

# August 31, 2023, Board Report

## Division of Plant Health and Compliance



### Overview/ Program Updates

- **Plant Pathology**
  - Plant Pathology Team performs annual exotic plant disease surveys to protect Nevada agriculture and natural resources from harmful pathogens (microorganisms and nematodes). In SFY23, a total of 3,035 plant and soil samples were collected and analyzed in the laboratory and no exotic pathogens were found. A total of 4,868 survey records were deposited into the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pest information system. The survey data generated from annual surveys helps establish and maintain disease-free areas and to facilitate the export of Nevada's agricultural commodities to foreign markets.
- **Seed**
  - Annual allium crop inspections have found three garlic fields (two in Topaz and one in Gardnerville) infested with white rot fungus. These fields are under the state quarantine per NAC 554.950, and they are no longer eligible for planting any allium species. The allium crop inspection program aims to detect early-stage white rot infection and take quarantine measures to stop the spread to other fields and protect the allium seed industry.
- **Noxious Weeds**
  - Regulatory actions have been taken to address Yellow Starthistle, Jointed Goatgrass, Dyer's Woad, Leafy Spurge, Dalmatian Toadflax, Medusahead, Poison Hemlock, Scotch Thistle, Musk Thistle, Puncturevine and Perennial Pepperweed.
    - 151 Regulatory letters have been issued.
    - EDDMapS is a web-based mapping system for documenting invasive species and pest distribution. The department uses this tool as the data collection and reporting database. EDDMapS Points Reviewed 7,073.
    - NDA EDDMapS Reports Submitted 81, demonstrating ongoing collaboration with the public and our state and federal partners in identifying and addressing noxious weeds infestations.
  - Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is working with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to develop more training material and opportunities for NDOT staff and contractors. NDA will be providing monthly training on general noxious weed information, quarterly trainings on noxious weed identification and an annual workshop to discuss program needs and coordination.
    - NDOT Weed Plans Reviewed 63.
    - NDOT Weed Plans Approved 53.
    - NDOT Project Sites Visited 46.
  - NDA contributed funding to assist the Ventenata mini campaign, in partnership with Montana, Colorado and North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). Montana proposed to add Ventenata to NAISMA's prohibited weed list for weed free producers. Funding was used to support the

**August 31, 2023, Board Report**  
**Division of Plant Health and Compliance**



mini campaign, host a species specific NAISMA training and to provide outreach material. Ventenata was added to Nevada’s noxious weed list in 2018 as a category A species.

- Weed Free Certificates Issued 75.
    - Weed Free Gravel Inspections 58.
    - Weed Free Forage Inspections 26.
    - Mulch Inspections 4.
  - Biological Control
    - Weed Biocontrol Monitoring sites 48.
    - Weed Biocontrol Release sites 21.
  - Outreach/Education
    - The noxious weeds team participated in multiple outreach and educational events. Content ranged from providing continuing education units for professionals, to basic identification and reporting to hiking groups. Topics included weed biological control, early detection, and rapid response efforts, preventing the spread of invasive and noxious species, identification and control, invasive annual grasses and EDDMapS training. Events included University of Nevada Cooperative Extension’s (UNCE)’s Weed Warriors, Ely Winter Weeds Conference, Duck Valley Tribal Reservation Workshop, National Invasive Species Awareness Week, and other specific training tailored to group needs.
- **Pesticide Compliance**
  - Ongoing reports have been received on pesticide misuse within cannabis cultivation facilities specifically the use of pesticides not approved per NRS 586 as further detailed at [https://agri.nv.gov/Plant/Environmental\\_Services/Pesticide\\_Use\\_on\\_Medical Marijuana/](https://agri.nv.gov/Plant/Environmental_Services/Pesticide_Use_on_Medical_Marijuana/). As a result of these reports from the Cannabis Compliance Board, additional investigations and trainings have been implemented.
  - NDA continues to collaborate with University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension in providing trainings to update Restricted Use Pesticide licensees and certificate holders on the new federal requirements which also updates existing credentials.

● **Entomology**

- **Survey work completed includes the following:**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number</u>
Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket stops	<b>1210</b>
Palm Weevil Commodities	<b>1</b>
Palm pest survey	<b>1</b>
Asian Defoliator Surveys	<b>1</b>
Khapra Beetle Surveys	<b>1</b>

**August 31, 2023, Board Report**  
**Division of Plant Health and Compliance**



CAPS Infrastructure	<b>1</b>
CAPS Exotic Wood Borer	<b>1</b>
CAPS Gypsy Moth	<b>1</b>
CAPS Pine Shoot Beetle	<b>1</b>
CAPS Imported Fire Ant	<b>1</b>
Traps placed/surveyed	<b>3851</b>
Identification Specimens	<b>310</b>
Identification Emails	<b>46</b>
Identifications Text	<b>60</b>
Identification Phone	<b>10</b>
Education	<b>2943</b>
Treatments	<b>80</b>
Japanese Beetle Survey	<b>1</b>
European Corn Borer survey	<b>0</b>
State quarantine survey	<b>0</b>
Survey ID	<b>66775</b>
Collection processing	<b>17782</b>
Honeybee Surveys	<b>30</b>
General collection/collecting	<b>0</b>

- The cooperative Mormon cricket program is winding down for the year and we have completed:
  - Total survey sites: 1210
  - Ground treatment sites: 72
  - Total pounds of carbaryl bait used: 1184
  - Acres protected with bait: 591
- Acres protected with Dimilin via aerial treatment (5 blocks): approximately 65,000 protected. An additional treatment was originally planned and scheduled for Owyhee; however, this was pulled per the tribe’s request. The following locations were treated:
  - Winnemucca Mountain
  - Eden Valley
  - Valley of the Moon
  - Garden Valley/Pine Valley
  - Diamond Valley

**August 31, 2023, Board Report**  
**Division of Plant Health and Compliance**



- There will be additional surveys completed as eggs are being laid throughout August to determine possible hatching locations and expedite treatments next Spring.
- The entomologist gave updates on the Mormon cricket program at both the Elko and Humboldt County commissioners meetings and a presentation on the program on the clear winged grasshopper outbreak to the Gardnerville town council.
- **Crops Export/ Shipping point**
  - As of July 1, 2023, through July 31, 2023, 22 federal and state phytosanitary certificates were issued allowing for the export of 3,421,750 pounds of varying commodities, including hay, coffee, and mushroom spawn. Twenty-one state and federal phytosanitary certificates totaling 5,990,970 pounds were issued during the same time in SFY23.
  - Other items certified for export that are not measured by weight, but by count totaled 5,199 and included nursery stock and hay.

**Federal Phyto Sanitary Certificate Inspections FY24 year to date have remained similar to FY23, as shown in the table below.**

Month	FY23	FY24
July	21	22
August	23	
September	52	
October	54	
November	49	
December	21	
January	23	
February	26	
March	31	
April	34	
May	30	
June	26	

*\* FY24 data accurate through July 1, 2023*

- A consistent and steady rate of increase in State Phytosanitary Certificates has been noticed year after year since FY18 from 4 to 110 in FY23, focused in Southern Nevada.
- **Producer Certificate and Produce Safety**
  - Producer Certificates expire each year in March. Renewals were sent out in February. The number of registered producers increased from our last report, and the following table shows the total numbers of registrations through August 3rd, 2023. Most of the renewals are received between February and April of each year

**August 31, 2023, Board Report**  
**Division of Plant Health and Compliance**



but there is always a flush of renewals in June when the seasonal farmers market open.

<b>Certificates issued for 2023 Registration year</b>	
Farm Registration	6
Producer	285
Producer + Vendor	26
Total	339

- The Produce Safety Education team will host 12 produce safety trainings in FY2024. Trainings will be similar to those provided in previous years with the addition of two trainings for microgreens and mushroom growers. The team will also be partnering with other programs in the department and possibly cooperative extension to provide trainings specifically requested by growers on the following: Senior Vouchers/WIC, Marketing/Selling, Packaging/Labeling, and Pesticides/Herbicides.
- **Hemp**
  - In 2022, the NDA conducted a total of 21 hemp sample inspections and 8 site compliance inspections. The 2022 hemp inspection season yielded 77 hemp samples, of which 3 (4.2%) samples exceeded the acceptable THC threshold. This is an improvement over last season when 15% of samples were noncompliant. As of July 31, 2023, the NDA has conducted a total of 10 hemp sampling inspections and 3 site compliance inspections. Most growers have not started harvesting for 2023.
  - NDA coordinated with the Nevada Farm Service Agency (FSA) to ensure that growers completed their crop reporting through FSA. This is a federal requirement.
  - The following data reflects hemp samples collected by the NDA and tested for federal compliance, above compliance, and approved crop disposals of non-compliant crops between January 1, 2021, and July 31, 2023.

**Year over year Samples Tested, Non-Compliant Samples, and Disposals**

<b>State of Nevada Statistics</b>	<b>Samples</b>
2021 Total Samples Collected =	104
2021 Non-Compliant Samples =	16
2021 Approved Crop Disposals =	8
2021 Approved Crop Remediation =	0

**August 31, 2023, Board Report**  
**Division of Plant Health and Compliance**



---

2022 Total Samples Collected =	72
2022 Non-Compliant Samples =	3
2022 Approved Crop Disposals =	1
2022 Approved Crop Remediation =	0
2023 Total Samples Collected =	10
2023 Non-Compliant Samples =	1
2023 Approved Crop Disposals =	0
2023 Approved Crop Remediation =	1