

Maryland's Noxious Weeds



Bull Thistle



Canadian Thistle



Johnsongrass



Shatter Cane

For Additional Information Contact:

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Roads Division
758 East Old Philadelphia Road (Route 7)
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50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
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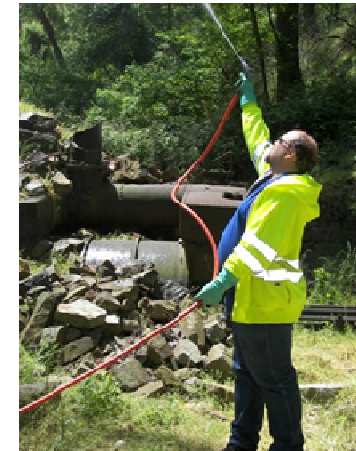
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Cecil County
Department of Public Works

Noxious Weed Control

A Guide for County Landowners



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In Cooperation with the Maryland
Department of Agriculture

What does Maryland state law say regarding control of noxious weeds?

- The Agriculture Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland declares the following plants to be noxious weeds in the State:
 - Thistles belonging to the Asteraceae or Compositae family, including Canada, Musk, Nodding, Plumeless, and Bull Thistle
 - Johnsongrass (Sorghum Halepense) or hybrids that contain Johnsongrass as a parent; and
 - Shatter Cane and Wild Cane (Sorghum Bicolor)
- In addition, the Agriculture Article declares *rosa multiflora*, commonly known as multiflora rose, to be a public and common nuisance on land used for agricultural production.
- State law requires anyone owning or managing land within the State of Maryland, including public entities, to eradicate or control the noxious weeds on that land by using approved practices including mowing, cultivating, or treating with an approved herbicide.



Why are these plants regulated?

- Noxious weeds threaten the productive land of farmers and can cause unsightly and unwanted problems in the lawns and gardens of homeowners.

What is the County's weed control program and how can it help?

- Landowners and managers with the proper equipment, licenses, and expertise can eradicate or control noxious weeds on their properties themselves or they can hire properly licensed commercial services to do so on their behalf.
- As a service to County residents, the Cecil County Department of Public Works (DPW), in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, operates a weed control program to assist farmers, developers, right-of-way owners, federal, state, and local agencies and other landowners in controlling noxious weeds and certain other invasive species such as phragmites.
- The County weed control program is managed by DPW's Roads Division and provides spot and boom spraying of approved herbicides on a fee-for-service basis.
- The County weed control program is overseen and rates set by a Weed Control Advisory Board appointed by the Board of Cecil County Commissioners.

What are the rates for the County's weed control services?

- Landowners using the County's weed control services are billed an hourly rate for labor plus the cost of the herbicides used.
- Hourly rates:

• Farm Land	\$55 per hour
• Non-Farm Land	\$70 per hour
• CRP/CREP Sites	\$125 per hour
• Aquatic Weeds	\$125 per hour
• Invasive Species	\$100 per hour
• Helper	\$25 per hour
• Minimum Charge	\$100
- Failure to pay for services rendered can result in a lien being placed against the property by the Cecil County Treasurer's Office.

What are the penalties for failing to control noxious weeds?

- Landowners or managers who fail to control noxious weeds can be prosecuted by the State's Attorney.
- The first offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding three months, or both.
- Second or subsequent offenses are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.