

# September 14, 2022 Board Report

## Division of Plant Health and Compliance



### Program Updates

- Plant Pathology
  - For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 4,756 surveys, funded under the Plant Protection Act, have been completed to target several pathogens and nematodes that may impact Nevada agriculture. All surveys were negatives.
  - In SFY 2022, the Plant Pathology Laboratory analyzed 763 regulatory samples, tested 2,072 survey samples and diagnosed 1,221 general samples from both private citizens and public institutions.
- Seed Program
  - To support Nevada’s native seed producers and restoration efforts, the NDA is developing a foundation seed program with funding from federal agencies to provide producers with access to higher quality seed to facilitate increased production for use on restoration sites throughout the state.
  - Crop Seed certification for the 2022 growing season began in May and will concluded by the end of September. Due to severe water reduction this season in Pershing County, some crop failures have occurred, resulting in 534 acres of certified alfalfa seed being removed from certification. Certified seed statistics are provided below:

Crop Kind	2022 Acres	2021 Acres
Alfalfa	2,203.00	1,477.00
Barley	280.00	255.00
Grass	13.00	0.00
Triticale	255.00	617.00
Wheat	85.00	119.00
Oats	35.00	38.00
Rapeseed – Canola	283.00	0.00
Potato	111.55	118.62
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,265.55</b>	<b>2,624.62</b>

- The number of site certifications for the wildland seed program, typically used for seed gathering and grow-outs for restoration projects, increased for the 2022 season compared to 2021. Source ID statistics for 2022 are provided below:

Designation	2022 Sites	2021 Sites
Source Identified	34	29

- NDA staff conducted white rot inspections for early detection and timely quarantine to protect Nevada’s Allium industry. During the 2022 season, white rot was detected in fields in Gardnerville (1) and Topaz (1). All infected fields are under quarantine. Garlic/Onion statistics are provided below:

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Crop Kind	2021 Acres	2022 Acres	2022 Quarantined Acres	2021 Quarantined Acres
Total Garlic	715.46	735.45	73.00	5.57
Certified Seed Garlic	515.09	587.99	73.00	5.57
Total Onion	5,178.62	5,334.08	0.00	0.00
Other (Shallots)	17.00	30.00	0.00	0.00

- Pest Control and Environmental Services
  - Inspections and violations are up slightly in SFY22. Below is a breakdown of inspections and violations noted.

FY22				
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022				
	Inspections	Violations	Samples Collected for Analysis	Violations Determined from Laboratory Analysis
Agricultural Use	14	10	3	1
Non-Ag. Use	40	9	60	15
Record Audits	36	12		
Complaints	49	4	17	
Marketplace	52	5	29	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>18</b>

- Ground and surface water monitoring program
  - 60 ground and surface water samples were collected for pesticide analysis in Clark, Washoe, Churchill, Lyon, Carson City, Douglas, Humboldt, Pershing, and Elko counties to detect pesticide drift and respond to potential sources of contamination.
- Service Container Labels
  - Per Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 555.445, licensed pest control operators must securely attach abbreviated labels to service containers that contain the name of the pesticide, EPA registration number of the product, name and percentage of the active ingredient, signal word and name, address, and telephone number of the business. The NDA became aware that several operations were unaware of this requirement and are either missing tags or certain record requirements. To assist operations in complying with this requirement, staff provided education on the required labeling, NAC and distributed tags to operators during inspections.
- Chemistry

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- The new Shimadzu AA (Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer) has been installed, allowing the lab to test for heavy metals, such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel in cannabis (requested by marijuana and hemp growers) and in commercial fertilizer samples.

<b>Total Samples Analyzed</b>			
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Ground / Surface Water (Pesticide Residue Monitor Program)	35	69	73
Hemp (Percentage THC analysis)	305	114	118
Pesticide Formulation / Use Dilution	40	132	98
Pesticide Residue (EPA Enforcement)	16	22	21

- Entomology
  - Baker Park in Las Vegas was treated twice for Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA). A follow up survey will be conducted in September to identify if the treatment was effective. Pecos Legacy Park was not treated since no RIFA were found in several follow up surveys. Four additional parks were determined to have RIFA, 3 in the city of Henderson and 1 in Las Vegas. The parks have been notified and treatment protocols are being developed. The NDA has discussed RIFA with California and Arizona since these are the regions where the compromised plant and soil material are originating.
  - Below is a summary of pest identifications completed by the state entomologist. This is a 28% (77,473 in FY2021) increase from 2021 due to a backlog in sample processing experienced from delays in pest trapping and processing as a result of seasonal recruitment challenges and COVID-19 travel restrictions.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>FY 22 totals</b>
Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket stops	903
Traps placed/surveyed	6,916
Identification Specimens	132
Identification Emails	58
Identifications Text	17
Identification Phone	0
Education	1,575
Treatments	8

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Survey Identifications	98,846
Collection processing	14,144

- Nursery
  - There are currently 926 licensed nurseries Nevada, which is consistent with program participation over the last 2 years.
  - Nursery staff conducted trace forwards for *P. ramorum* after notification from USDA PPQ that an Oregon nursery shipped live plants to Nevada and 46 other states that were potentially infected. Nursery staff contacted homeowners who received stock from this nursery. Staff collected 3 plants from homeowners across the state.
  - Nursery staff conducted trace forwards for Japanese beetle (JB) after notification from the Michigan Department of Agriculture that a nursery shipped live plants to Nevada that were non-compliant with JB certification/harmonization plan. Staff have contacted homeowners who received stock from this nursery. Entomology will set out Japanese beetle traps at these locations.
- Crops
  - Hemp
    - The NDA initiated additional collaboration with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) early in 2022 to address the limited number of growers who were completing federally mandated crop acreage reporting to FSA per CFR 990. The partnership between FSA and the NDA has resulted in the highest number of hemp growers completing crop acreage reporting since the program began in 2016.
    - The following data reflects 2021 and 2022 hemp grower total applied growing area, total certified growing area, and total estimated planted area

State of Nevada Statistics	Acres	Sq. Ft.
2022 Applied Area =	378.64	482,106.00
2022 Certified Area =	240.43	408,098.00
2022 Planted =	1*	39,100.00*
2021 Applied Area =	2,871.42	543,202
2021 Certified Area =	2,843.42	496,542
2021 Planted =	445.85	110.52

*2021 data as of 11/15/2021  
 2022 as of August 15th, 2022.*

*\*Planted area is approximate based upon grower-submitted harvest reports and inspector observations during field inspections. Inspection season for 2022 is anticipated to begin in September.*

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- Export
  - Final Export numbers for SFY 2022 totaled 744 federal and state phytosanitary certificates with 115,986,394 pounds of commodities certified, including hay, coffee, lumber, spices, teas, mushroom spawn and onions. Other items certified for export that are not measured by weight totaled 21,197, includes nursery stock, farm equipment, and some teas.
  - The 2021 data shows slightly higher numbers in certificates issued totaling 820 commodities certified with a total of 133,192,747 pounds.
- Produce
  - Producer Certificates issued, which verifies Nevada production of reported crops, remained relatively similar from 2021 to 2022.

<b>Certificate Type</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Producer Certificates	267	261
Vendor Certificates	22	19
Producer + Vendor Certificate	17	17
Farm Registrations (organic certified)	6	5

- Produce safety education and inspection staff traveled to Ithaca, New York from May 14-16, to attend the Produce Safety Alliance Advanced Trainer Workshop. This training provided staff an opportunity to perform hands-on activities and experiential learning to allow them first-hand experience with many of the practices that the Food Safety Modernization Act, Produce Safety Rule requires of growers. This will allow NDA staff to better assist Nevada growers with current and future food safety requirements to provide safe produce to consumers in Nevada.
- Noxious Weeds
  - Regulatory activities are expected to increase with the addition of new staff to the program.
    - 104 regulatory letters related to noxious weed issues were issued.
    - 14 noxious weed complaints were received for SFY 2022. Other regulatory actions were initiated by reports of Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) species (those not well established) through EDDMapS,
    - EDRR regulatory priorities
      - Purple loosestrife in Washoe county
      - Green fountaingrass in Clark and Nye counties
      - Dyer’s woad and leafy spurge in Elko County

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- Squarrose knapweed in Elko County
- Jointed and barbed goatgrass in Washoe County
- EDDMapS
  - Similar to regulatory activities, EDDMapS reporting and verifications are expected to increase with the addition of new staff. This is a tool where state, federal, and private citizens can report detections, however it does require species verification from trained staff to allow for appropriate action. 1,236 EDDMapS reports have been verified.
- Weed-free certifications
  - 42 weed-free certificates were issued in SFY 22
- Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)
  - A rise in NDOT projects with noxious weeds mitigation plans was expected with the passing of the bi-partisan infrastructure bill, but due to delays, the number of projects has not increased. The NDA received 51 mitigation plans, approving 47. The NDA was also able to visit 23 NDOT project sites.