

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-3556

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

**Testimony on SB 134 to
2015 Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
By Chad Bontrager, Deputy Secretary and
Jeff Vogel, Plant Protection and Weed Control Program Manager
Kansas Department of Agriculture
October 22, 2015**

KDA has responsibility for administering the Kansas Noxious Weed Law. This information covers the proposed changes made to that law by SB134.

SB134 targets three areas in making improvements in the Kansas Noxious Weed Law. First and foremost, the bill creates the state noxious weed advisory committee and places the state noxious weed list in regulation.

- Weeds would be added or removed from the list upon recommendation of the advisory committee to the Secretary of Agriculture and promulgation of regulations by the Secretary.
- There are currently 12 weeds on the noxious weed list in statute. This list will expire on July 1, 2017 in order to give us time to work those weeds into regulation and not have a gap in coverage.
- The advisory committee will consist of 11 members appointed by the Secretary. The committee will represent landowners, weed scientists, county weed directors and herbicide businesses that will provide science-based recommendations on the control of noxious weeds.
- By establishing a committee of individuals that have an extensive and working knowledge of the management of weeds, their expertise will guide and advise the Secretary, providing an improved response to potentially noxious weeds in terms of eradication or control. This advisory committee will also provide for a thorough, scientific and objective evaluation of weeds under consideration.

Second, SB134 makes changes to the noxious weed law that streamline the administration of the law by KDA and county weed departments.

- The bills gives counties the ability to more effectively manage the money for the noxious weed program through their general fund, if they so choose, and allows for money to be carried over from year to year for noxious weed control activities.
- County commissioners, weed directors, and KDA are more fully incorporated into the requirements for weed management activities and reporting so that all parties can be more knowledgeable of the processes.

*Attachment 9
SCANR 10-22-15*

- This measure would also allow counties to either collect up to 50 percent of the cost of treatment from a landowner or negotiate a payment plan and return money to the noxious weed capital outlay fund in a timelier manner.
- Counties are given the ability to have county specific noxious weeds if they so choose. SB134 clarifies that counties are responsible for the control of all noxious weeds within the county border unless that responsibility has been taken on by a city or township.
- The bill clarifies the records retention process for counties and KDA. SB134 gives landowners added protection and improves compliance with the noxious weed law by increasing the penalty for violations to \$200 per day.

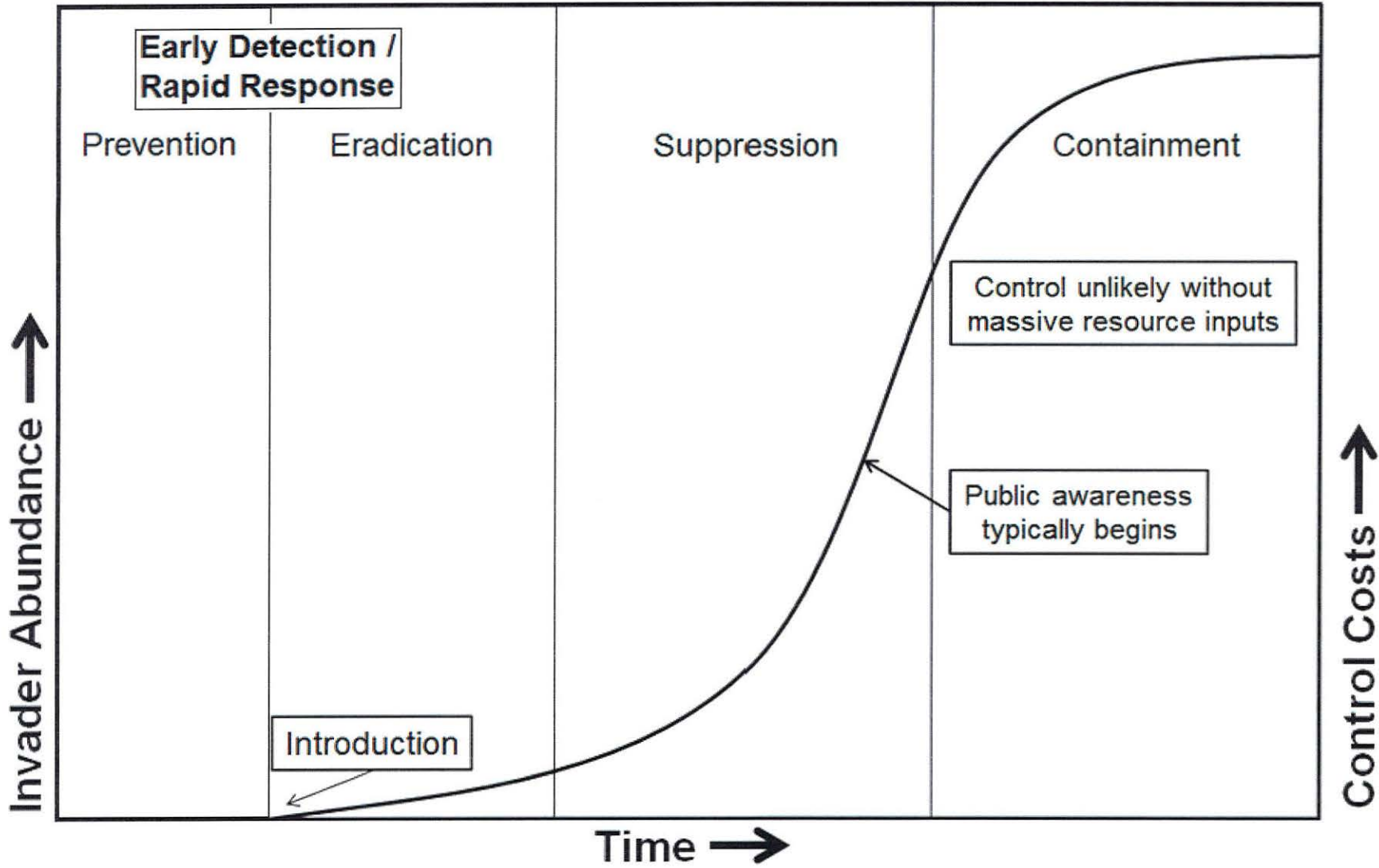
Third, SB134 updates and cleans up the noxious weed law in order to accommodate the changes outlined above as well as address outdated and unused provisions.

- The option for a declaration of sericea lespedeza disaster area is removed along with the requirement for conducting research on sericea lespedeza control.
- The outdated reference to the division of noxious weeds is removed.
- The requirement that KDA pay a quarter of the county weed directors' salary is removed.
- The section of the noxious weed law requiring weed supervisors to file a surety bond is removed.
- County commissioners will no longer be required to submit an annual report.
- Notification requirements are updated to allow for the use of websites and electronic mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB134 and the proposed changes to the noxious weed law. We believe these changes are important to improving the eradication and control of noxious weeds in Kansas.

Invasive Species Invasion Curve

9-3



Prevention - Preventing the introduction of the species.
Eradication - Eliminating all of the infestations.
Suppression - Reducing or eliminating the number of infestations.
Containment - Reducing or eliminating the further spread of the infestations

Kansas' Noxious Weeds

9-4



Field Bindweed
(*Convolvulus arvensis*)



Sericea lespedeza
(*Lespedeza cuneata*)



Pignut
(*Hoffmannseggia densiflora*)



Kudzu
(*Pueraria lobata*)



Bur ragweed
(*Ambrosia grayii*)



Musk thistle
(*Carduus nutans*)



Russian knapweed
(*Centaurea repens*)



Canada thistle
(*Cirsium arvense*)



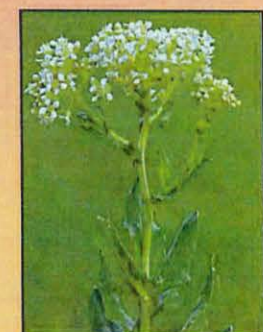
Johnsongrass
(*Sorghum halepense*)



Quackgrass
(*Agropyron repens*)



Leafy spurge
(*Euphorbia esula*)



Hoary cress
(*Cardaria draba*)

Plant Protection and Weed Control

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
Phone: (785) 564-6698
www.agriculture.ks.gov



Bull thistle
(*Cirsium vulgare*)
- County optional -



Multiflora rose
(*Rosa multiflora*)
- County optional -

AD ASTRA PER ASPERA
Kansas
Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection and Weed Control

Field bindweed — A non-native perennial in the morning glory family with arrowhead-shaped leaves and white to pink bell-shaped flowers. This Eurasian plant is found throughout Kansas and spreads via a fleshy root system and by seed.

Sericea lespedeza — A short-lived perennial in the bean family native to Asia. The plant has cream-colored flowers with purple markings and leaves with three parts. It is common in rangelands and prairies throughout eastern Kansas, especially in the Flint Hills.

Pignut or Hog potato — A perennial herb in the bean family native to extreme southwestern Kansas. The plant has yellow flowers and a deep root system with small potato-like growths that make the plant difficult to control and provide its colorful common names.

Kudzu — A perennial vine in the bean family native to Asia. The plant has large three-parted leaves and reddish flowers. Introduced as erosion control on mined lands in southeast Kansas, it's now found in only a few scattered areas of the state.

Bur ragweed — A native perennial from western Kansas in the aster family. The plant has an aggressive root system that spreads over large areas. The leaves are covered with silvery-gray hairs and the fruit is ringed by slender spines that have hooked tips.

Musk thistle — A biennial in the aster family and is native to Eurasia. Found throughout Kansas, the plant forms a rosette of spiny, white-edged leaves during the first year. The second year the plant sends up a stalk with spiny, purplish flower heads .

Russian knapweed — A non-native perennial in the aster family. Found sporadically in Kansas, this Asian plant has pink or purplish flower heads and forms dense stands from an extensive root system. This plant is toxic to horses if eaten.

Canada thistle — A perennial in the aster family with a spreading root system capable of growing 3' to 5' per year. The pink male and female flower heads occur on separate plants. Native to Eurasia, it is found on disturbed sites mostly in northwest Kansas.

Johnsongrass — A perennial grass from the Mediterranean that is related to and can hybridize with grain sorghum. The grass spreads aggressively by seeds and by thick, scaly roots. Found throughout Kansas it is common along roads and ditches.

Quackgrass — A non-native grass from Eurasia. The base of each leaf blade has a pair of tiny appendages that fold around the stem. Found at scattered, moist locations throughout Kansas, the grass spreads via seed and a vigorous, spreading root system.

Leafy spurge — A perennial in the spurge family that is native to Eurasia. The plant has a yellowish, flower-like disk below greenish flowers and a milky sap that is toxic to cattle. Leafy spurge is found in disturbed locations mostly in northern Kansas.

Hoary cress — A non-native perennial in the mustard family. The plant spreads via seed and its creeping root system. The leaves wrap around the hairy stems and fragrant white flowers occur at the stem tips. Found throughout Kansas, especially in the north.

Bull thistle — A biennial in the aster family. The plant has a stalk of dark purple flowers with a ring of stiff spines at their base. Found throughout Kansas, this Eurasian plant is common along roadsides and other disturbed sites. Bull thistle is a county-option weed.

Multiflora rose — A large shrub in the rose family. The plant has arching stems armed with claw-like prickles. The white to pink flowers occur in clusters at the ends of the stems. This Asian plant is found throughout Kansas. Multiflora rose is a county-option weed.

Kansas Law (KSA 2-1314)

Requires landowners to control noxious weeds on their property.

For more information call the Kansas Department of Agriculture or your County Weed Director.

9-5