

NAISMA WEED FREE COMPOST MINIMUM CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

INTRODUCTION

The North American Invasive Species Management Association's (NAISMA) mission is to empower invasive species management in North America. NAISMA's Certified Weed Free Products (WFP) Committee manages pathway prevention standards that limit the potential spread of noxious weeds via various products (forage, gravel, mulch, and compost).

The Certified WFP Committee works with states, provinces, local governments, federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry to provide guidelines, standards, and set minimum requirements for uniform participation across North America.

The Standards are designed to:

1. Provide guidelines for how and when to inspect compost for noxious weeds.
2. Provide information to be included on the inspection certificate.
3. Provide assurance to all participants that compost certified through this program meets a minimum acceptable standard to mitigate the risk of noxious weed seed presence in compost.
4. Provide continuity between various organizations in the program to limit the spread of noxious weeds through compost.
5. Limit the transportation of noxious weeds in compost.
6. Help protect natural resources, wildlife and native species habitat, agricultural, aesthetic value, property value, and the overall quality of land and water.

Participation:

1. States, provinces, local governments, federal agencies, or other authorized organizations must sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or letter of support with NAISMA.
2. Inspector(s) must be certified through the NAISMA Weed Free Products Online Inspector Training Program.
3. Participating jurisdictions may add additional mitigation protocols to these standards to meet their specific legal requirements. However, all minimum standards outlined in this document must be met 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.

Certification

Inspector certification is available online and is valid for two years.

An administrative fee of \$40 every two years is required for this certification.

Certification Markings

North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) Weed Free Products logo indicating the product meets NAISMA minimum standards.

Designated Authority (Must be one or more of the following)

1. Federal, state, provincial, or municipal government representative
2. 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).
3. 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 compost standards.
4. University Extension Agent.
5. Representative of a State Crop Improvement Association.
6. 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.

Manure

Excrement, especially of animals, or other refuse used as fertilizer. Manipulated or unmanipulated (Raw) manure is not considered compost in itself as part of these standards.

Material

Natural "Green" and "Brown" materials. Green materials are rich in nitrogen such as leaves, grass, and food scraps, or manure. Brown materials are woody materials that are rich in carbon such as stalks, paper, and wood chips.

Compost

The product that is manufactured through the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biodegradable materials. The product has undergone mesophilic and thermophilic temperatures, which significantly reduces the viability of pathogens and weed seeds (in accordance with EPA 40 CFR 503 standards) and stabilizes the carbon such that it is beneficial to plant growth. Compost is typically used as a soil amendment but may also contribute plant nutrients (AAPFCO definition, official 2018). Finished compost is typically screened to reduce its particle size, to improve soil incorporation (AAPFCO definition, official 2019).

Composting

The natural process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, into a valuable fertilizer that can enrich soil and plants. Composting requires carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and water to work effectively.

Compost Facility

The area that is designed, built, installed, etc., to serve as a location to produce compost

EPA 40 CFR 503 Standards

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-O/part-503> see appendix B

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 product manufacture.

Responsible Party

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

NAISMA Minimum Standards for Certified Weed-Free Compost

1. Compost shall be certified as Weed Free if the following procedures are confirmed on site by the designated authority.
 - a. *The compost facility is permitted by the state or province where located (Inspection of Permit) The state or province where facility is permitted requires that processes listed under "or" below are adhered to during processing (Inspection of state or province permit requirements)*
 - b. *Field Inspection standards performed (Appendix D)*

or

1. *Facility follows EPA 40 CFR 503 Standards "Process to Further Reduce Pathogens (PFRP)" (Inspection of temperature recordings, turn dates, and process)*
 - a. *Static or windrow pile temperature is maintained at 55°C (130°F) or higher for 15 days (360 hours) or longer, during which the pile is turned a minimum of five (5) times.*
 - b. *In-vessel or mechanically aerated static piles (i.e., using a blower to force air through the pile), maintain a continuous minimum temperature of 55°C (130°F) for 3 consecutive days (72 hours).*
 - c. *Moisture content maintained between 40-60% measured by moisture content meter (Inspection of moisture content measurements)*
 - d. *A minimum of 6 evenly spaced temperature and moisture content measurements taken per pile, windrow, or vessel.*
 - e. *Field Inspection standards performed (Appendix D)*

Designated authority reserves the right to perform random checks of temperature and moisture content readings during the inspection process.

1. Area of Manufacture must be inspected by a designated authority a minimum of one time per calendar year.
2. An Inspection Certificate as per Appendix B shall document the above requirements are met based upon a reasonable and prudent inspection.
3. Shipment of NAISMA Certified Weed Free Compost shall be accompanied by NAISMA Certification Marking as outlined in Appendix C.

Appendix A: NAISMA Weed Free Prohibited Species List:

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>)	<i>Ventenata</i> (<i>Ventenata Dubia</i>)
Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>)	Vipers Bugloss/Blueweed (<i>Echium vulgare</i>)
Johnsongrass (<i>Sorghum halepense</i>)	Wild oats (<i>Avena fatua</i>)
Jointed goatgrass (<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>)	Wild proso millet (<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>)
Leafy spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>)	Yellow Bluestem (<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i>)
Meadow knapweed (<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>)	Yellow hawkweed (<i>Hieracium pratense</i>)
Medusahead (<i>Taeniatherum caputmedusae</i>)	Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)
Musk thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>)	Yellow toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)

Procedure for species considered for addition or deletion:

1. Petition must be sent to the NAISMA Certified Weed Free Products (WFP) Committee from a designated authority as defined in these standards formally requesting a species be added or removed from listing to Appendix A:
2. Petition shall contain a risk assessment of species proposed to be added with information on its potential and/or actual impacts to natural resources at a state/provincial and/or regional level.
3. Petition shall contain a risk assessment of species proposed for deletion with information on why the species is no longer considered a potential and/or actual threat to natural resources at a state/provincial and/or regional level.
4. Petitioner shall send the formal petition to add or delete a species to the NAISMA WFP Committee Co-Chairs at least 90 days before the committee meets at NAISMA's Annual General Meeting (AGM).
5. NAISMA WFP Committee Co-Chair will send the petition to committee members and MOU holders at least 60 days in advance of NAISMA's AGM.
6. NAISMA WFP Committee will formulate a recommendation to support or deny the petition to be presented and voted on by MOU holders. MOU holders can only vote once and can vote by proxy.
7. The decision (by simple majority of the MOU holders) is then presented to the NAISMA Board of Directors (BOD) for their consideration prior to NAISMA's AGM.
8. If the NAISMA BOD supports the Certified WFP Committee recommendation on the petition, it will be presented at NAISMA's AGM.
9. Appendix A will be modified as necessary after the above procedures have been carried out.

Appendix B: Standards and Certificate of Inspection Minimum Requirements:

1. Responsible party contact information.
2. Inspection certificate numbering system.
3. Compost producer contact information.
4. Physical location (site address) of the property being inspected.
5. Area of manufacture requirements have been met.
6. Size and type of package or in bulk.
7. Number of cubic yards.
8. Type of compost if applicable.
9. "Meets NAISMA Standard" statement.
10. Inspection date.
11. Designated authority's inspector signature.
12. Comments section.
13. Expiration Date.
14. Disclaimer statement.

Appendix C: Certification Marking

1. NAISMA Weed Free Products Logo.
2. A producer identification number as assigned by NAISMA.

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 visually and physically 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 manufacture shall be inspected to ensure manufacturing processes meet the NAISMA minimum standards, with a minimum of one inspection during the growing season.
5. The inspector will follow all safety protocols as set forward by the responsible party while on the site.
6. The responsible party will control all species as listed in Appendix A within the entire area of the property.
7. A designated authority or an inspector may not inspect an area of origin or an area of manufacture in which said designated authority or inspector has ownership or financial interest.
8. All of the above listed inspection procedures will be applied to the area of manufacture as they are defined in the definitions section of this document.