mowing or cultivation.
5. 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 in the processing, pellets and pelleted milled feeds may be certified based on official testing by the ICIA seed laboratory for weed seed viability. Samples must be taken in an ICIA approved manner.
6. An Inspection Certificate shall be issued by ICIA indicating that the above requirements have been met based upon field inspection.

#### **IV. FIELD INSPECTIONS**

To be eligible for certification, fields must be inspected by a representative of ICIA before harvest. A crop that is harvested prior to inspection is not eligible for certification. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the crop has been inspected before harvest.

Field inspection is a thorough examination of the forage or mulch production site to confirm compliance with the certification standards. A visual inspection of the field and entire field border will be made by the inspector. ICIA's inspection procedures will follow the guidelines established by the NAWMA Weed Free Forage Standards.

Minimum guidelines for field inspection:

1. There shall be a minimum of two entry points per field.
2. There shall be a minimum of one entry point per each 10 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.

Reinspection procedures:

The applicant may request a reinspection when a portion of field does not meet the certification standards - i.e. noxious weeds in the field or lack of required isolation/buffer strips.

1. The applicant shall make the required correction(s) as indicated on the original inspection report.
2. The applicant shall contact the ICIA office requesting reinspection to verify the required corrections have been completed. A reinspection fee will be charged.
3. A new inspection certificate shall be issued by ICIA indicating the requirements have been met based upon the reinspection.

## **V. STORAGE SITE INSPECTIONS**

1. All storage sites shall be inspected within 10 days prior to use.
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 is not eligible for certification.
4. Product stored an inspected site not meeting the freedom from noxious weeds requirement is not eligible for certification.

## **VI. CERTIFICATION LABELING**

Certification tags will be issued for eligible product by ICIA upon request by the applicant. Each bale or container shall be individually labeled.

Certification tag minimum requirements:

1. The words “North American Weed Free Forage Certification Program”.
2. The statement “Certified to the North American Standards”.
3. State of issue – agency name and telephone number.
4. Producer number and lot number.

## **VII. MAINTAINING IDENTITY OF HARVESTED PRODUCT**

The applicant must 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:

1. The number and average weight of bales harvested.
2. The exact location of the inspected site where bales are stored.
3. Date of harvest.
4. Field number(s) and location(s) of the field(s) where the product was produced.
5. Copies of all certification documents.
6. Current inventory records.

Records must be made available upon request by ICIA

## VIII. 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 and contain the information necessary to meet the North American Weed Management Association standards.

### APPENDIX A

#### NAWMA Designated Noxious Weed and Undesirable Plant List

The following weeds have been designated as noxious or objectionable in the NAWMA Weed Free Certification Program

1. Absinth (*Artemisia absinthium*)
2. Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)
3. Buffalobur (*Solanum rostratum*)
4. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
5. Common burdock (*Arctium minus*)
6. Common crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*)
7. Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
8. Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)
9. Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
10. Dyers woad (*Isatis tinctoria*)
11. Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
12. Hemp (marijuana) (*Cannabis sativa*)
13. Henbane, Black (*Hyoscyamus niger*)
14. Hoary cress (*Cardaria* spp.)
15. Horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*)
16. Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale* L.)
17. Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)
18. Jointed Goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*)
19. Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
20. Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
21. Matgrass (*Nardus stricta*)
22. Meadow knapweed (*Centaurea pratensis*)
23. Medusa head (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)
24. Miliun (*Milium vernale*)
25. Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
26. Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium auranthiacum*)
27. Oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)
28. Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)
29. Perennial sorghum (*Sorghum alnum*)
30. Perennial Sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*)
31. Plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*)
32. Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
33. Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)
34. Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*)
35. Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)
36. Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*)
37. Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria maritima*)
38. Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
39. Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)

40. Sericea Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
41. Silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*)
42. Skeletonleaf bursage (*Ambrosia tomentosa*)
43. Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)
44. Squarrose knapweed (*Centaurea virgata*)
45. St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
46. Sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)
47. Syrian beancaper (*Zygophyllum fabago* L.)
48. Tansy ragwort (*Senecia Jacobaea*)
49. Toothed spurge (*Euphorbia dentate*)
50. Wild oats (*Avena fatua*)
51. Wild proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum*)
52. Yellow Hawkweed (*Hieracium pratense*)
53. Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)
54. Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

Additional weeds designated as noxious under the Indiana Noxious Weed Law:

55. Wild garlic (*Allium vineale*)
56. Wild onion (*Allium canadense*)

The following weed species are classified as restricted noxious in Indiana and are considered Undesirable on the designated list:

57. Bitter wintercress/Yellow rocket  
(*Barbarea vulgaris*)
58. Buckhorn (*Plantago lanceolata*)
59. Cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*)
60. Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*)
61. Curled dock (*Rumex crispus*)
62. Dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.)
63. Eastern black nightshade
64. Giant foxtail (*Setaria viridis*)
65. Field pepperweed (*Lepidium campestre*)
66. Mustard (*Brassica kaber*)
67. Pennycress (*Thlaspi arvense*)

## APPENDIX B

### **IX. APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Be a member of the Indiana Crop Improvement Association.
2. Complete the application for field and storage site inspection by May 15th for mulch or 4 weeks prior to cutting for forage. Include:
  - a. A map indicating location of field.
  - b. A map indicating the location of storage area.
  - c. Indication of whether the field is being applied for under the seed certification or Quality Assurance programs.
  - d. The field and storage site inspection fee.
  - e. Approximate cutting date.
3. 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.
4. All fields must be inspected prior to harvest by ICIA to qualify for certification. Notify ICIA if your fields are within a week of cutting and you do not have an inspection report indicating that the field has been inspected.
5. If the field meets certification standards, proceed to Step 6. If the field does not meet the standards, review the Reinspection Procedures listed under Field Inspection on page 3 of this document.
6. Maintain the identity of all forage or mulch harvested from fields meeting the 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.
7. Request certification labels from the ICIA office. Report the number and size of the packages/bales from each eligible field at the time labels are being requested.
8. Attach the certification tags provided by ICIA to eligible forage.

### **X. THE INDIANA 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 upon receiving appropriate applications.
3. Issue labels for product that qualifies under the certification standards.
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 tags issued.