

# Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Program Information

## Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) regulates the Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Control List and implements federal and state eradication and control programs.

PDA also provides plant identification and information. In addition, PDA maintains the State Herbarium.

Noxious weeds are placed within one of three classes, Class A, B, or C, based on spread and eradication potential and include the Federal Noxious Weed list by default as Class C weeds.

### **Class A Noxious Weeds**

Preventing new infestations and eradicating existing infestations of noxious weeds in the class is a high priority.

### **Class B Noxious Weeds**

The department may require control of Class B weeds to contain a harmful infestation or may provide education or technical consultation.

### **Class C Noxious Weeds**

The highest priority is preventing the introduction and eradicating infestations of noxious weeds in this class. Class C noxious weeds are any Federal noxious weeds listed in 7 CFR 360.200 (relating to the designation of noxious weeds) or any weeds not established in the Commonwealth that are not referenced above.

A controlled plant is a species or subspecies designated by the committee as a controlled plant and is regulated to prevent uncontained growth and to negate undesirable characteristics.

### **Controlled Plants**

**Hemp** - Cannabis sativa L and any viable part of that plant with a delta-9 THC concentration of less than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

Plants included on the Controlled Plant & Noxious Weed Lists has been voted on and approved by the Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee and will become official 60 days after publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

The Resources page also provides information on Pennsylvania's current noxious weeds.

Questions regarding the control programs should be directed to Trilby Libhart at [tlibhart@pa.gov](mailto:tlibhart@pa.gov), by phone at 877-464-9333, or to the Bureau of Plant Industry contact listed at the [PDA Regional Office](#) near you.

### **About Noxious Weeds**

Noxious weeds are identified as a plant dangerous to public health, crops, livestock, agricultural land, or other property and cannot be sold, transported, planted, or otherwise propagated in Pennsylvania.

Weeds are placed within one of three classes, Class A, B, or C, based on spread and eradication potential and include the Federal Noxious Weed list by default as Class C weeds.

**Class B Noxious Weed-**

- It is widely established in Pennsylvania
- It cannot feasibly be eradicated

**Noxious Weeds List:**

**Class B Noxious Weeds**

- Bull thistle or Spear thistle - *Cirsium vulgare*
- Canada Thistle - *Cirsium arvense*
- Musk Thistle or Nodding Thistle - *Carduus nutans*
- Johnson Grass - *Sorghum halepense*
- Mile-a-Minute - *Persicaria perfoliata*
- Multiflora Rose - *Rosa multiflora*
- Purple Loosestrife - *Exotic Lythrum species*, including *Lythrum salicaria L.* (commonly known as purple loosestrife), the *Lythrum salicaria* complex, and *Lythrum virgatum L.* (commonly known as European wand loosestrife), their cultivars and any combination thereof
- Shattercane - *Sorghum bicolor*
- Poison hemlock - *Conium maculatum*
- Tree-of-heaven - *Ailanthus altissima*
- Parrot feather - *Myriophyllum aquaticum*
- Wild parsnip - *Pastinaca sativa* (except for non-wild cultivated varieties)
- Japanese knotweed - *Reynoutria japonica*
- Giant knotweed - *Reynoutria sachalinensis*
- Bohemian knotweed - *Reynoutria x bohemica*
- Japanese Angelica Tree - *Aralia elata*
- Japanese hops - *Humulus japonicus*
- Oriental bittersweet - *Celastrus orbiculatus*
- Black swallow-wort - *Cynanchum louiseae/Vincetoxicum nigrum*
- Pale Swallow-wort - *Cynanchum rossicum/Vincetoxicum rossicum*
- Mugwort - *Artemisia vulgaris*
- Japanese Barberry - *Berberis thunbergii* (Grace period until October 8, 2023)
- Garlic mustard - *Allaria petiolata*
- Japanese stiltgrass - *Microstegium vimineum*
- Callery pear - *Pyrus calleryana* (Grace period until February 10, 2024)
- Eurasian watermilfoil - *Myriophyllum spicatum*
- Common buckthorn - *Rhamnus cathartica*
- Glossy buckthorn - *Rhamnus frangula* [Synonym: *Frangula alnus*] (Grace period until April 5, 2023)
- Lesser celandine - *Ficaria verna*
- Burning bush - *Euonymus alatus* (Grace period until January 10, 2025)
- Chinese privet - *Ligustrum sinense* (Grace period until January 10, 2025)
- European privet - *Ligustrum vulgare* (Grace period until January 10, 2025)