

NAISMA CERTIFIED WEED FREE PRODUCTS FORAGE MINIMUM STANDARDS

*Revised 1/24/97, 9/16/97, 8/9/99, 10/30/02, 10/20/03, 9/21/04, 1/05/05, 10/18/06, 11/1/12, 3/31/15,
02/01/16, 10/23/17, 10/17/18, 4/16/20, 10/9/23*

INTRODUCTION

The North American Invasive Species Management Association's (NAISMA) mission is to empower invasive species management in North America. NAISMA's Certified Weed Free Products (WFP) Committee manages pathway prevention standards that limit the potential spread of noxious weeds via various products (forage, gravel, mulch, and compost).

The Certified WFP Committee works with states, provinces, local governments, federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry to provide guidelines, standards, and set minimum requirements for uniform participation across North America.

The Standards are designed to:

1. Provide guidelines for how and when to inspect forage for noxious weeds.
2. Provide information to be included on the inspection certificate.
3. Provide assurance to all participants that compost certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard to mitigate the risk of noxious weed seed presence in forage.
4. Provide continuity between various organizations in the program to limit the spread of noxious weeds through forage.
5. Limit the transportation of noxious weeds in forage.
6. Help protect natural resources, wildlife and native species habitat, agricultural resources, aesthetic value, property value, and the overall quality of land and water.

Participation:

1. States, provinces, local governments, federal agencies, or other authorized organizations must sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letter of support with NAISMA.
2. Inspector(s) must be certified through the NAISMA Weed Free Products Online Inspector Training Program.
3. Participating jurisdictions may add additional mitigation protocols to these standards to meet their specific legal requirements. However, all minimum standards outlined in this document must be met in order to be recognized by NAISMA.

DEFINITIONS

Revised 1/24/97, 10/30/02, 5/15/08, 3/31/15, 10/23/17, 10/17/18, 10/9/23

Area of Origin/Manufacture

The area where material or materials are stored prior to and/or during manufacturing, sale, and transport, including a buffer zone around the area.

Certification

Inspector certification is available online and is valid for two years.

An administrative fee of \$40 every two years is required for this certification.

Certification Markings

North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) Weed Free Products logo indicating the product meets NAISMA minimum standards.

Cubed hay

Harvested with equipment which forms the hay into small compact self-binding units. These are not considered pellets as defined in this document, and therefore the field of origin must be certified.

Designated authority (Must be one or more of the following):

1. Federal, state, provincial, or municipal government representative
2. Manager of a state, provincial, local government or federal agency staff responsible for managing legislated weed species within their jurisdiction (ex: Weed Supervisor, Weed Superintendent, Ag. Fieldman).
3. An individual designated as an inspector under that state or province's weed control legislation or federal agency staff. This individual must be trained and certified in accordance with the state/provincial standard operating procedures for weed inspection as well as NAISMA's weed free forage standards.
4. University Extension Agent.
5. Representative of a State Crop Improvement Association.
6. Other authority as approved by NAISMA.

Federal Agency

Federal land management agency with no financial gain in NAISMA Minimum Standard Certification programs.

Forage

Any crop, including alfalfa, grass, small grains, straw, and similar crops and commodities, that is grown, harvested, and sold for livestock forage, bedding material, or mulch related uses and the byproducts of those crops or commodities that have been processed into pellets, cubes, or related products.

Pellets

Agglomerated feed formed by compacting and forcing through die openings by a mechanical process. If heat is not used in the process, the field of origin must be certified.

Prohibited Weed

Those plant species, including any weed seed or propagative plant parts, voted on by MOU holders and approved by the NAISMA BOD in Appendix A, as well as weeds listed under weed control legislation within the state or province of the forage's origin.

Propagules

Any part of a plant capable of enabling it to reproduce (may include seeds, roots, and/or stolons).

Responsible Party

The individual or the representative of the entity that controls, directs, or manages the operation of the site.

NAISMA Minimum Standards for Certified Weed-Free Forage

(revised 3/31/15, 10/23/17)

1. Forage shall be free of prohibited weeds as defined in these minimum standards.
2. Forage shall be inspected in the state/province of origin by the designated authority.
3. Forage shall also be inspected in the field of origin by the designated authority per Appendix E.
4. Forage which contains any prohibited weeds may still be certified if the field upon which the forage was produced is treated to prevent prohibited weed seed or other propagule viability according to agricultural practices acceptable to, and to the satisfaction of the designated authority.
5. Pellets as defined in these standards may also be certified if they are declared free of viable prohibited weed seeds or other propagules by a test conducted by a state/provincial seed testing laboratory approved by the designated authority.
6. Cubed hay as defined in these standards may also be certified if the field of origin has been certified by the designated authority according to these standards.
7. An Inspection Certificate as per Appendix B shall document the above requirements are met.
8. Shipment of NAISMA Certified Weed Free Forage shall be accompanied by NAISMA Certification Marking as outlined in Appendix D, or an original printed or digital copy of the Transit Certificate issued by the designated authority as outlined in Appendix C.

Appendix A: NAISMA Weed Free Forage Prohibited Weed List

Revised: 01/24/97, 04/20/97, 09/16/97, 10/30/02, 10/05/05, 10/09/09, 03/31/15, 02/01/16, 10/23/17, 10/17/18, 4/16/20, 10/17/23, 6/5/24

The designated authority shall inspect fields for NAISMA prohibited species and their state or province designated noxious weed lists.

Absinth wormwood (<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>)	Orange hawkweed (<i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>)
Austrian fieldcress (<i>Rorippa austriaca</i>)	Oxeye daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)
Black henbane (<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>)	Perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>)
Buffalobur (<i>Solanum rostratum</i>)	Perennial sowthistle (<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>)
Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	Plumeless thistle (<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>)
Caucasian Bluestem (<i>Bothriochloa bladhii</i>)	Poison hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>)
Common burdock (<i>Arctium minus</i>)	Puncturevine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)
Common crupina (<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>)	Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)
Common mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)	Quackgrass (<i>Elymus repens</i>)
Common tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)	Rush skeletonweed (<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>)
Common teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>)	Russian knapweed (<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>)
Cutleaf teasel (<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>)	Scentless chamomile (<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>)
Dame's rocket (<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>)	Scotch thistle (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>)
Dalmatian toadflax (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>)	Sericea lespedeza (<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>)
Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>)	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea stoebe subsp. micranthos</i>)
Dyers woad (<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>)	Squarrose knapweed (<i>Centaurea virgata subsp. squarrosa</i>)
Field bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>)	St. Johnswort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)
Field scabious (<i>Knautia arvensis</i>)	Sulfur cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla recta</i>)
Hoary Alyssum (<i>Berteroa incana</i>)	Tall buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>)
Hoary cress (<i>Lepidium spp.</i>)	Tansy ragwort (<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>)
Horsenettle (<i>Solanum carolinense</i>)	Ventenata (<i>Ventenata Dubia</i>)
Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>)	Vipers Bugloss/Blueweed (<i>Echium vulgare</i>)
Johnsongrass (<i>Sorghum halepense</i>)	Wild oats (<i>Avena fatua</i>)
Jointed goatgrass (<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>)	Wild proso millet (<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>)
Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia virgata</i>)	Yellow Bluestem (<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i>)
Meadow knapweed (<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>)	Yellow hawkweed (<i>Pilosella caespitosa</i>)
Medusahead (<i>Taeniatherum caputmedusae</i>)	Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)
Musk thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>)	Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)

Procedure for species considered for addition or deletion:

1. Petition must be sent to the NAISMA Certified Weed Free Products (WFP) Committee from a designated authority as defined in these standards formally requesting a species be added or removed from listing to Appendix A:
2. Petition shall contain a risk assessment of species proposed to be added with information on its potential and/or actual impacts to natural resources at a state/provincial and/or regional level.
3. Petition shall contain a risk assessment of species proposed for deletion with information on why the species is no longer considered a potential and/or actual threat to natural resources at a state/provincial and/or regional level.
4. Petitioner shall send the formal petition to add or delete a species to the NAISMA WFP Committee Co-Chairs at least 90 days before the committee meets at NAISMA's Annual General Meeting (AGM).
5. NAISMA WFP Committee Co-Chair will send the petition to committee members and MOU holders at least 60 days in advance of NAISMA's AGM.
6. NAISMA WFP Committee will formulate a recommendation to support or deny the petition to be presented and voted on by MOU holders. MOU holders can only vote once and can vote by proxy.
7. The decision (by simple majority of the MOU holders) is then presented to the NAISMA Board of Directors (BOD) for their consideration prior to NAISMA's AGM.
8. If the NAISMA BOD supports the Certified WFP Committee recommendation on the petition, it will be presented at NAISMA's AGM.
9. Appendix A will be modified as necessary after the above procedures have been carried out.

Appendix B: Inspection Certificate Standards and Certificate of Inspection Minimum

Requirements: Revised 1/24/97, 10/30/02, 3/31/15, 10/23/17, 4/16/20

1. Designated authority contact information.
2. Inspection Certificate numbering system.
3. Forage producer contact information.
4. Legal description of property being inspected.
5. Number of acres or hectares inspected.
6. Size of package or bale.
7. Number or tonnage of bales or packages.
8. Type of forage.
9. "Meets NAISMA Standard" statement.
10. Inspection date.
11. Designated authority's inspector signature.
12. Comments section.
13. Expiration Date.
14. Disclaimer statement.

Appendix C: Transit Certificate Standards and Transit Certificate Minimum Requirements

Revised 1/24/97, 10/20/03, 3/31/15

1. Designated authority contact information.
2. Transit Certificate numbering system.
3. Transporter contact information.
4. Consignee contact information.
5. Specific destination.
6. Reference to Inspection Certification Number (Appendix B)
7. Type of Certification Marking used (Appendix D)
8. Size of package or bale.
9. Number or tonnage of bales or packages.
10. Type of forage.
11. Issue date.
12. Issuer signature, title, and contact information.
13. Comments section.
14. "Only Original Print / Digital Copy Approved By Designated Authority Accepted"
Statement

Appendix D: Certification Marking

Revised 1/24/97, 10/30/02, 10/20/03, 5/15/08, 3/31/15, 10/23/17, 4/16/20

Certified Weed Free Twine approved by NAISMA.

1. Certified weed free twine is required to be used in at least one full string per bale to be considered an approved NAISMA certification marking
2. Cut or tied lengths of twine attached to a bale are not considered an approved NAISMA certification marking.
3. The use of the certified weed free twine in a manner inconsistent with the approved certification marking standard may result in disqualification of the bale and/or harvest from certified status and may also result in early termination of the certificate of inspection.

Forage Tag Minimum Requirements:

1. The words "NAISMA Weed Free Forage Certification Program".
2. A number system (for tracking purposes).
3. State or Province of issue.
4. Designated authority contact information.
5. A statement that the product is "Certified to the NAISMA Standards".

Appendix E: Field Inspection Standards and Minimum Guidelines for Field Inspections

Revised 1/24/97, 3/31/15, 2/1/16

1. Fields shall be inspected within a maximum of 10 days prior to cutting / harvesting.
2. Fields must be inspected again if circumstances prevent harvest of the forage for a period greater than 10 days from the first inspection.
3. There shall be a minimum of two entry points per field.
4. There shall be a minimum of one entry point per each 10 acres (4 hectares).
5. Each point of entry shall be at least 150 feet (45 meters) into the field, and each additional 150 feet (45 meters) traveled shall constitute an entry point.
6. Travel shall be uninterrupted, proceeding through the field being inspected.
7. Field borders shall be inspected, including surrounding ditches, fence rows, roads, easements, rights-of-way, and/or a buffer zone surrounding the field as determined by the designated authority.
8. The storage area for the forage shall also be inspected and meet these standards.
9. An inspector may not inspect fields of which said inspector has ownership or financial interest.