

## Certification Standards

The Division of Agriculture, in partnership with Alaskan stakeholders and agencies, has adopted standards developed by the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA). The Weed-Free Forage & Straw Certification Program uses NAWMA standards, adapted to meet Alaska's unique needs. Species that are of special concern to Alaska are noted in bold text.



## Alaskan Species of Concern

- **Narrowleaf hawkweed**
- **Narrowleaf hawksbeard**
- **Bird vetch**
- **Hawkbit/fall dandelion**
- **Hempnettle**
- **Black bindweed/wild buckwheat**
- **Corn spurry**

## NAWMA Invasive Weed List

Absinth wormwood  
 Bermudagrass  
 Buffalobur  
**Canada thistle**  
 Common burdock  
 Common crupina  
**Common tansy**  
 Dalmatian toadflax  
 Diffuse knapweed  
 Dyers woad  
**Field bindweed**  
 Hemp (marijuana)  
 Henbane, Black  
 Hoary cress, (Whitetop)  
 Horsenettle  
 Houndstongue  
 Johnsongrass  
 Jointed goatgrass  
**Leafy spurge**  
 Matgrass  
 Meadow knapweed  
 Medusahead  
 Milium  
 Musk thistle  
**Orange hawkweed**  
**Oxeye daisy**  
 Perennial pepperweed

Perennial sorghum  
**Perennial sowthistle**  
 Plumeless thistle  
**Poison hemlock**  
 Puncturevine  
**Purple loosestrife**  
**Quackgrass**  
 Rush skeletonweed  
 Russian knapweed  
 Scentless chamomile  
 Scotch broom  
**Scotch thistle**  
 Sericea Lespedeza  
 Silverleaf nightshade  
 Skeletonleaf bursage  
 Spotted knapweed  
 Squarrose knapweed  
 St. Johnswort  
 Sulfur cinquefoil  
 Syrian beancape  
 Tansy ragwort  
 Toothed spurge  
**Wild oats**  
 Wild proso millet  
**Yellow hawkweed**  
 Yellow starthistle  
**Yellow toadflax**

## Where can Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw be Purchased?

Visit your local feed store and ask if they sell "Certified Weed-Free" Forage or Straw. This is a specialty product and large orders should be coordinated with producers well in advance. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for a list of participating producers.



**Anchorage**  
 (907) 677-7645 (SOIL)  
[aswcd.org](http://aswcd.org)

**Fairbanks**  
 (907) 479-1213  
[fairbankssoilwater.org](http://fairbankssoilwater.org)

**Homer**  
 (907) 235-8177 x106  
[homerswcd.org](http://homerswcd.org)

**Kenai**  
 (907) 283-8732 x108  
[kenaisoilandwater.org](http://kenaisoilandwater.org)

**Kenny Lake**  
 (907)359-4455

**Kodiak**  
 (907) 486-5574  
[kodiaksoilandwater.org](http://kodiaksoilandwater.org)

**Mid Yukon-Kuskokwim**  
 (907) 676 - 0336  
[midyukonkuskokwimswcd.com](http://midyukonkuskokwimswcd.com)

**Palmer**  
 (907) 745-1441  
[palmersoilandwater.org](http://palmersoilandwater.org)

**Salcha-Delta**  
 (907) 895-6279  
[salchadeltaswcd.org](http://salchadeltaswcd.org)

**Upper Susitna**  
 (907) 733-7923  
[www.usswcd.org](http://www.usswcd.org)

**Wasilla**  
 (907) 357-4563 x103  
[www.wasillaswcd.org](http://www.wasillaswcd.org)

For more information about Alaska's Weed-Free Forage & Straw Certification Program, or to become an inspector, contact:



[plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php](http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php)

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Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
 Division of Agriculture

## Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw



The Weed-Free Forage & Straw Certification program strives to reduce the transport and dispersal of noxious or undesirable weeds within Alaska's landscape. Forage and straw producers can provide a value-added product through adherence to certification standards and field inspections. Please help prevent the spread of weed species by choosing **Weed-Free**.



## About the Program



The Certified Weed Free Forage & Straw program is voluntary, offered at no cost to the producer (other than the purchase of twine for baling). Certified fields are inspected within 10 days of harvest by a certified inspector. To qualify as Weed-Free, forage and straw must meet program minimum standards and the field must be free of the listed weed species.

Certified products are denoted by a special colored twine that is available to participating producers.

If you would like to schedule an inspection of your fields, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District. District contact information is listed on the back of this brochure.

Find out more online:

[plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php](http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/weed-free-forage.php)



## Inspector Training and Certification

Inspector training sessions are held each spring and are offered to new and forage and gravel inspectors. Training is hosted by the Division of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service.

Inspector certification is valid for 5 years, although annual training is encouraged to keep up with the program and to keep plant identification skills fresh.



*Inspector training is offered each spring*

# Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw



## Who uses Weed-Free Forage?

Choosing Certified Weed-Free Forage & Straw for bedding, mulch and animal feed avoids the potential for introducing invasive plants into sensitive or pristine areas. Some examples of its use include:

- Landowners and livestock managers who want to avoid introducing new weeds;
- Dog mushers or people traveling into the backcountry with pack animals; and
- Conservation organizations who use mulch for streambank stabilization & erosion control.



## Benefits of Weed-Free Forage:

- Support local agriculture
- Support local economies
- Minimize shipping costs
- Help prevent the spread of invasives into wildlands



## Why produce Weed-Free Forage?

Certification programs offer a way for producers to assure that their products have reduced potential for transport and dispersal of weeds that are listed as noxious or undesirable in Alaska.



*Weed Free Forage is a specialty product and large orders of material should be coordinated with producers well in advance.*

## What is an Invasive Weed?

Invasive species are typically recognized as non-native species that once introduced spread beyond control to negatively effect natural resources, agriculture and the economy.

