



December 4, 2025, Board Report

Division of Plant Health and Compliance

Division Overview

Pending matters of significance

- The division has begun the rulemaking process to align state and federal definitions of “Acceptable THC” and “Total THC” by directly referencing federal definitions for purposes of testing and certifying raw hemp produced by Nevada hemp growers. Pursuant to federal law, the Nevada state hemp plan must comply with federal testing protocols and limits for THC. Current state law has standards equivalent to federal law; therefore, there will be no immediate impact on growers or department testing procedures. Because the proposed language references federal law directly, state law will automatically reflect future changes to federal definitions. Proposed changes have been reviewed by the Legislative Counsel Bureau and assigned file number R188-24RP.
- The division requests to expend \$2,714.56 from the Alfalfa Seed Research and Promotion Account (Budget Account 4554-10) for the purchase of annual memberships in the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance and the Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Association, pursuant to [NRS 587.151](#).

Program Updates

Crops

Export/Shipping Point

- As of July 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025, 187 Federal and State Phytosanitary certifications were issued allowing for the export of 22,705,370 pounds of varying commodities including hay, mushroom spawn, onions, garlic, shallots, sage, oak barrels, and equipment. 148 State and Federal Phytosanitary certificates totaling 33,317,082 pounds were issued during the same time in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025.
- Other items certified for export that are not measured by weight but by count totaled 4,329 and mostly included nursery stock.
- The onion shipping point season started on September 10, 2025. Compared to this time in SFY25, there has been a decrease in onion exports of 897,302 pounds. The onion shipping season traditionally lasts from September to April, peaking November through January.

International Onion Exports by Month

Month	SFY 2025 (lbs)	SFY 2026
August	173,656	0
September	622,886	198,540
October	603,320	304,020

Phytosanitary Inspections

Month	FY25	FY26
July	33	28
August	36	29
September	43	60
October	36	70

Hemp

- To date, the division has conducted a total of 34 THC compliance sample inspections, of which 9 (3%) of samples exceeded the acceptable THC threshold.
- The division has approved 6 crop disposal and 4 crop remediation.

Hemp Inspection and Sampling Activities

Activity	2023	2024	2025
Total Samples Collected	10	28	34
Non-Compliant Samples	1	6	9
Approved Crop Disposals	0	5	6
Approved Crop Remediation	1	3	4

Noxious Weeds

Enforcement and Control Efforts

- The division continues to increase outreach and regulatory enforcement efforts to control priority noxious weeds. The program issued 933 outreach and regulatory letters in FY2025, a significant increase from FY2024 when 223 letters were issued.
- Program staff are working with landowners in Washoe Valley to address infestations of ventenata and Yellow Starthistle. The division held a community workshop on September 30 to provide control information and address questions and concerns from community members. Through federal funding, the division has purchased herbicide to provide landowners at no cost to aid in controlling ventenata in Washoe Valley. The program seeks to pair expertise and support with regulatory enforcement activities whenever possible.
- The division has collaborated with multiple partners including the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Washoe-Storey Conservation District, Washoe County and City of Reno to address infestations of medusahead and goatgrass in Washoe County. Division staff worked with partners to map treatment areas, post trail closure signs and assist with drone applications to support various projects.

Outreach and Education

- Staff attended the North American Invasive Species Management Association's annual conference in South Lake Tahoe. Staff assisted in planning two field trips to showcase partner work and producers' participation.
- Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) staff assisted the Nevada Weed Management Association to host a drone applicator workshop in Carson City on October 15, 2025. The live drone demonstration included NDA updates on Nevada drone regulations and a question/answer session.

Grants

- The division secured \$56,960 in capacity funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Invasive Species State Capacity Funding. This funding will be used to support the noxious weed program and help fund partner contracts to host EDDMapS data and develop a Nevada state invasive plant dashboard.
- The division secured \$232,001 in funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Medusahead Treatment Assistance agreement. This funding will support University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) mapping efforts of Medusahead in Northern Nevada using novel machine-learning analysis of drone and satellite-based imagery.
- A request for proposals was released on October 30, 2025 to provide \$27,500 in funding to partners to address noxious weeds in Nevada. This funding is available to Nevada conservation districts, weed districts and cooperative weed management areas and made available through the USFS FY26 Invasive Plant Program agreement.

Plant Pathology and Seed

Lab Accreditation

- On November 4, 2025, the Plant Pathology Lab submitted its application to the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) Core Accreditation Program. The Core Accreditation Program is intended to ensure that NPDN member labs meet set quality standards and demonstrate a functional quality management system (QMS) for diagnostic procedures. Per the NPDN policy, member labs must be accredited by January 1, 2027. The completed QMS is comprised of nearly 200 documents ranging from a comprehensive lab quality manual to individual quality procedures, work instructions, and standard operational procedures. The lab has been accredited under the NPDN Star-D accreditation program, a higher level of accreditation awarded to only a few top diagnostic labs in the US.

New Detection

- A rust disease caused by the fungal pathogen *Pseudocercospora paullula* was first detected in Nevada from Swiss cheese plants (*Monstera deliciosa*) in a nursery. This pathogen was first detected in the US (Florida) in 2019 and then found in nursery plants in Virginia, California and Hawaii. All infected plants are recommended to be either returned or destroyed to prevent the dispersal of this relatively new pathogen in the state.

Exotic disease surveys

- Plant pathology team is conducting federal FY2025 exotic pathogen surveys targeting 22 high-risk pathogens. Approximately 2,000 samples have been collected from the fields and nurseries, and these samples are being analyzed in the lab.

Seed certification

- The Seed Program is conducting potato winter grow-out trials per potato seed certification standards (NAC 587.438), which require all eligible seed stock being tested post-harvest for latent viral infection in the progeny. A total of 4,180 individual tubers will be assessed for viral symptoms and presence/absence of the concerned viruses during

the winter grow-out. The trial will be concluded in early February, at which point tissue samples will be further tested for those viruses.

Seed Lab

- The Seed Laboratory continues to analyze viability of seeds that were collected through the Federal “Seeds of Success” Program. To date, the Laboratory has successfully performed viability analysis on a total of 31,800 individual seeds from over 100 species and 159 unique samples under this project alone. This project is expected to be continued for the next several years, and more staff are being trained to perform the test amid the significant surge of seed samples.

Seed Retailer and Wholesaler License

- Beginning on July 1, 2024, all seed retailers and wholesalers in Nevada are required to obtain a license to peddle seed in the state. The seed program has been reviewing license applications and performing outreach for this new regulatory program. During FY2026, NDA has issued 360 total seed licenses, 352 of which are listed retailers and 8 wholesalers. This compares to 346 total licenses in FY2025, with 338 retailers and 8 wholesalers.

Native Seed

- The Foundation Seed Program had a request for proposals that closed November 21. This program provides producers with strategically selected native seed stock for seed increase purposes. NDA staff monitors production efforts and offers certification services to ensure compliance. The producer can then sell harvested seed to support restoration projects.
- NDA has processed a total of 111 applications for Source ID Certification this year. Source ID supports wildland seed collectors and growers by offering quality assurance services and enables native seedsmen to market seed as “Source Identified.” Source ID certification also tracks ecological collection data and therefore ensures collected seed is being used in appropriate ecological zones.
- The 9th Annual Nevada Native Seed Forum was held on November 6 in Sparks at the Spanish Springs Library. This year’s Forum focused on an urban approach to native seed utilization. Speakers included local producers, native plant working group members, state agents, and Foundation Seed Program participants. The Forum concluded with an in-person tour of UNR’s Native Seed Processing Center, housed at the Valley Road Greenhouse Complex.

Entomology and Nursery

Registration and Protocol Updates

- Entomology staff are actively refining the voluntary apiary registration process to reduce administrative burden and improve data accuracy. Efforts include digitizing submission workflows, enhancing user guidance, and integrating GIS mapping tools to support better hive tracking and regional planning. Voluntary registration helps facilitate communication between pest management companies, beekeepers, and the NDA.
- A streamlined notification protocol is being developed for managed hive movements from the southern Nevada quarantine area. The new system will allow beekeepers to

notify NDA more efficiently, reducing delays and enhancing compliance with quarantine regulations. A certificate issued by the department is required to move colonies from the quarantine area pursuant to NAC 554.815.

- Updates to the feral honeybee collection and movement permit process are underway to improve clarity, accessibility, and turnaround times. The permit is required for all collection, removal, or relocation of feral honeybee hives within the quarantined area. These updates aim to support responsible hive management practices while safeguarding native pollinator populations.
- The division is working to establish standardized protocols for the submission and reporting of kissing bugs (Triatominae). These protocols are designed to ensure confidence in trypanosome testing outcomes and improve data reliability. The initiative includes training for field staff and the development of secure, traceable submission channels.
- NDA Entomology is considering updates to Nevada's Pollinator Protection Plan, published in 2016, to reflect evolving best practices in pollinator health and habitat conservation. As part of this effort, the State Entomologist is compiling a list of potential committee members—including researchers, beekeepers, land managers, and agricultural stakeholders—to provide input on program revisions. This collaborative approach aims to ensure the program remains science-based, regionally relevant, and responsive to the needs of pollinator-dependent ecosystems.

Detections

- Red Imported Fire Ant was collected during a routine Nursery Inspection at a Las Vegas Nursery. Samples were collected, and positive confirmation was made by the State Entomologist and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). Eradication and survey were completed. A suspected colony was identified at another Las Vegas nursery, and a hold order for the infested plants was issued. A preliminary identification was made by the State Entomologist. Samples will be sent to USDA-APHIS for confirmation.

Nursery

- We are currently contacting landscape contractors licensed with the Nevada State Contractors Board to bring eligible nursery stock dealers into compliance.
- An additional inspector has been hired in the Las Vegas office to assist with inspections.

Licensing

- Nursery License Holders: 734
- Seed Retail and/or Wholesale License Holders: 355

Nursery Inspections

- Nursery Inspections: 52
- Violations Corrected: 6
- ACP Quarantine Citrus Imports: 5
- Compliance Inspections: 6

Licensing/Enforcement

Outreach Events

- The program has increased collaboration with noxious weed staff to provide pesticide application and safety training to the public and state and local agencies.

Regulatory updates

- The division held a hearing on October 17, 2025, and adopted R127-23, enabling the registration of applicator trainees. Registered applicator trainees are able to apply pesticides for up to 90 days after receiving training from their employer, while working to pass the licensing exams. The division plans to launch this program once approved by the Legislative Commission. This item is on the agenda of the December 17 meeting of the Legislative Commission.
- In collaboration with the department's IT team, the division is in the final stages of development of an online Wood-Destroying Pest Inspection Reporting system. This system will enable online submission of wood-destroying pest inspection reports, providing improved customer service and auditability while reducing costs to the department.

Licensing Activities Between August 19 and November 19, 2025

- Certified 12 first-time restricted-use pesticide applicators, licensed 67 first-time commercial applicators, and licensed 6 new pest control businesses.
- Approved 108 new continuing education courses offering 358 course credits.
- Proctored 603 exams across the three NDA offices.

Pest Control Inspections

Inspections conducted August 19, 2025 – November 21, 2025

Inspection Type	No. of Inspections	Non-Compliant Issues
Agricultural Use	2	3
Non-Agricultural Use	8	7
Marketplace	14	1
Non-Agricultural Records	4	39
RUP Dealer Record Audit	1	1
Producing Establishment	2	0
Investigations	4	0

Ground & Surface Water Monitoring

- Fall ground and surface water sampling has been completed, sampling 80 groundwater wells and 15 surface water monitoring sites across the state.
- Staff are conducting a review of the state Pesticides of Concern list and revising based on current data.

Industry Impact

- The division is making changes to producer certificate inspection scheduling to maximize risk mitigation to consumers while minimizing regulatory burden and fees to producers. Inspections will occur when producers apply for the first time. Re-inspections will take place periodically based on the products sold. Inspections will be planned to minimize inspection and mileage costs to producers.
 - Fruit and vegetable producers will be inspected every two years.
 - Egg producers will be inspected annually using virtual tools and a questionnaire.
 - Honey producers will be inspected every three years by entomology staff.
- The division will renew enforcement of NAC 554.065, which requires an annual permit to collect or move feral honeybees within the quarantine area, and the submission of a risk disclosure statement to the Department each time a collection occurs. These updates aim to support responsible hive management practices while safeguarding native pollinator populations.