



October 25, 2021

To: Thom Petersen, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) commends the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Noxious and Invasive Weed Program and the Seed Regulatory Program efforts to address Palmer amaranth in Minnesota. We appreciate the cooperative and integrated approach between these two programs. MISAC is very concerned over the growing number of counties and pathways for spread of this harmful invasive species within our state. We applaud and support MDA's efforts to work with counties, municipalities, and farmers to eradicate and manage infestations as they have been identified.

MISAC recognizes that Palmer amaranth is a serious threat to Minnesota agriculture, is one of the most troublesome weeds in the U.S. and has been invading the upper Midwest in recent years. Building on the proactive listing of Palmer amaranth as a Prohibited Eradicate Noxious Weed in 2015, the coordination and outreach efforts between the MDA Noxious and Invasive Weeds and the Seed Regulatory Programs, and among state and federal agencies, county inspectors and nongovernmental organizations, University of Minnesota Extension, and farm interest groups has been exemplary. Established populations with seedbanks extensive enough that eradication is no longer possible have been prevented at locations in several counties in Minnesota. The diverse, disparate pathways of entry discovered and documented through these MDA programs is notable. Minnesota's leadership in response to Palmer amaranth has developed new knowledge, built awareness, and influenced and strengthened responses and regulatory efforts to address the problem throughout the upper Midwest.

One of MISAC's roles is to support management of invasive species in Minnesota. MISAC is willing to assist MDA's efforts to build awareness and prevent further spread of Palmer amaranth within and from outside our state. We suggest that a regional approach be undertaken to strengthen our relationships with our neighbors, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Please let us know how MISAC can best support your efforts into the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roger Becker  
Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council member, submitted on behalf of MISAC membership.

## Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council Member Organizations (as of 2020)

- 1854 Treaty Authority
- Carver County Water Management Organization
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Hennepin County Public Works
- Meeker County
- Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
- Minnesota Association of County Agricultural Inspectors
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center
- Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association
- National Park Service
- The Wild Rivers Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy
- Three Rivers Park District
- University of Minnesota
- University of Minnesota Sea Grant Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Animal Plant Health Inspection Service – Plant Protection and Quarantine
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Wildlife Forever