

Vegetation Management Section

Maintenance Programs

Noxious Weeds

A common term for some types of vegetation is "noxious weeds", which can be any plant in any stage of development, including parasitic plants, whose presence, whether direct or indirect, is detrimental to crops or other desirable plants, livestock, land, or other property, or is injurious to the public health. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA & CS) maintains a list of weeds considered "noxious". The current list includes these:

Blessed Thistle	Cornflower (Ragged Robin)
Cocklebur	Texas Panicum
Spurred Anoda	Bracted Plantain
Velvetleaf	Buckhorn Plantain
Morning-glory	Broadleaf Dock
Corn Cockle	Curly Dock
Wild Radish	Dodder
Purple Nutsedge	Giant Foxtail
Yellow Nutsedge	Horsenettle
Canada Thistle	Quackgrass
Field Bindweed	Wild Mustard
Hedge Bindweed	

Many of the above-listed "noxious" weeds are found on North Carolina roadsides.

Pestiferous Weeds

Another term commonly used for undesirable vegetation is pestiferous weeds, which can be any plant regardless of its stage of development and regardless of its status on NCDA & CS's noxious weeds list, that persists in the rights-of-way and is so considered to be annoying, bothersome, or unsightly. The roadside environment often includes pestiferous weeds that are of particular concern to both public right-of-way interests as well as adjacent private landowners. In general, the predominate herbicide applications for control of these weeds would be of the selective post-emergence type. As mentioned previously for kudzu, the NCDOT may participate in a cooperative eradication program with adjacent property owners, whereby each party must control the undesirable vegetation on their respective property. This program has proven to be successful in reducing the competition of problem species.

Aquatic Weeds

Aquatic weeds such as alligator weed and purple loosestrife, may be controlled along canals and wet ditches to facilitate drainage. For this purpose, the NCDOT selects only herbicides that are properly labeled for aquatic use. Personnel involved in application of properly labeled herbicides along waterways are licensed for aquatic pesticide applications.