

DEALING WITH LISTED INVASIVE PLANTS BY THE BOOK

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The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Invasive species law (NR40) established a classification and regulatory system for invasive species restricting actions such as sales, transportation, planting, or releasing listed species to the wild without a permit. While none of these plants classified by the rule have any direct agronomic value as a crop, producers will need to ensure that they are not transporting viable propagules (seeds or perennial tissue that can resprout) of prohibited and restricted species as this is illegal (unless a permit is obtained). While the rule exempts people who incidentally or unknowingly transport, possess, transfer or introduce a listed invasive species, knowledgeable producers must demonstrate that they took reasonable precautions to prevent movement of listed species. An example of this situation would be haying a field filled with listed plants like spotted knapweed or Canada thistle and transporting the bales to another location off farm. Producers can transport plant tissue of these species, but they must be incapable of reproducing/propagating. So harvesting these fields before any viable seeds are produced would be considered an adequate practice to prevent spread by DNR as the producer took steps to prevent movement of propagules of known listed plants.

This presentation will discuss common ways agricultural producer could be out of compliance and provide management options a producer can implement to remain in compliance.

To see additional information about NR40, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/>

DEFINITIONS OF LISTED SPECIES

Prohibited species are not yet in the state or only exist as small populations, but have the potential to cause significant damage if they are allowed to spread and become established. It is illegal for people to transport, import, possess, transfer, sell and introduce these species without a permit. Landowners will be expected to control prohibited species found on their property.

Restricted species are invasive species that are already too widespread to expect statewide eradication. For this classification it is illegal for people to transport, import, transfer, sell and introduce these species, but people may possess plants.

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