



# Noxious Weeds of Kansas



# Noxious Weed Information

## What is a Noxious Weed?

- A noxious weed is a weed that has been designated by an agricultural authority as one that is injurious to agricultural or horticultural crops, natural habitats or ecosystems, or humans or livestock.

## What are my responsibilities under the Weed Law?

- Landowners, whether they are individuals, families, companies, or organizations are responsible for controlling the noxious weeds on their land or lands they manage.



How many Noxious  
Weeds are in Kansas?

Answer: There are a total of 14  
Noxious Weeds in Kansas, 2 of  
these are county options



County Options:

1. Bull Thistle
2. Multiflora Rose

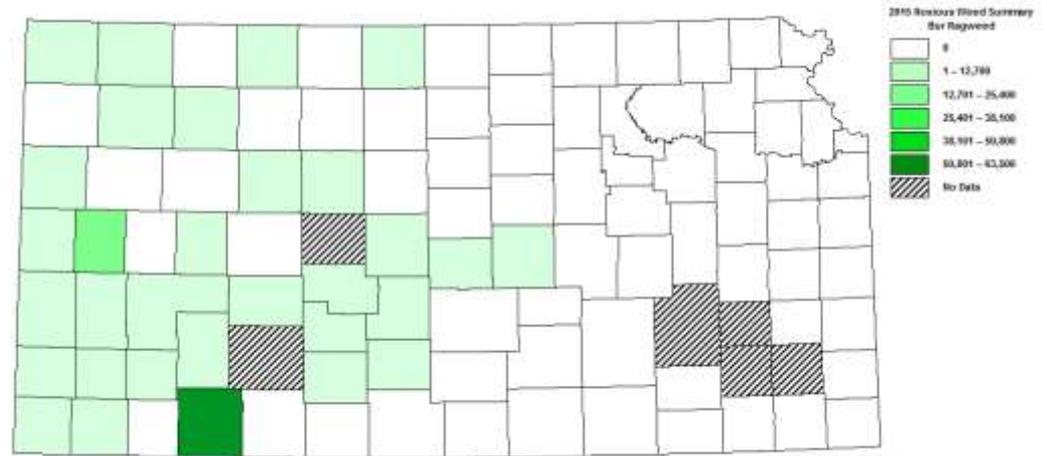


# Bur Ragweed (Bursage)



# Bur Ragweed (Bursage)

- A perennial, reproducing by underground root-stocks and seeds.
- 1 to 2 feet high, covered in fine woolly hairs.
- Usually branches from the base, make it look somewhat bushy.
- Seed cone shaped in heads 307 mm long, with hooked spines or curved at tip.
- Seeds September through November.

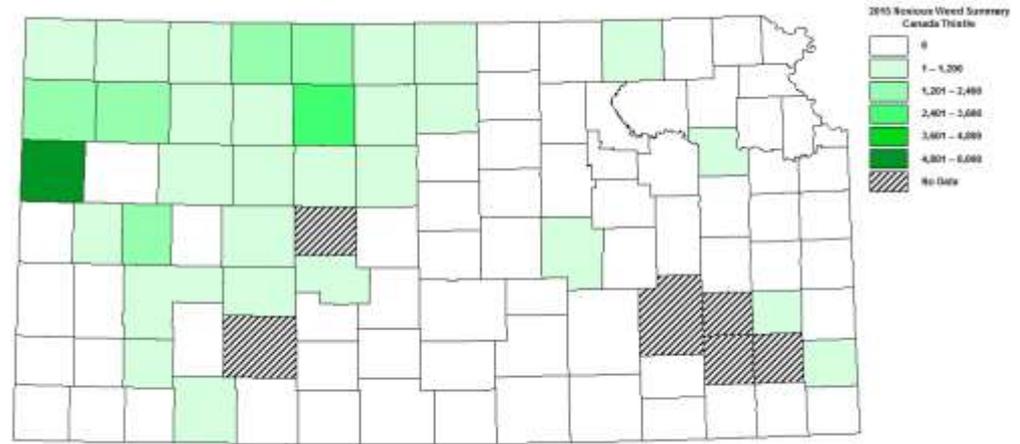


# Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)



# Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

- A perennial that grows 2 to 4 feet tall.
- Flowers white or rose-purple in composite heads grouped at ends of top branches.
- Freely branching, fibrous root system.
- Seeds about 1/8 inch long, smooth, light to dark brown, oblong, slightly flattened and slightly curved with a white hairy pappus at the top.



# Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)



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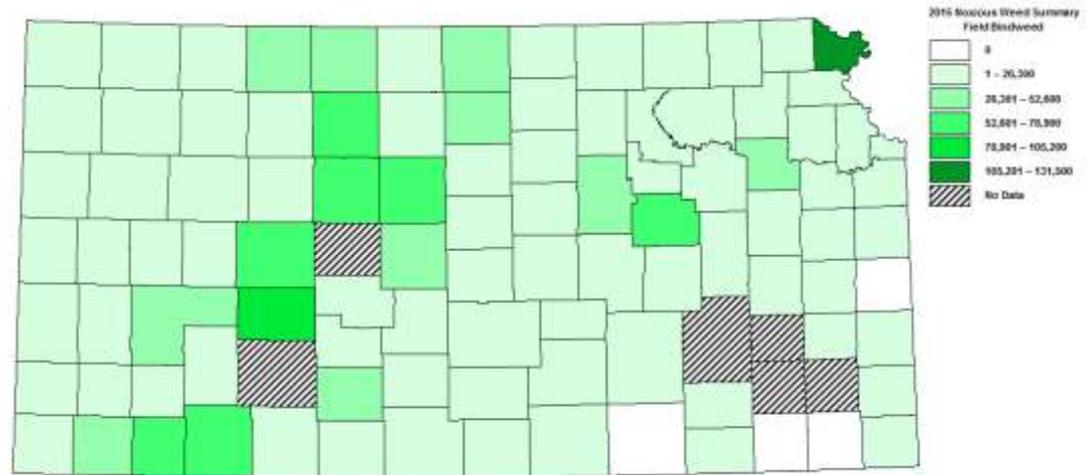
- Perennial that reproduces by seeds and root stocks that extend a depth of 20 to 30 feet.

- The smooth, slender stems twine or spread over the soil and vegetation.

- Flowers are white, pink, or white with pink and are funnel shaped.

- Seeds are dark, brownish-gray, are about 1/8 inch long, and have one rounded and two flattened sides.

- Spreads both by seed and root

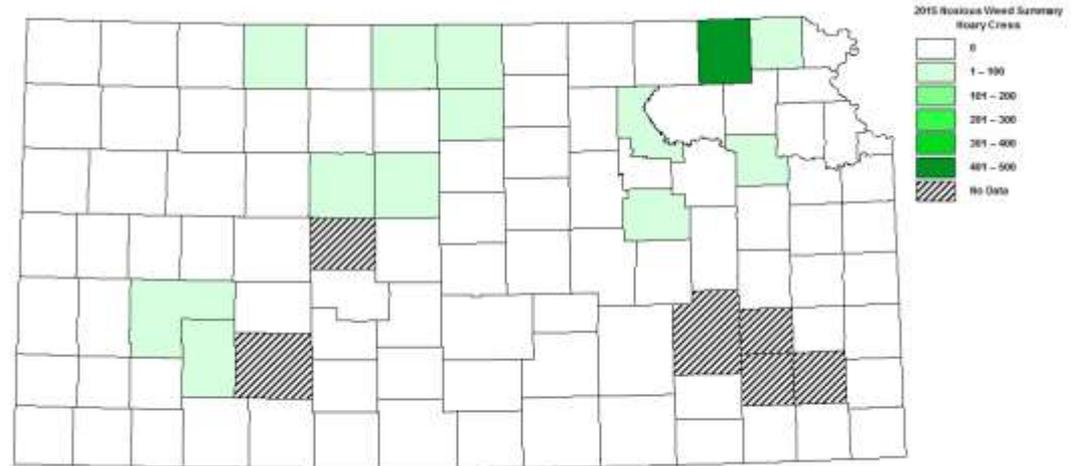


# Hoary Cress (*Cardaria draba*)



# Hoary Cress (*Cardaria draba*)

- Perennial that reproduces by extensive root system, rhizomes and seeds.
- Plants are grayish-green with leaves that are 1 to 3 inches long.
- Flowers are white and produce in May to July.
- Seed pods are heart shaped, flattened, and reddish brown.
- Seeds mature between June to August.

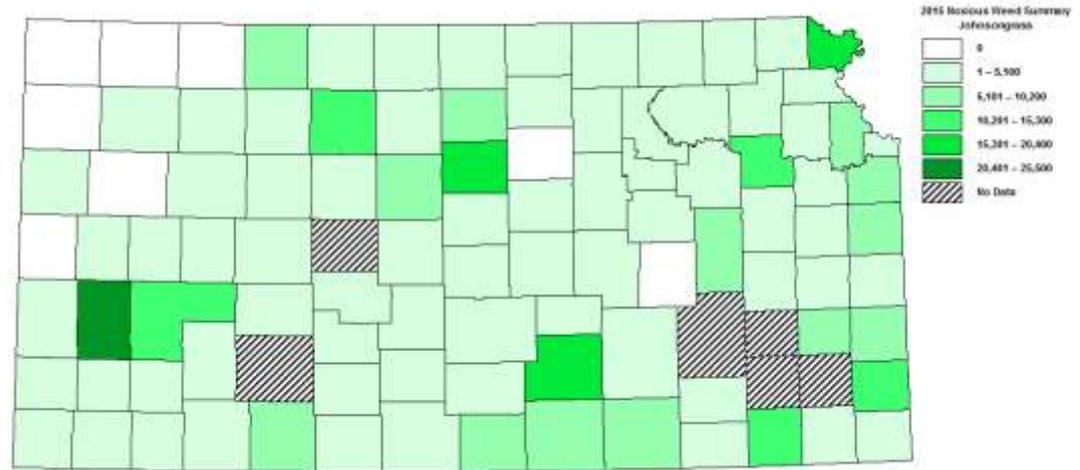


# Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)



# Johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*)

- Perennial grass, that reproduces by large rhizomes and seeds.
- Adapted to hold its own in competition with crops.
- Stems up to 6 to 8 feet high or more.
- Leaves are relatively wide and long.
- Flowers from May till frost and seed to frost as well.

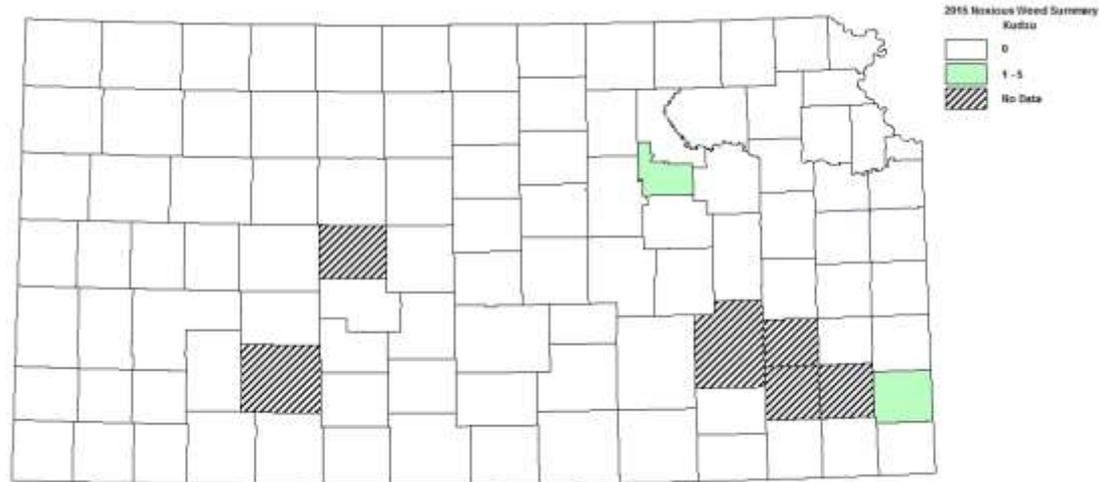


# Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)



# Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)

- Long-lived, coarse, viney legume that covers the ground with long runners.
- The leaves are found in groups of three with large lavender to purple flowers.
- Seed pods are 4.5 to 5 cm in length that are papery and covered with fine hair.
- New infestations can be reduced by preventing the movement of root crowns or seed from infested areas.



# Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)



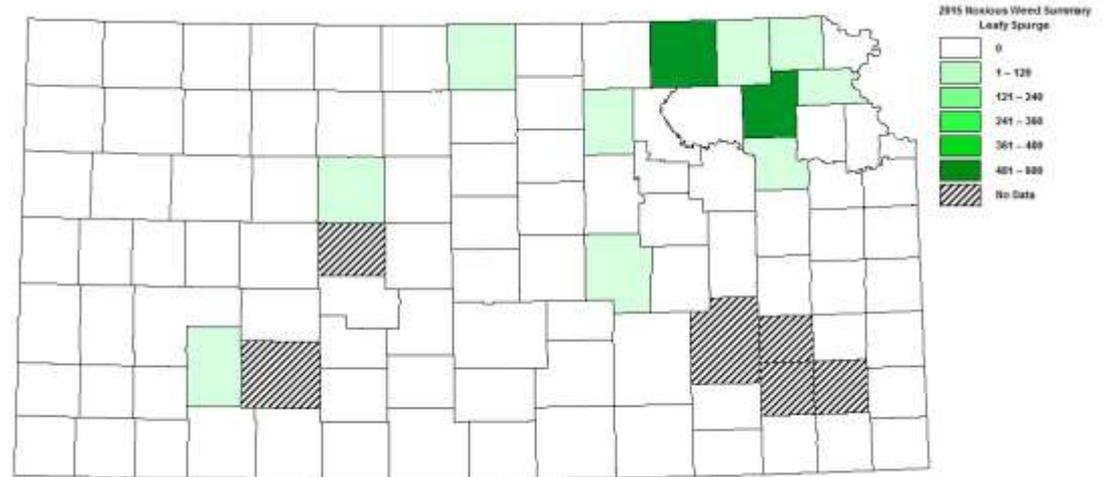
# Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)

- Perennial from Europe that reproduces by seed and underground root stocks.

- Plants are bright green and are 2/3 to 2 feet high.

- Flowers are very small, greenish-yellow or with brown spots. Flowers May to September

- Seeds are borne in a three lobed capsule (3 seeds per pod). Seeds between June to August.

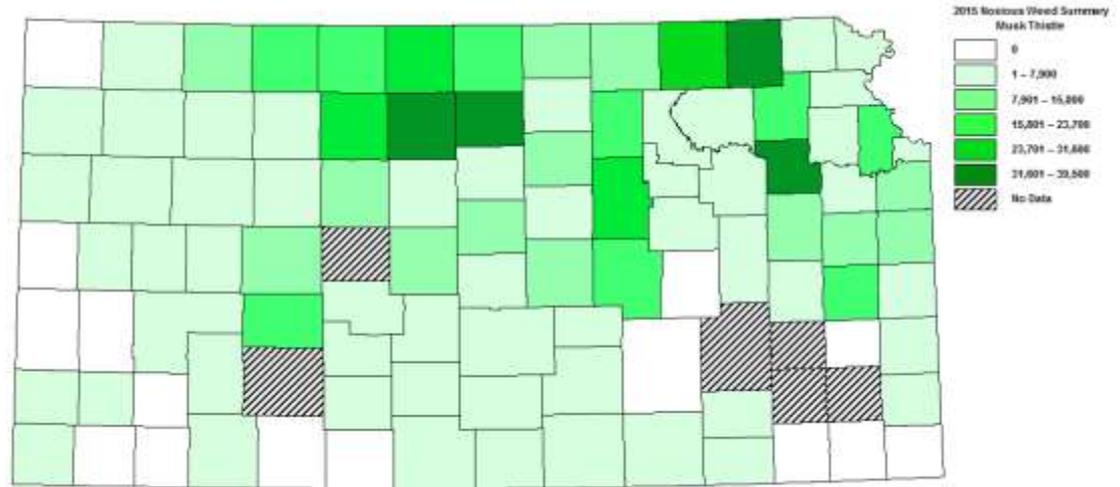


# Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)



# Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

- Biennial or winter annual but may occur as a summer annual.
- The leaves are deeply lobed, hairless, and dark green with a light green mid-rib.
- The first thistle in Kansas to bloom.
- The flower is purple, 1 to 3 inches in diameter, and solitary.
- Seed dispersal begins 7 to 10 days after blooming.
- Seeds are straw colored, oblong, and 1/8 inch in length.
- Musk Thistle is the first Thistle to bloom in the spring.

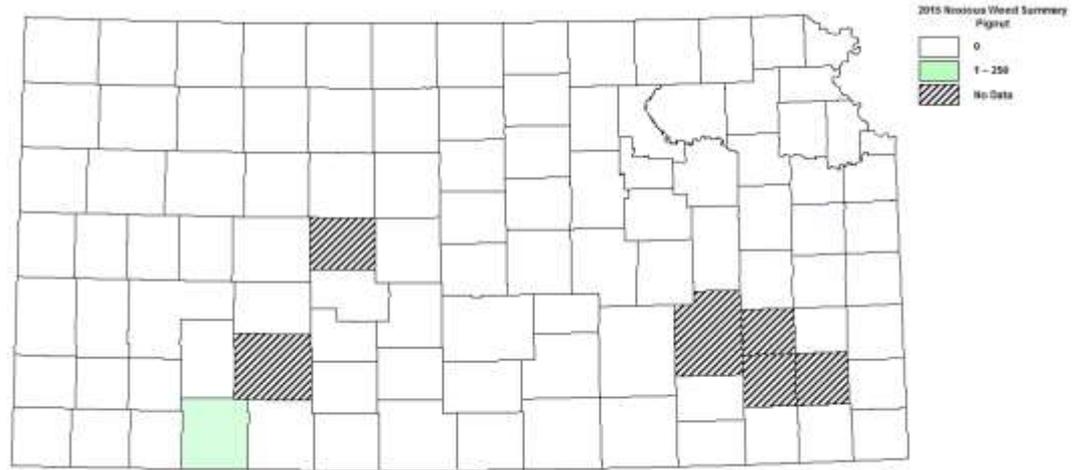


# Pignut (*Hoffmannseffia densiflora*)



# Pignut (*Hoffmannseffia densiflora*)

- This plant has deep roots extending 10 to 15 inches below the surface and are difficult to remove from soil.
- The leaves are oblong in shape, twice divided, 3-5 inches long, and usually 3-5 pairs of leaflets.
- The leaves have characteristic glandular dots.
- The flowers are pea-type, yellow or orange red, and out ½ inch long.
- The pods are flat about 1 to 1 ½ inches long, and few to several seeds per pod.

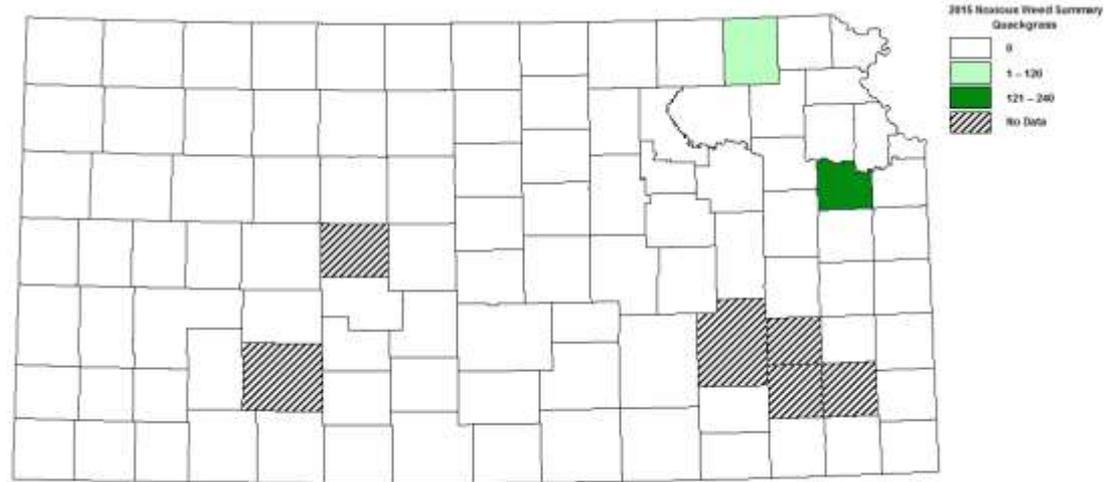


# Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*)



# Quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*)

- Perennial, reproducing by seed and underground root stocks.
- Root stocks are pale yellow and stems grow up to 3 feet tall with 3-6 joints.
- Leaves are wide, shiny, and dark green in color.
- Terminal spikes are 2 to 4 inches long and have 3 to 7 short-awned florets in a spikelet.
- The seed is elongated toward the slender, short-awned tip, broadest below the middle and tapered to the blunt base.



# Russian Knapweed (*Centaurea repens*)



# Russian Knapweed (*Centaurea repens*)

- Perennial introduced from Asia that reproduces by roots, rhizomes, and seeds.

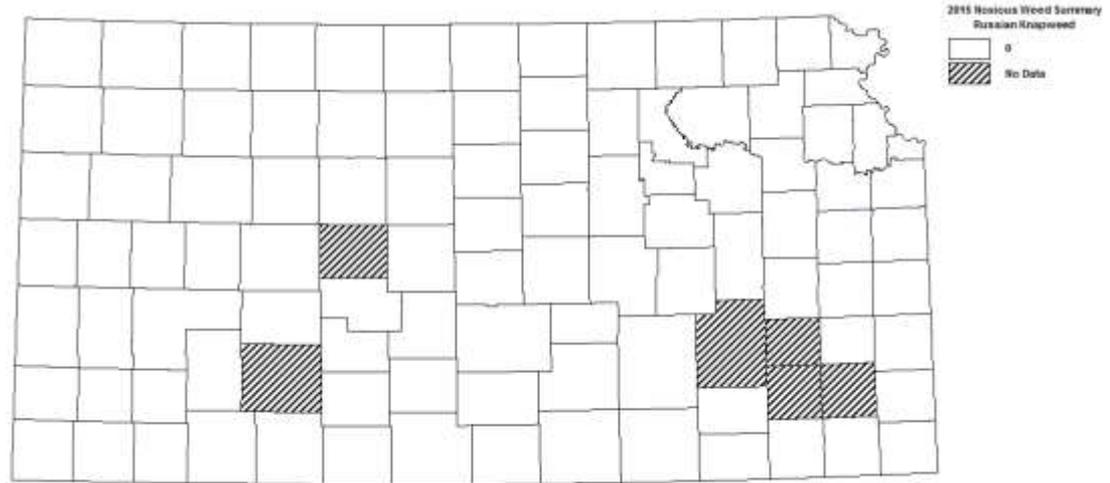
- Plants up to about 3 feet in height, from a particularly well-developed branching root system.

- Flowers numerous, tubular, rose to purple or blue, in composite heads which are flask-shaped, solitary on the ends of the leafy branches.

- Seeds are ivory to light brown color, 2-3 mm long and flat.

- Flowers between June to August.

- Seeds between August to September.

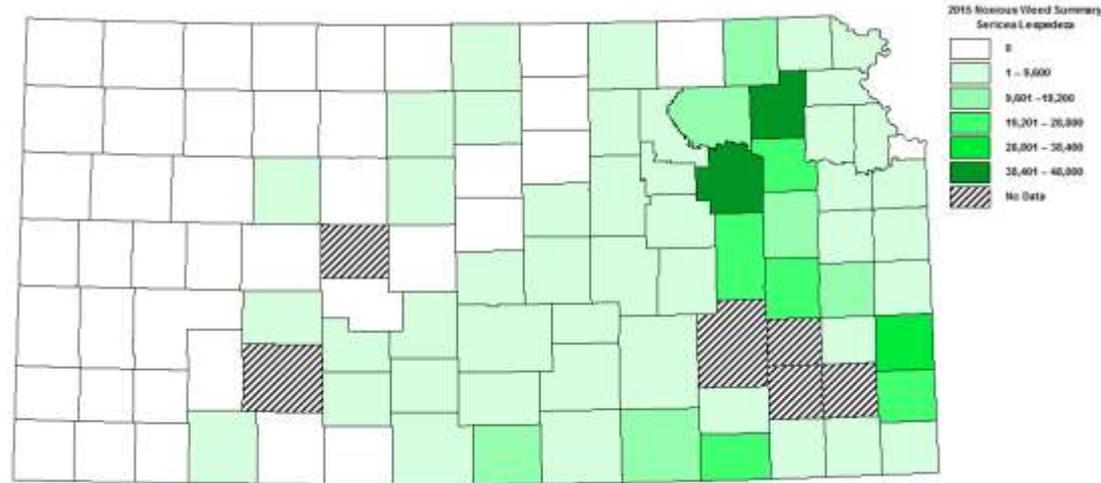


# **Sericea Lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata)**



# ***Sericea Lespedeza* (*Lespedeza cuneata*)**

- Perennial, stems erect to 5ft tall.
- Leaves with 3 leaflets that are 1 inch long and less than ¼ inch wide.
- Flowers few in the axils of the leaves from mid to late July to October.
- Flower petals are yellowish or tinged with purple and are about ¼ inch long.
- The fruit pod is about 1/8 inch long, roundish with pointed ends and flattened.





# Noxious Weeds Most Commonly Found in Douglas County, Kansas



# Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)



# History of Field Bindweed

- Bindweed was introduced in the mid-eighteenth century from Eurasia.
- It was introduced when it was cultivated as an ornamental and medicinal herb.
- By the mid-nineteenth century, it had escaped and naturalized.

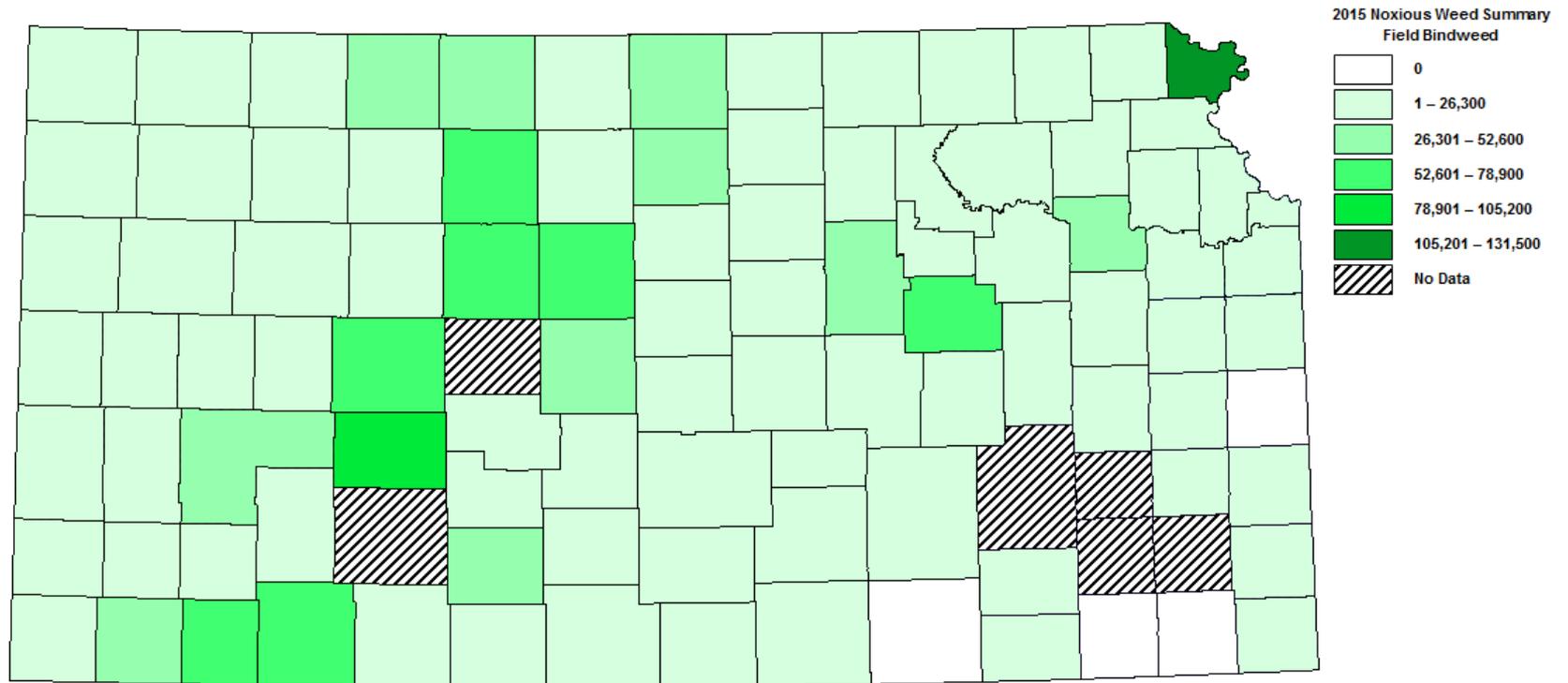


# Description of Field Bindweed

- A vining plant that chokes out most other vegetation.
- The leaves are spirally arranged, linear to arrowhead shaped and 2-5 cm long and alternate.
- The flowers are trumpet-shaped and white or pale pink.
- Flowering occurs in the mid-summer.
- Fruit are light brown, rounded (as shown to the left), and contains 2 seeds.
- Seeds can remain viable in the soil for decades.



# Field Bindweed 2015 Kansas Map



# Control Practices of Field Bindweed

- Control of field bindweed means preventing the production of viable seed and destroying the plants ability to reproduce by vegetative means.



- Seed is viable after remaining dormant in the soil for years. Seeds brought to the surface by tillage, rodents, or by other means will germinate under favorable conditions.

- Effective control can be achieved by applying approved herbicide .

- Other control methods are planting competitive crops to choke it out or using a hoe to cut the plants and roots before seeding.



# Approved Herbicides for Field Bindweed

- 2, 4-D Amine applied during active growth in spring when the plant is in the bud stage or in the fall after 12inches of new growth.

- Glyphosate (Roundup) by following the label.

- Glyphosate and 2,4-D for suppression, apply directly to the weed and allow 7 days after treatment before tillage.

- Tordon 22K which is a restricted herbicide. Follow the directions on the label.

- Be sure to always follow the directions and precautions on the label when using Herbicides to ensure your animals, crops, and land is safe.



# Johnson Grass (*Sorghum halepense*)



# History of Johnson Grass

- Native to the Mediterranean region, but grows throughout Europe and the Middle East.
- The plant was introduced to all continents except Antarctica, and most larger islands and archipelagos.
- It was used for forage and to stop erosion.
- It was named after an Alabama plantation owner, Colonel William Johnson, who sowed its seeds on river-bottom farm land in 1840.

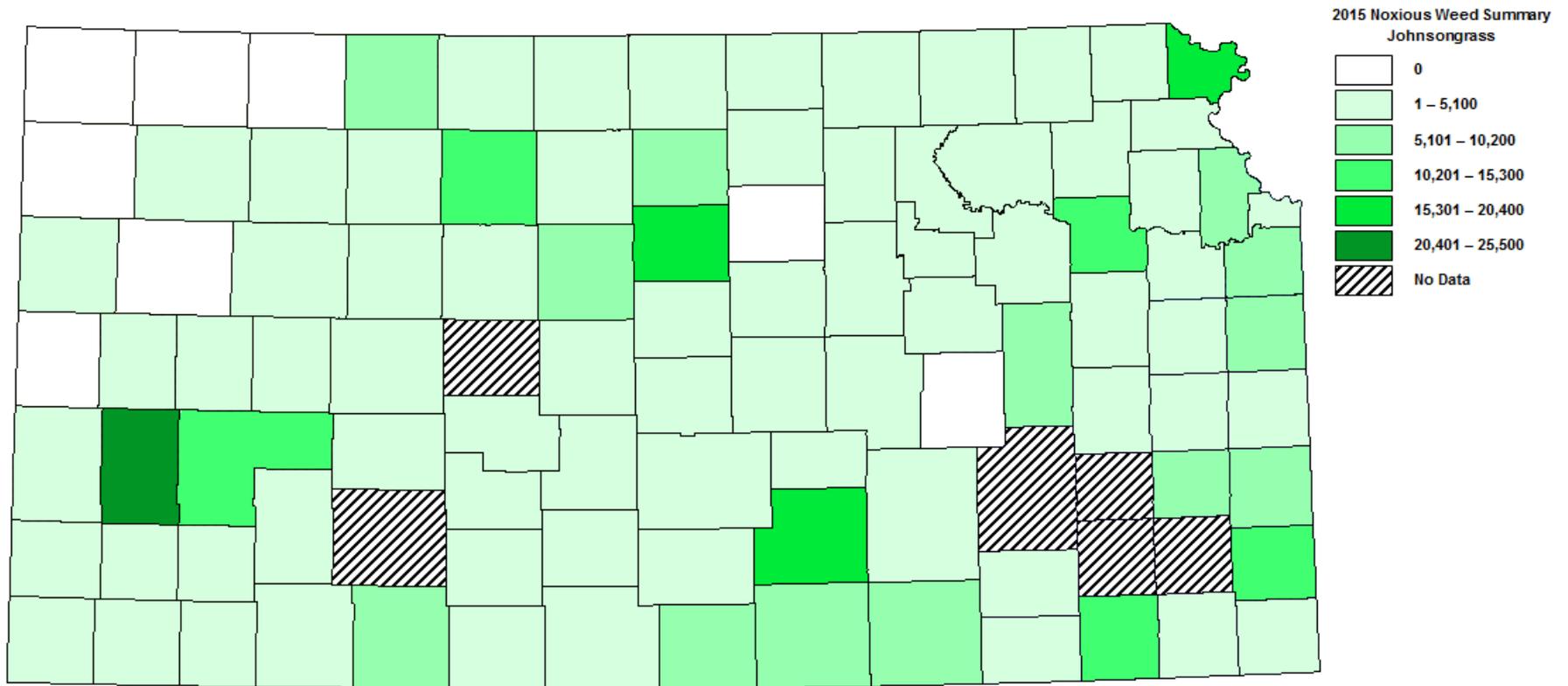


# Description of Johnson Grass

- Upright perennial grass, reproducing by large rhizomes and seeds.
- Stems up to 6 to 8 feet high or more, from a freely branching, stout, rhizome-possessing, fibrous root system.
- Leaves alternate, simple, relatively wide and long.
- Spikelet's 1-flowered, in groups of 3, in rather open large panicles.
- Fruit is a grain type, finely striate, reddish-brown.
- Flowers from May till frost and seeds to frost.



# Johnson Grass 2015 Kansas Map



# Control Practices of Johnson Grass

- Preventing the production of viable seed and destroying the plant's ability to reproduce by vegetative means.
- Cultural control practices are used by cutting off the entire plant at each operation, 3 to 5 inches deep at intervals of 14 to 18 days.
- Effective control can be achieved by applying approved herbicide .



## Approved Herbicides for Johnson Grass

- Glyphosate (Roundup) applied to actively growing plants when most have reached boot to head stages of growth. Do not apply after the plant has turned brown in the fall.



# Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)



# History of Musk Thistle

- A native of western Europe, Musk Thistle was introduced to the eastern United States in the early 1800s.
- It was introduced accidentally from seed mixes.
- It wasn't discovered until 1942 in Davidson County, Tennessee.
- It is now declared a noxious weed in many of the United States that it is present in.



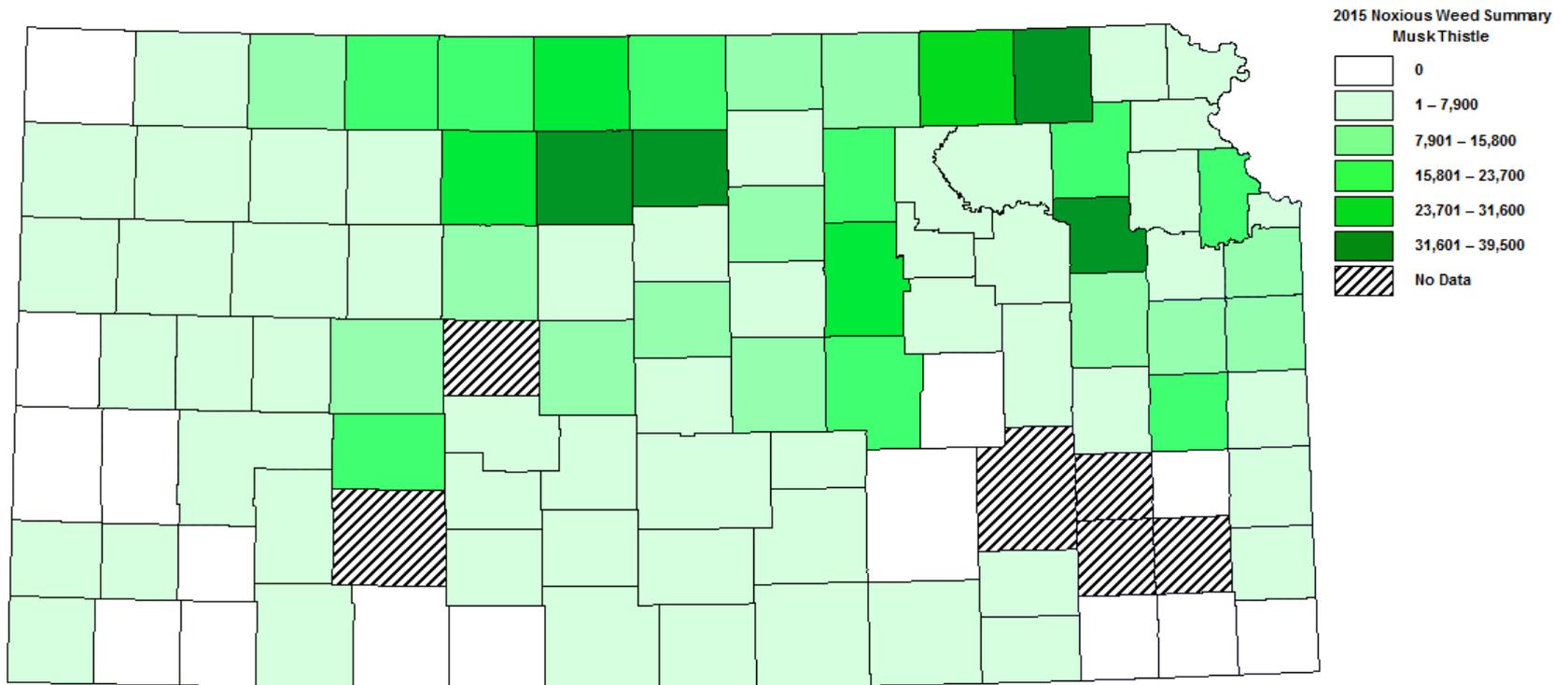
# Description of Musk Thistle

- Primarily a biennial or winter annual but may occur as a summer annual.
- The leaves are deeply lobed, hairless, and dark green with a lighter green mid-line.
- The terminal flower is large, solitary and usually nodding or bent over slightly.
- The flowers are purple and are “powder puff” shaped.
- Seed dispersal begins 7 to 10 days after blooming and are straw-colored and oblong.



# Musk Thistle

## 2015 Kansas Map



# Control Practices of Musk Thistle

- Mowing with a rotary mower before the first appearance of the flowers can help with seed production.
- Hand cutting or digging up the roots between the first appearance of pink and the first appearance of brown on the pappus can help too.
- If digging up the root, dig at least two inches below ground level and remove the whole root from the soil.
- If cutting off the flower heads, cut off the bud and place in a tight container to prevent seeding.
- Effective control can be achieved by applying approved herbicide .



## Approved Herbicides for Musk Thistle

- 2, 4-D Amine applied during the rosette stage of growth and used during the fall if the soil moisture and air temperature is above 50F.
- Tordon 22K is a restricted herbicide. Apply this during rosette state in spring or fall, prior to soil freeze.
- Tordon 22K + 1lb of 2,4-D Amine will improve the consistency of musk thistle control when environmental or biological conditions are not conducive to good herbicidal activity.
- Always follow the directions and precautions on the labels.



# **Sericea Lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata)**



# History of Sericea Lespedeza

- Native to eastern Asia
- It was introduced as a perennial legume used as well as used for erosion control
- In the 1980s, it started to spread showing the potential for a serious weed problem in southeast Kansas
- In 2000, Kansas declared it a Noxious Weed



# Description of Sericea Lespedeza

- It is a bushy perennial with semi-woody stems and grows up to 5 ft tall.

- Leaves have 3 leaflets that are less than 1in long.

- Flowers are white with yellowish to purple tinged petals.

- Flowers will bloom mid or late July to October in Kansas.

- The fruit pod is brown, roundish and flattened with pointed ends containing one seed.





# Control Practices for Sericea Lespedeza



- Burning at the proper time (late spring) followed by intensive-early stocking.

- Proper fertilization and grazing during April and May, may reduce the occurrence of Sericea.

- Mowing in the late bud stage for 2 to 3 consecutive years from mid-July to late summer should reduce it.

- Effective control can be achieved by applying approved herbicide .



# Approved Herbicides for Sericea Lespedeza

- Escort XP-Follow the label directions and precautions.
- Pasturegard-Follow the label directions and precautions.



# How is the Noxious Weed Law is Enforced?



- Published in the newspaper for around 5 days.
- The landowner will receive a warning either verbally or by mail.
- If there is still issues, the landowner will receive a legal notice by certified mail.

# How is the Noxious Weed Law is Enforced?



- After the 3<sup>rd</sup> legal notice, we will spray and the landowner will be charged cost of the chemical, labor, and include penalties.
- If the landowner does not pay, the payment will be added to their property taxes.

# DriftWatch – Sensitive Crop Listing



- Driftwatch helps reduce the risk of pesticide drift damage to sensitive crops
- If a crop is grown for commercial purposes and represents a legitimate source of income for the grower, can be economically damaged by herbicides, or if it is under organic certification, the grower should register their crop as a sensitive crop with the Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Register for free on <https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/pesticide-fertilizer/sensitive-crops-driftwatch>

# DriftWatch – Sensitive Crop Listing



- Hovering over the sensitive crop on the Kansas Department of Agriculture map, a type of sensitive crop will pop up.
- Clicking on this will open who the sensitive crop registry is and what type of sensitive crop they own.

# Douglas County Public Works-Sensitive Crop Listing

- If you live in Douglas County, you can register for free on <https://douglascountyks.org/depts/public-works/sensitive-crops-registry>
- Always register on both the Counties website and Kansas Department of Agriculture website.

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## How to Register

### County

To register with the county please complete the following registration form, print it, sign it and mail it to:

- Sensitive Crop Registry
- 3755 E. 25th St.
- Lawrence, Kansas 66046
- [Douglas County Sensitive Crop Registration Form \(fillable form\)](#) (PDF format)

### State of Kansas

To register with the state program, please visit the following page: [KDA Sensitive Crop Registration](#) (External link)

# Douglas County Public Works-Sensitive Crop Listing Form

**Douglas County Noxious Weed Department** FILL FORM

John Landon, Director  
Noxious Weed Division  
3788 E 28th St.  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Telephone (785) 331-1331  
Fax (785) 842-1209  
Cell (785) 691-9136

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

Land Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Crop \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of sensitive crops: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, request Douglas County Noxious Weed Department **not** apply herbicide from:  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
( start point address) ( end point address)

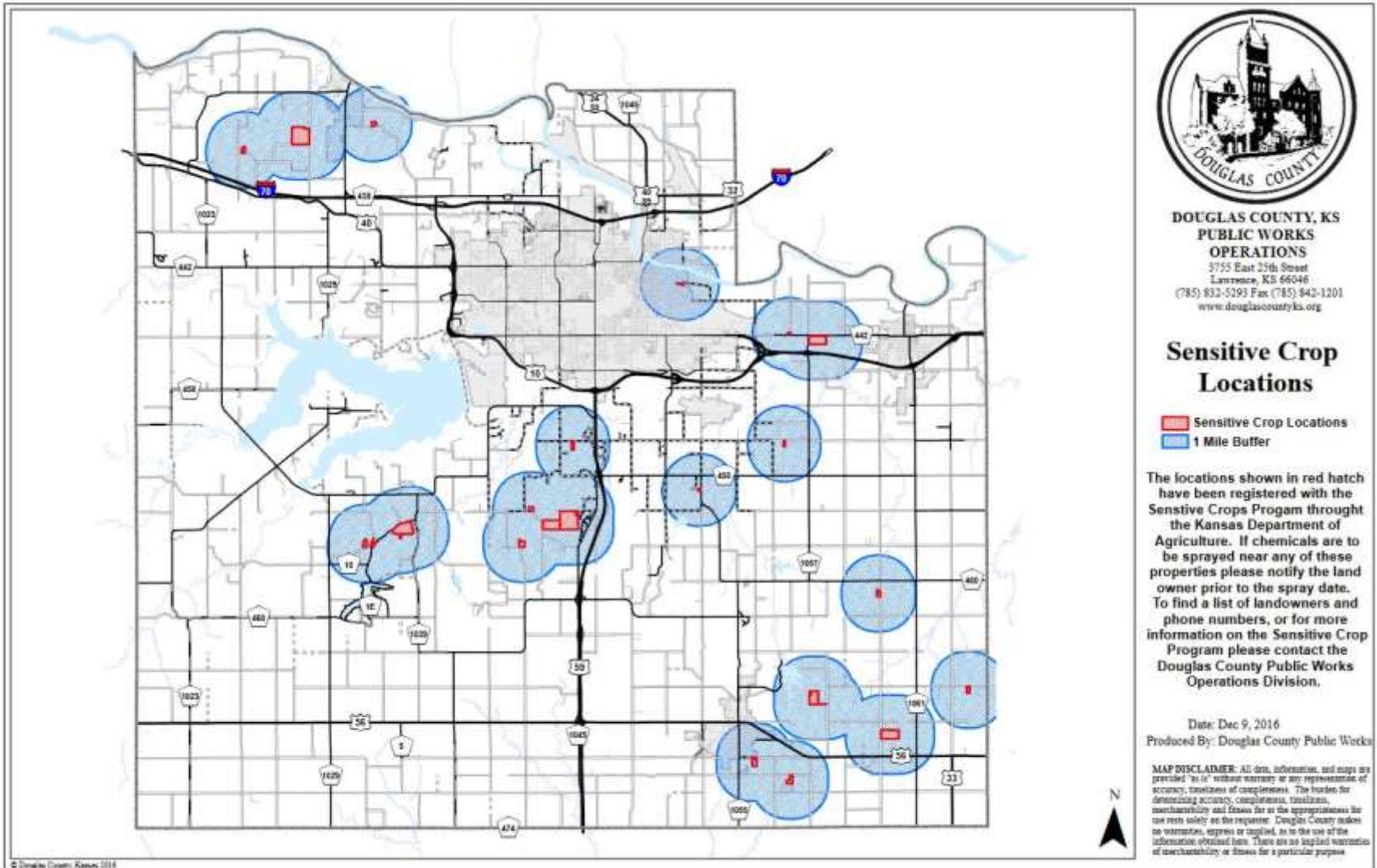
I agree to allow the County to place and maintain signs stating "SENSITIVE CROP AREA" or "NO SPRAY AREA" at the beginning and end of above designated area.

 The County will apply Milestone to the right-of-way after October 15<sup>th</sup> to assist in the prevention of noxious weeds during the next growing cycle. 

This agreement will be in force from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 (2 year agreement). A 30 day written notice is required by either party to terminate this agreement.

- Filling this out online and mailing, faxing, or emailing it to DGCO PW is the best way to get on the registry.
- Please note that DGCO PW will spray after Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> for the next growing cycle.

# Douglas County 2016 Sensitive Crop Listing Map



# Douglas County Public Works Spraying Team



- DGCO PW has three employees that do most of the spraying and provide services for Townships, City of Eudora, and KDOT.
- A Noxious Weed Spraying Contract is signed with these outside entities and they are billed accordingly.
- The DGCO PW department has 3 white trucks similar to the above picture that is used to spray Douglas County right of way as well as the contracted areas. The department has one gator pictured above that is used to spray around sensitive crop areas.

# Douglas County Public Works Cost Share Chemicals & Rental Equipment

- 2-4, D Amine
- Tordon 22K
- Glyphosate
- Pasturegard
- Escort
- Milestone
  
- Rental Sprayers-3 pull behind like pictured
  
- Call 785-331-1322 to schedule the rental
  
- \$40/day or \$60/weekend



# Reminder:



- Douglas County spray season is April to October
- Seeds can stay in the soil for many years depending on the type of Noxious Weed so even though you spray this year, it will mostly like come back next year.
- Spraying is about controlling the weeds not necessarily completely eradicating them.

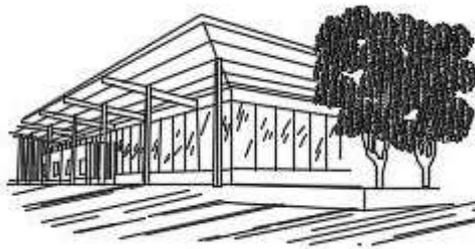
# Alan Hollinger

Vegetation Control Specialist

Contact Information

Work Phone: 785-331-1331

Email: [jhollinger@douglascountyks.org](mailto:jhollinger@douglascountyks.org)



# John Landon

Park and Vegetation Superintendent

Noxious Weed Director

Contact Information

Work Phone: 785-331-1331

Work Cell Phone: 785-691-9136

Email: [jlandon@douglascountyks.org](mailto:jlandon@douglascountyks.org)