



September 9, 2025, Board Report

Division of Plant Health and Compliance

Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- The Division is working to implement regulations prescribed by SB159, passed in the 2023 legislative session. A workshop took place on September 3, 2025 to gain public feedback on R127-23, which enables “applicator trainees” to perform pest control for 90 days while completing licensing examinations. Applicator trainees must be employed by a licensed pest control business and be provided with essential safety and application instruction prior to performing pesticide applications.
- The Division welcomes Bryant McDowell as State Entomologist. Mr. McDowell’s duties include survey efforts for invasive and damaging species, providing expertise related to quarantines, providing identification services and control information for producers, industry, and the public, and overseeing outreach programs to inform and engage Nevada residents in efforts to identify and control invasive species.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 586 was permanently adopted by the Legislative Commission on August 19, 2025. This changed the fee for pesticide registration from \$125 to \$281.

Program Updates

Plant Pathology and Seed

Exotic disease surveys

- Plant pathology team completed federal FY2024 exotic pathogen surveys funded by the USDA Plant Protection Act Program. The surveys targeted 22 high-risk pathogens and generated 4,964 records that were uploaded into the USDA databases.

Targeted Pathogens	Total Samples Tested
Groundnut bud necrosis virus	201
Tomato brown rugose fruit virus	79
Australian grapevine yellow phytoplasma	125
Apple proliferation phytoplasma	101
Palm lethal yellowing phytoplasma	16
Almond witches’ broom phytoplasma	48
European stone fruit yellow phytoplasma	47
Bois noir phytoplasma	27
Flavescence doree phytoplasma	27
Jujube withches' broom phytoplasma	90
Ralstonia solanacearum R3B2 (USDA select agent)	264
Beech bleeding canker pathogen	1
Cypress mortality pathogen	24
Sudden oak death pathogen	348
Potato wart fungus	180

British root-knot nematode	216
Columbia root-knot nematode	216
False Columbia root-knot nematode	216
Pale cyst nematode	684
Golden nematode	685
Pigeon pea cyst nematode	685
Chickpea cyst nematode	684
Total	4,964

Allium disease inspections

- All garlic and onion fields (over 7,000 acres) registered in 2025 growing season were inspected for white rot disease from May through August. No field was found to be infected with the disease. This is the first year of no infected field found since 2021, suggesting that the inspection and quarantine program is preventing further spread of white rot disease in Allium fields.
- A total of 20 garlic fields were registered for seed production in 2025, from which 447 bags of garlic bulb samples were collected for stem and bulb nematode analysis. One field was tested positive for stem and bulb nematode, and all garlic harvested from this field will be disqualified for seed use. This test is to ensure that seed garlic produced is free from stem and bulb nematode.

Seed certification

- Seed certification inspections are being conducted for 2025 crops. Certification will be concluded at the end of year based on the field inspection data and post -harvest testing. The following crops were admitted into the certification in 2025:
 - Alfalfa: 1,996.00 Acres
 - Barley: 207.00 Acres
 - Triticale: 109.00 Acres
 - Wheat: 78.00 Acres
 - Oats: 58.00 Acres
 - Potato: 111.30 Acres

Seed Lab

- Seed Laboratory activity has increased significantly since the previous reporting period. The volume of seed testing has increased largely as a result of new client acquisition. UNR's newly developed Native Seed Processing Center has opted to use NDA for seed testing purposes. This will result in a heightened volume of testing for the lab into the foreseeable future.

Native Seed

- Wildland Certification for Source Identified seed is ongoing. The program has been consistent with previous years. Thus far in 2025, the Department has seen a total of 63 unique applications for collected seed material. Seed is being collected, inspected and certified throughout Nevada. Collection efforts encompass the majority of counties

including Washoe, Nye, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Linkcoln, Elko, Eureka, White Pine, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, and Carson City.

- The Seed Program has an active RFP available for the Contract Grow-Out Program. The intent of this program is to provide producers with strategically selected wildland seed stock and establish a forward contract to compensate awardees on a flat price/acre basis. The current application period for this RFP ended on August 29th, 2025 at 5:00 pm PST.

Chemistry

Projects

- The NDA Chemistry lab has continued to offer sample analysis and expertise to state and local law enforcement agencies.
- Chemistry staff hosted a tour with Nevada Cannabis Compliance Board (CCB) staff to discuss services the NDA can provide to support CCB programs.
- Chemistry staff have provided data, cost estimates, and investigated additional capabilities in efforts to support needs of sister state agencies and municipal government needs.
- The Chemistry lab continues to support the NDA's pesticide and hemp programs through analysis of samples collected during routine pest control inspections, complaint investigations, the NDA's ground and surface water monitoring program, and analysis of preharvest hemp samples for compliance with state and federal law.

Crops

Export/Shipping Point

- As of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, 433 Federal and State Phytosanitary certifications were issued allowing for the export of 91,352,566 pounds of varying commodities including hay, mushroom spawn, onions, garlic, shallots, and sage. 799 State and Federal Phytosanitary certificates totaling 117,909,229 pounds were issued during the same time in SFY24.
- Other items certified for export that are not measured by weight, but by count totaled 6,117 and mostly included nursery stock and used agricultural machinery.
- The onion shipping point season is expected to start in September 2025, compared to this same time in SFY24, there is a decrease in onion exports of 335,298 lbs.
- Compared to the same time in SFY24, State Phytosanitary Certificates show a decrease from 84 to 58 certificates issued focused in the Las Vegas office for nursery stock.

The table below shows the monthly breakdown of onions exported 4th Quarter FY 2025

Month	2024 Pounds Shipped Outside USA	2025 Pounds Shipped Outside USA
July	0	0
August	0	173,656
September	769,060	622,886
October	765,700	603,320
November	962,470	651,820
December	697,200	942,370

January	631,750	663,160
February	308,400	303,880
March	204,200	178,040
April	379,340	110,360

Phytosanitary Certificate Inspections FY25 year to date have shown a decrease from FY24, as shown in the table below.

Month	FY24	FY25
July	22	33
August	30	36
September	51	43
October	66	36
November	65	44
December	48	47
January	57	36
February	83	30
March	89	32
April	124	34
May	126	29
June	35	33

** FY25 data accurate through June 30, 2025*

Food Safety and Producer Certificates

- June 1st, 2025 the Food Safety program entered year 5 of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule cooperative agreement.
- The Department has conducted one FSMA inspection on a farm covered by the FSMA, meeting the FDA minimum for inspections (20%).

The table below shows the up-to-date number of producer and vendor certificates that have been issued by the department since February 2025

Month	Vendor Certificates issued	Producer Certificates issued
February	4	13
March	29	255
April	8	50
May	8	18
June	0	11
July	4	9
August	1	0

**Data accurate through August 19, 2025*

Hemp

- The NDA has 11 registered growers and 16 registered handlers.

- 11 post-planting inspections for growers have been conducted, as well as 15 handler inspections.
- In the third quarter of SY25, the NDA has conducted a total of 4 THC compliance sample inspections, of which 2 (50%) of samples exceeded the acceptable THC threshold.
- In the third quarter of SY25, the NDA has approved 1 crop disposal and 1 crop remediation.
- NDA coordinated with the Nevada Farm Service Agency (FSA) to ensure that growers completed their crop reporting through FSA. This is a federal requirement.

Licensing/Enforcement

New RUP Certificates & Licenses Issued May 9, 2025 – August 19, 2025

- New RUP Certified Applicators: 32
- New Licensed Companies: 17
- New Licensed Applicators: 165

Pest Control Continuing Education Courses Approved May 9, 2025 – August 19, 2025

- New CEU Courses: 123
- New CEU Course Credits: 320.5

Inspections conducted May 9, 2025 – August 19, 2025

Inspection Type	No. of Inspections	Non-Compliant Issues
Agricultural Use	5	8
Non-Agricultural Use	10	9
Marketplace	11	1
Non-Agricultural Records	8	3,242
RUP Dealer Record Audit	2	6
Producing Establishment	2	1
Investigations	2	4

License & Certification Exams Administered May 9, 2025 – August 18, 2025

Office	No. of Tests Taken
Sparks	205
Las Vegas	536
Elko	45

Noxious Weeds

Regulatory Actions

- The Noxious Weeds program is conducting an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDDR) project in Washoe Valley in response to the identification of ventenata. Ventenata is a category A noxious weed species and has the potential to outcompete cheat grass and can rapidly displace native and forage species reducing forage yield by 50% or more. It has been identified on parcels totaling 1,100 acres including state and county owned land and private residential and agricultural land. The Department

has issued “notice to control” orders to affected properties and is engaged with federal partners to obtain funding to support public and private control efforts.

NDOT

- NDOT continues to treat Scotch thistle along the I-80 corridor. NDA is providing survey data and guidance during these treatment efforts.
- The Department’s NDOT liaison has approved 24 of the 25 submitted weed management plans and conducted 28 site visits to ensure compliance. This partnership, in conjunction with the Department’s certified weed-free gravel program ensure that NDOT construction projects manage noxious weeds and do not serve as a vector to spread noxious weeds throughout the state.
- The Noxious Weed program and partners continue to expand the use of EDDMapS internally and in cooperation with partners. EDDMapS enables collaborative data sharing, reporting, and verification, allowing for rapid response to weed identifications and visualization of identification and treatments for reporting. FY25 saw 1183 EDDMapS reports, 436% more than FY24, which set the previous record of 271 reports.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Credit Transactions

- The Sagebrush Ecosystem Program has completed 8 total transactions between Credit and Debit projects since June 2025.
 - These transactions have led to an offset of 2,149 debits through private land credit projects.
- 3 NVCCS Private Land Credit Projects were subject to extensive fire damage from June to August. NDA and NDF representatives are working with NRCS and other state and federal agencies, and private landowners to create a post-fire rehabilitation plan. Work will most likely occur in early 2026.
- The SETT has been working in collaboration with NDOW to trap and relocate 20 beavers to a ranch enrolled in the CCS, with the goal of slowing meadow degradation from large, progressing headcuts. Relocations are planned to occur in fall 2025.
- Currently, the NDA representative is reviewing the 24 Annual Monitoring Reports for the ranches that are enrolled in the NVCCS. These reports include photo monitoring points along with vegetation and wildlife information pertinent to the program.

Entomology

Survey Data

- Survey work supporting Mormon cricket and grasshopper programs and pest surveys were conducted during the growing season and will continue through fall.

Entomology Survey, Treatment, and Outreach Data from May 9 to August 22, 2025

Activity	Count
Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket stops	1223

Grasshopper/ Mormon Cricket Treatments	137
Palm Weevil Traps	47
Asian Defoliator Traps	49
Vegetable Crop Pests	52
CAPS Exotic Wood Borer	24
CAPS Imported Fire Ant	45
Traps placed/surveyed	390
Education	6
Japanese Beetle Survey	36
General collection/collecting	107

Industry Impact

- The Noxious Weeds program has increased regulatory and enforcement efforts this season. The program has identified priority areas and is engaging with landowners and local partners in these areas to control target weed species. For successful control, these control efforts must be sustained and community wide. The program will evaluate these projects to find further efficiencies and expand efforts in coming years, pairing funding with regulatory response whenever possible.
- The Crops program is preparing for onion harvest season. The Division is engaged with producers to ensure that their grading and export inspection needs are met.