

Improving your process · Enhancing your products · Increasing your profits

What is noxious weed seed-free forage and mulch?

The intention of this certification program is to limit the spread of noxious weeds. MCIA is designated under Minnesota law as the state's official Noxious Weed Seed-Free Forage and Mulch Certification Agency. MCIA's program conforms to standards developed by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA), which allows properly labeled forage (hay, cubes, and pellets) and mulch certified by MCIA to be shipped into restricted areas of the United States and Canada.

Why buy certified noxious weed seed-free forage and mulch?

The invasion of noxious weeds onto private and public lands causes substantial economic loss and ecological damage. Transportation and use of contaminated forages and other plant materials are vectors for the spread of weed seed. Users of MCIA-certified noxious weed seed-free forage and mulch are assured that the product they've chosen meets certification standards. To avoid the introduction of noxious weeds in

Minnesota, government agencies often require certified mulch for highway roadside plantings and other revegetation projects. In the western U.S., most hay transported onto public lands is subject to be certified noxious weed seed-free requirements.

How is noxious weed seed-free forage and mulch certified?

Certification requires that fields and storage sites to be inspected by MCIA within 10 days of harvest. If the fields and sites are determined to conform to standards for freedom from noxious and undesirable weeds, the harvested crop will be eligible for certification labels. Producers should apply for field and storage site inspection no later than 30 days prior to crop-cut date.

What should I look for?

MCIA issues tags with unique serial numbers for the labeling of certified forage and mulch production. For certification to be valid, an official certification label (tag) must be securely attached to the eligible product (bale) prior to delivery to the buyer.

Where can I find a list of certified noxious weed seed-free forage and mulch producers?

MCIA surveys eligible producers every spring and fall to determine availability. You'll find the results of those surveys on the MCIA website.



For more information, call MCIA or visit our web site at www.mncia.org

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