

Maryland's Noxious Weeds



Bull Thistle April to October



Canadian Thistle April to October



Johnsongrass July to October



Palmer Amaranth July to September



Shatter Cane July to August



Waterhemp July to September

For Additional Information Contact:

Cecil County Department of Public Works
Roads Division
758 East Old Philadelphia Road (Route 7)
Elkton, MD 21921
Phone (410) 996-6270
www.ccgov.org
WeedControl@ccgov.org

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection & Weed Management
Section
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
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(410) 841-5920



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(Previous versions are obsolete.)



Cecil County
Department of Public Works

Noxious Weed Control

A Guide for County Landowners



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In Cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture

What does Maryland state law say regarding control of noxious weeds?

The Agriculture Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland declares the following plants to be noxious weeds in the State:

- Thistles belonging to the Asteraceae or Compositae family, including Canada, Musk, Nodding, Plumeless, and Bull Thistle
- Johnsongrass (*Sorghum Halepense*) or hybrids that contain Johnsongrass as a parent;
- Palmer Amaranth
- Waterhemp
- Shatter Cane and Wild Cane (*Sorghum Bicolor*)

In addition, the Agriculture Article declares *rosa multiflora*, commonly known as multiflora rose, to be a public and common nuisance on land used for agricultural production.

State law requires anyone owning or managing land within the State of Maryland, including public entities, to eradicate or control the noxious weeds on that land by using approved practices including mowing, cultivating, or treating with an approved herbicide.

Why are these plants regulated?

Noxious weeds threaten the productive land of farmers and can cause unsightly and unwanted problems in the lawns and gardens of homeowners.

What is the County's weed control program and how can it help?

Landowners and managers with the proper equipment, licenses, and expertise can eradicate or control noxious weeds on their properties themselves or they can hire properly licensed commercial services to do so on their behalf.

As a service to County residents, the Cecil County Department of Public Works (DPW), in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, operates a noxious weed control program to assist farmers, developers, right-of-way owners, federal, state, and local agencies and other landowners in controlling noxious weeds and certain other invasive species such as phragmites.

The County noxious weed control program is managed by DPW's Roads Division and provides spot, boom, and/or drone spraying of approved herbicides by licensed contractors on a fee-for-service basis.

What are the rates for the County's weed control services?

Landowners using the County's noxious weed control services are billed at the following rates plus the cost of the herbicides used:

- Private Non-Agriculture \$200 / hour
- Private Agriculture :

Mobilization	\$145
Spraying	\$200 / hour

Failure to pay for services rendered can result in a lien being placed against the property by the Cecil County Finance Department.

What are the penalties for failing to control noxious weeds?

Landowners or managers who fail to control noxious weeds can be prosecuted by the Cecil County State's Attorney Office.

The first offense is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding three months, or both.

Second or subsequent offenses are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

