



North American Invasive Species Management Association Minimum Certification Standards for Weed-Free Mulch

10.5.2020

INTRODUCTION

There is a growing demand in North America for the use of certified weed free mulch with an Integrated Weed Management System to limit the spread of noxious weeds. NAISMA's mission is to promote and empower invasive species management and to be the voice of invasive species management professionals in North America.

The goal of the weed-free mulch subcommittee is to work with states, provinces, local governments, federal agencies, and private industry to provide guidelines, standards, and set minimum requirements for uniform participation of the Certified Weed-Free Mulch Program.

The Standards are designed to:

- Provide guidelines for how and when to inspect mulch.
- Provide information to be included on the inspection certificate.
- Provide assurance to all participants that mulch certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard and to provide continuity between various organizations in the program which limits the spread of noxious weeds through mulch.
- Help protect natural resources, wildlife and native species habitat, agricultural resources, aesthetic value, property value, and the overall quality of land.
- Prevents the transportation of noxious weeds in mulch.
- Provides the necessity for treatment to reduce the spread of invasive plants in mulch.

Participation:

- State, province, local governments, federal agencies, or other authorized organizations must sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letter of support with NAISMA.
- Inspector(s) must be certified through the NAISMA Training Program.
- Participating jurisdictions may wish to add to these standards to meet their specific legal requirements but must meet the minimum standards outlined in this document in order to be recognized by NAISMA.

Definitions:

Area(s) of Manufacture

The area where material or materials are stored prior to and/or during manufacturing, sale, and transport, including a buffer zone around the area.

Area(s) of Origin

The area where material is stored, harvested, or produced prior to being transported to where it will be manufactured into a mulch product.

Certification Markings

Appropriate North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) approved logo indicating the product meets NAISMA minimum standards.

Designated Authority

Must be one of the following:

- Representative of a state or province's department of agriculture.
- Manager of a state, provincial, local government or federal agency staff responsible for managing legislated weed species within their jurisdiction (ex: Weed Supervisor, Weed Superintendent, Ag. Fieldman).
- An individual designated as an inspector under that state or province's weed control legislation or federal agency staff. This individual must be trained and certified in accordance with the state/provincial standard operating procedures for weed inspection as well as NAISMA's weed free forage standards.
- University Extension Agent.
- Representative of a State Crop Improvement Association.
- Other authority as approved by NAISMA.

Federal Agency

Federal land management agency with no financial gain in NAISMA Minimum Standard Certification programs.

Manufacture

The act of changing the form and function of the material.

Material

Natural materials such as bark, wood chippings, leaves/needles, vegetation, grass, or straw, and those synthetic materials that are included on the [National List](#) of synthetic materials maintained by the USDA.

Mulch

Any material or mix of materials that consists of a combination of vegetation, and/or synthetic products that is manufactured as a whole, or has each of its component parts source certified according to the NAISMA standard, to ensure the material is not a source of weed seeds or live vegetative propagules, and that is used for temperature, moisture, and/or erosion control, weed suppression, or aesthetic purposes, and is applied solely as a surface treatment.

Raw mulch

Any mulch that has not been manufactured and therefore must be inspected at its area(s) of origin.

Responsible Party

The individual or the representative of the entity that controls, directs, or manages the operation of the site.

Prohibited Weeds

Those plant species, including any weed seed or propagative plant parts, approved by the committee and voted on and approved by MOU holders in Appendix A, plus any weeds listed under weed control legislation within the State or Province of the materials origin.

Minimum Standards for Certified Weed-Free Mulch:

1. Mulch shall be free of prohibited weeds as defined in these minimum standards.
2. Mulch shall be inspected in the area of manufacture by the designated authority.
3. Mulch shall be inspected in the area of origin by the designated authority per Appendix D.
 - a. Area upon which the mulch material or component parts were collected, produced, manufactured, or stored was treated to prevent seed formation or seed ripening to the degree that there is reduced risk of dissemination of the seed, or any injurious portion from such species, or the propagating parts of the plant are not capable of producing a new plant.
 - b. Weeds were treated according to best management practices, prior to development or distribution of propagative parts.
 - c. If an inspection in the area of origin is not practical or the area of origin cannot be certified under the above methods, approved mitigation during the manufacturing process must take place.
4. Mulch which could not be inspected at the place of origin may be certified if the following requirements are met. The producer shall provide proper documentation of the site processes:
 - a. The mulch shall be a minimum of 90% greater than 2mm in particle size in order not to support plant growth, or if more than 10% of the mulch is less than 2mm in particle size then;
 - b. The temperature of the mulch pile is maintained at 55°C (131°F) or higher for 15 days, during which the pile is turned a minimum of two (2) times.
5. An Inspection Certificate as per Appendix B shall document the above requirements are met based upon a reasonable and prudent inspection.
6. Shipment of NAISMA Certified Weed Free Mulch shall be accompanied by NAISMA Certification Marking as outlined in Appendix C.

Appendix A: NAISMA Weed Free Prohibited Species List:

Revised: 10/23/17, 10/17/18

Absinth wormwood (<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>)	Orange hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>)
Austrian fieldcress (<i>Rorippa austriaca</i>)	Oxeye daisy (<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>)
Black henbane (<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>)	Perennial pepperweed (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>)
Buffalobur (<i>Solanum rostratum</i>)	Perennial sowthistle (<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>)
Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	Plumeless thistle (<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>)
Caucasian Bluestem (<i>Bothriochloa bladhii</i>)	Poison hemlock (<i>Conium maculatum</i>)
Common burdock (<i>Arctium minus</i>)	Puncturevine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)
Common crupina (<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>)	Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)
Common mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>)	Quackgrass (<i>Agropyron repens</i>)
Common tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)	Rush skeletonweed (<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>)
Common teasel (<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>)	Russian knapweed (<i>Centaurea repens</i>)
Cutleaf teasel (<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>)	Scentless chamomile (<i>Matricaria perforata</i> or <i>M. milaceum</i>)
Dame's rocket (<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>)	Scotch thistle (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>)
Dalmatian toadflax (<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>)	Sericea lespedeza (<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>)
Diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>)	Spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
Dyers woad (<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>)	Squarrose knapweed (<i>Centaurea virgata</i>)
Field bindweed (<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>)	St. Johnswort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)
Field scabious (<i>Knautia arvensis</i>)	Sulfur cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla recta</i>)
Hoary Alyssum (<i>Berteroa incana</i>)	Tall buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>)
Hoary cress (<i>Cardaria spp.</i>)	Tansy ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)
Horsenettle (<i>Solanum carolinense</i>)	Vipers Bugloss/Blueweed (<i>Echium vulgare</i>)
Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>)	Wild oats (<i>Avena fatua</i>)
Johnsongrass (<i>Sorghum halepense</i>)	Wild proso millet (<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>)
Jointed goatgrass (<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>)	Yellow Bluestem (<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i>)
Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>)	Yellow hawkweed (<i>Hieracium pratense</i>)
Meadow knapweed (<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>)	Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)
Medusahead (<i>Taeniatherum caputmedusae</i>)	Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)
Musk thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>)	

Appendix B: Standards and Certificate of Inspection Minimum Requirements:

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1. Responsible party contact information.
2. Inspection certificate numbering system.
3. Mulch producer contact information.
4. Physical location (site address) of the property being inspected.
5. Indication of whether the area of origin and/or the area of manufacture was inspected.
6. Area of manufacture requirements have been met.

7. Number of acres or hectares inspected.
8. Size and type of package or in bulk.
9. Number of cubic yards.
10. Type of mulch.
11. The statement "Meets NAISMA Standard".
12. Inspection date.
13. Inspection type.
14. Designated authority's inspector signature.
15. Comments section.
16. Expiration Date.
17. Disclaimer statement.

Appendix C: Certification Marking

1. Appropriate NAISMA Logo.
2. A producer identification number.

Appendix D: Standards and Minimum Guidelines for Field Inspections

1. The responsible party for the site will meet with the inspector for the inspection.
2. The area around all equipment and working areas will be inspected to meet the minimum standards. This includes all stockpiles, driving areas, and parking areas.
3. All storage, manufacturing, aging, packaging, and inventory areas will be inspected to meet the minimum standards.
4. All areas of origin shall be inspected as needed to ensure that there are no propagative parts of prohibited weeds on the site, with a minimum of one inspection during each growing season.
5. All areas of manufacture shall be inspected to ensure manufacturing processes meet the NAISMA minimum standards, with a minimum of one inspection during the growing season.
6. The inspector will follow all safety protocols as set forward by the responsible party while on the site.
7. The responsible party will control all species as listed in Appendix A within the entire area of the property.
8. An inspector may not inspect an area of origin or an area of manufacture in which said inspector has ownership or financial interest.
9. All of the above listed inspection procedures will be applied to the area of manufacture and/or the area of origin as they are defined in the definitions section of this document.