

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Where is certified forage required?

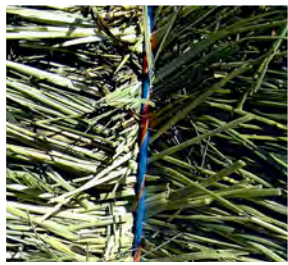
- Certain public and provincial lands have areas that require regional weed free forage. Weed free forage is required on U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands, in National Parks and Monuments, Bureau of Reclamation land, Military Reservations, Tribal Lands, and National Fish & Wildlife Refuges.
- Restrictions may apply to other lands administered by provincial, county, state or federal agencies. Check with local agencies for the most current information.

### What can a producer do to insure field will pass inspection?

- A producer may treat fields by utilizing methods to prevent weed seed formation including, but not limited to, burning, mowing, roguing, mechanical methods, or chemically treating.

### What does the Weed Free Forage Program provide?

- Supports uniform standards and policy.
- Certified forage for livestock, wildlife and vegetation projects.
- An opportunity to move forage freely in restricted areas, both intrastate and interstate.
- A producer list of available certified forage.



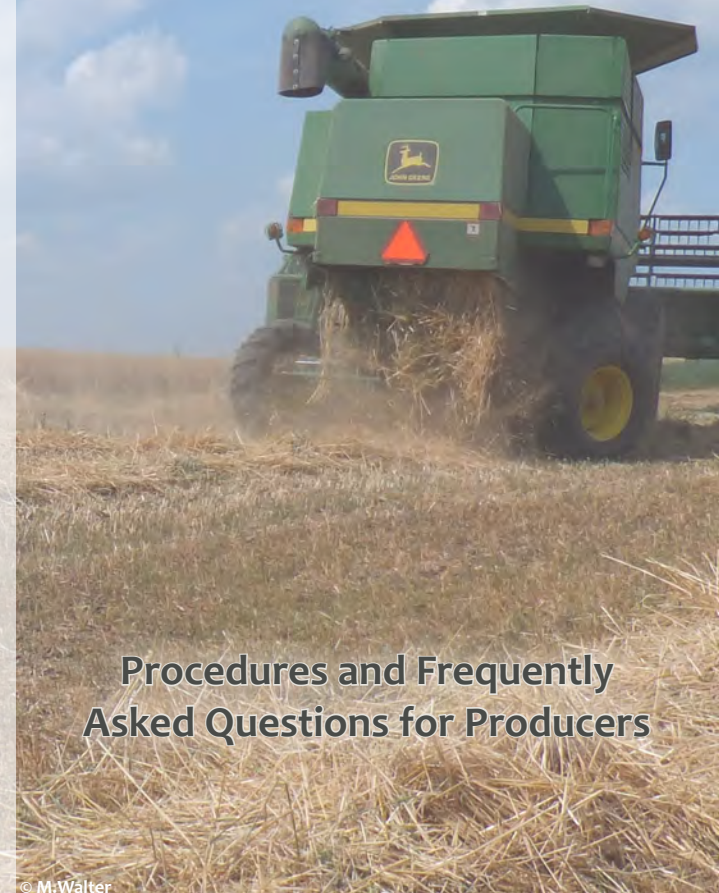
## Regional List of Noxious Weeds

Colorado is a part of the Regional Weed Free Forage program. Forage that is regionally certified in Colorado will be accepted in all states participating in the Regional Weed Free Forage program. The regional list of noxious weeds is as follows:

Absinth wormwood	Bermudagrass
Biennial wormwood	Black henbane
Buffalobur	Canada thistle
Common burdock	Common crupina
Common tansy	Dalmatian toadflax
Diffuse knapweed	Dyers woad
Field bindweed	Hemp
Hoary cress	Horsenettle
Houndstongue	Johnsongrass
Jointed goatgrass	Leafy spurge
Matgrass	Mayweed chamomile
Meadow knapweed	Medusahead
Milium	Musk thistle
Orange hawkweed	Oxeye daisy
Perennial pepperweed	Perennial sowthistle
Plumeless thistle	Poison hemlock
Puncturevine	Purple Loosestrife
Quackgrass	Rush skeletonweed
Russian knapweed	Scentless chamomile
Scotch broom	Scotch thistle
Sericea lespedenza	Silverleaf nightshade
Skeletonleaf bursage	Sorghum-almum
Spotted knapweed	Squarrose knapweed
St. Johnswort	Sulfur cinquefoil
Syrian bean caper	Tansy ragwort
Toothed spurge	Yellow hawkweed
Yellow starthistle	Yellow toadflax
Wild oats	Wild proso millet

**The Certified Weed Free Forage Program is designed to benefit producers & purchasers of forage, outdoor recreationists, sportspersons & hunters, and private & public landowners**

# CERTIFIED WEED FREE FORAGE & MULCH



© M. Walter

## Procedures and Frequently Asked Questions for Producers

Colorado Department of Agriculture  
Division of Conservation Services  
305 Interlocken Parkway  
Broomfield, Colorado 80021  
(303) 869-9031  
[www.colorado.gov/ag/forage](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/forage)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Agriculture  
Conservation Services Division

## Purpose of Program

The purpose of the Certified Weed Free Forage program is to inspect forage or mulch before it is harvested to verify that there are no propagative plant parts of noxious weeds.

The use of certified weed free forage and mulch is intended to reduce the spread of noxious weeds in public lands or other areas where forage or mulch is used.

Legislation authorizing the Colorado Department of Agriculture to create a Weed Free Forage Certification program and perform requested inspections was adopted by the Colorado General Assembly in 1993 (Title 35, Article 27.5 Colorado Revised Statutes, 1997 Supp., Weed Free Forage Crop Certification Act.)

## The Standards are Designed

- To provide assurance to all participants that forage certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard.
- To provide continuity between states and provinces in the program.
- To limit the spread of noxious weeds through forage and mulch.

## Certification Procedures

- The producer will schedule all inspections through the Department of Agriculture. Contact the Department at (303) 239-4149 ten (10) days prior to the date you wish to cut the forage. The Department will make all necessary arrangements for inspection of your forage.

Give the following information to the Department when you call for an appointment: Your name, phone number, address, number of acres to be certified, and date you require inspection.

- Assign field numbers to fields. The field numbers will be used in the identification number found in the upper right corner of the Certificate of Inspection” and also used on the “Transit Certificate” to track the forage certified in each field.
- Estimate amount of special colored twine or galvanized wire needed to bale the forage allowing one strand of wire or twine around each bale.
- Indicate if twine needed is for small, large one ton or round bales.
- Before the inspector can inspect the field, a “Weed Free Forage Certification Inspection Request Form” must be completed.

- The forage must be cut within ten (10) days of the inspection date. If unable to cut within 10 days, contact the Department at (303) 239-4149 to arrange for re-inspection.
- The producer must call the Department with the cutting date and bale count for each field.

When we receive the cutting date and bale count from the producer, we will complete and mail the “Certificate of Inspection” to the producer. The producer’s information will be added to our directory of Weed Free Forage Producers.

The producer will also receive a “Statement of Inspection Fee” from the Department. The producer will keep one copy and return the second copy to the Department with payment in full within 10 days of the invoice date.

The Certified Weed Free Forage Crop Certification program is an industry funded program. The law requires that fees be charged to cover all direct and indirect costs of the program. The producer will be charged the following: Inspection time, driving time, mileage, administrative and an acreage fee in addition to the twine or wire. The producer will be billed directly through the Department of Agriculture.

## Voluntary Stack Yard Inspections

The Weed Free Forage program offers voluntary stack yard inspections for weed free forage and mulch producers. The inspection is provided to those producers who may need to show proof to their buyers that the stack yard area was free of the same weeds that the field was inspected for. The inspection will be conducted under the authority of the Colorado Pest Control Act and the inspection fee will remain the same as the field inspection.

If required by the purchaser, a “Transit Certificate” may accompany all inspected forage sold. The Transit Certificate must contain the inspection certificate identification, the producer’s name, and the number of bales purchased. The producer shall complete the Transit Certificate and return a copy to the Department.

