

Certification Standards

The Division of Agriculture, in partnership with Alaskan stakeholders and agencies, has adopted standards developed by the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA). The Weed-Free Forage & Straw Certification Program uses NAWMA standards, adapted to meet Alaska's unique needs. Species that are of special concern to Alaska are noted in bold text.



Alaskan Species of Concern

- **Narrowleaf hawkweed**
- **Narrowleaf hawksbeard**
- **Bird vetch**
- **Hawkbit/fall dandelion**
- **Hempnettle**
- **Black bindweed/wild buckwheat**
- **Corn spurry**

NAWMA Invasive Weed List

Absinth wormwood
Bermudagrass
Buffalobur
Canada thistle
Common burdock
Common crupina
Common tansy
Dalmatian toadflax
Diffuse knapweed
Dyers woad
Field bindweed
Hemp (marijuana)
Henbane, Black
Hoary cress, (Whitetop)
Horsenettle
Houndstongue
Johnsongrass
Jointed goatgrass
Leafy spurge
Matgrass
Meadow knapweed
Medusahead
Milium
Musk thistle
Orange hawkweed
Oxeye daisy
Perennial pepperweed

Perennial sorghum
Perennial sowthistle
Plumeless thistle
Poison hemlock
Puncturevine
Purple loosestrife
Quackgrass
Rush skeletonweed
Russian knapweed
Scentless chamomile
Scotch broom
Scotch thistle
Sericea Lespedeza
Silverleaf nightshade
Skeletonleaf bursage
Spotted knapweed
Squarrose knapweed
St. Johnswort
Sulfur cinquefoil
Syrian beancape
Tansy ragwort
Toothed spurge
Wild oats
Wild proso millet
Yellow hawkweed
Yellow starthistle
Yellow toadflax

Where can Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw be Purchased?

Visit your local feed store and ask if they sell "Certified Weed-Free" Forage or Straw. This is a specialty product and large orders should be coordinated with producers well in advance. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for a list of participating producers.



Anchorage
(907) 677-7645 (SOIL)
aswcd.org

Fairbanks
(907) 479-1213
fairbankssoilwater.org

Homer
(907) 235-8177 x106
homerswcd.org

Kenai
(907) 283-8732 x108
kenaisoilandwater.org

Kenny Lake
(907)359-4455

Kodiak
(907) 486-5574
kodiaksoilandwater.org

Mid Yukon-Kuskokwim
(907) 676 - 0336
midyukonkuskokwimswcd.com

Palmer
(907) 745-1441
palmersoilandwater.org

Salcha-Delta
(907) 895-6279
salchadeltaswcd.org

Upper Susitna
(907) 733-7923
www.usswcd.org

Wasilla
(907) 357-4563 x103
www.wasillaswcd.org

For more information about Alaska's Weed-Free Forage & Straw Certification Program, or to become an inspector, contact:



**Certified
Weed-Free**

[plants.alaska.gov/invasives/
weed-free-forage.php](http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php)

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Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Agriculture

Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw



The Weed-Free Forage & Straw Certification program strives to reduce the transport and dispersal of noxious or undesirable weeds within Alaska's landscape. Forage and straw producers can provide a value-added product through adherence to certification standards and field inspections. Please help prevent the spread of weed species by choosing **Weed-Free**.



**Certified
Weed-Free**

About the Program



The Certified Weed Free Forage & Straw program is voluntary, offered at no cost to the producer (other than the purchase of twine for baling). Certified fields are inspected within 10 days of harvest by a certified inspector. To qualify as Weed-Free, forage and straw must meet program minimum standards and the field must be free of the listed weed species.

Certified products are denoted by a special colored twine that is available to participating producers.

If you would like to schedule an inspection of your fields, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District. District contact information is listed on the back of this brochure.

Find out more online:

plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php



Inspector Training and Certification

Inspector training sessions are held each spring and are offered to new and forage and gravel inspectors. Training is hosted by the Division of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Inspector certification is valid for 5 years, although annual training is encouraged to keep up with the program and to keep plant identification skills fresh.



Inspector training is offered each spring

Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw



Who uses Weed-Free Forage?

Choosing Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw for bedding, mulch and animal feed avoids the potential for introducing invasive plants into sensitive or pristine areas. Some examples of its use include:

- Landowners and livestock managers who want to avoid introducing new weeds;
- Dog mushers or people traveling into the backcountry with pack animals; and
- Conservation organizations who use mulch for streambank stabilization & erosion control.



Benefits of Weed-Free Forage:

- Support local agriculture
- Support local economies
- Minimize shipping costs
- Help prevent the spread of invasives into wildlands



Why produce Weed-Free Forage?

Certification programs offer a way for producers to assure that their products have reduced potential for transport and dispersal of weeds that are listed as noxious or undesirable in Alaska.



Weed Free Forage is a specialty product and large orders of material should be coordinated with producers well in advance.

What is an Invasive Weed?

Invasive species are typically recognized as non-native species that once introduced spread beyond control to negatively effect natural resources, agriculture and the economy.

