

Law Bulletin



Law you need to know from OSU Extension's Farm Office

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Legal procedures for dealing with noxious weeds in Ohio's rural areas

Peggy Kirk Hall, Associate Professor OSU Agricultural & Resource Law Pogram

Noxious weeds can create many negative impacts, such as loss of crop productivity, harm to animals, and invasion of yards and natural ecosystems. Ohio law offers mechanisms for dealing with noxious weeds, but the legal mechanisms differ depending upon the location of the noxious weeds. These diagrams summarize the legal procedures for addressing noxious weeds in four locations: along a roadway, in a partition fence row, on private land beyond the fence row, and on park land.

For additional explanation of Ohio's noxious weed laws, see our law bulletin on *Ohio's Noxious Weeds Laws*, available in the Farm Office law library on farmoffice.osu.edu.

1. Noxious weeds along roadways and railroads Ohio Revised Code 5579.04, 5579.08 and 4959.11

Counties, townships and municipalities must cut or destroy noxious weeds growing along roads and streets within their jurisdictions in <u>each</u> of these date windows:

June 1 and 20 August 1 and 20 September 1 and 20, if necessary

And whenever necessary to prevent or eliminate a safety hazard

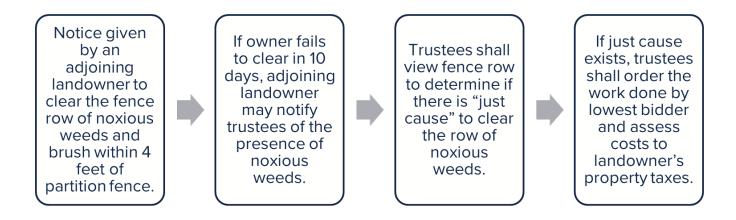


A railroad or toll road superintendent or manager must follow this same schedule for cutting or destroying noxious weeds, even if the road or railway is not in operation.



If a toll road or railroad does not cut or destroy noxious weeds by the mandated times, the township trustees may cause removal of the weeds and bring a civil action against the company to recover removal costs.

2. Noxious weeds in the fence row Ohio Revised Code 971.33 to 971.35



3. Noxious weeds on private land beyond the fence row Ohio Revised Code 5579.05—5579.07



4. Noxious weeds on ODNR or park land Ohio Revised Code 5579.06

