

Noxious Weed Disposal Policy

Introduction

The San Juan County Noxious Weed Board (NWB) has dedicated annual funds for noxious weed disposal by the public. This disposal program allows San Juan County residents to bring most state and county-listed species to the designated transfer stations at no charge for the resident. Disposal is limited to 300 pounds (or \$60 per load when estimated by volume as of May 1, 2022).

The San Juan County Noxious Weed Board believes this disposal program provides an important incentive for residents to control noxious weed species on their property. This policy document describes how the program will work.

Noxious Weed Species

All noxious weeds listed in WAC 16-750 will be accepted for disposal, up to 300 pounds or \$60 per load if not weighed, at the designated transfer stations without charge except for the following species:

- Himalayan and evergreen blackberries (*Rubus bifrons* and *R. laciniatus*);
- English/Atlantic ivies (*Hedera helix* and *H. hibernica*);
- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*);
- Any “Monitor” species or Species of Concern.

The NWB reserves the right to add or disallow listed species in the future.

The NWB staff will provide each transfer station with noxious weed posters or other materials to guide transfer station personnel on acceptable species. The NWB staff will also provide periodic training sessions for transfer station personnel for weed identification, program overview, and data submittal requirements.

Weed Transport and Containment

Residents must cover their loads with a tarp or otherwise use bags and containers for safety and to prevent the spread of weed seeds along the roadside. Failure to transport or contain the weeds appropriately may disqualify the participant from “free” disposal at the attendant’s discretion. Loads must be delivered in a manner that allows for ease of inspection. The NWB may provide clear plastic or other bags for distribution in the future as budget allows.

Supportive Information

To participate in the free noxious weed disposal program, the participant must provide the following information to the transfer station staff:

- Name
- Phone number
- Species of noxious weed(s)
- Location of control site (street address or general location using common landmarks)

Transfer station operators will provide this information to the NWB staff who may choose to contact participants for further information or clarification. This information will be attached in written or digital format and provided monthly with invoices.

Invoice Submittal

Designated transfer stations will invoice the NWB once per month with attached Supportive Information. Payment will be processed through the SJC Auditor's Accounts Payable Deputy.

Cessation of the Disposal Program

The NWB staff will monitor monthly invoices so not to exceed the annual budgeted amount for the program (2022 = \$15,000). As the noxious weed disposal budget nears depletion for the year, the NWB will announce the closure in local paper and electronic media outlets. The SJC Noxious Weed Program's website (<https://extension.wsu.edu/sanjuan/noxious>) will also announce the closure for that fiscal year.

The Noxious Weed Disposal Program operates at the discretion of the NWB and may discontinue it at anytime due to abuse, lack of participation, or inadequate budget. The County Council, which ultimately controls the NWB's budget, may choose to modify this noxious weed disposal budget in future or eliminate this subsidy altogether.