

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
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The Turf and Seed Section's primary responsibility is to assure the availability of sufficient quantities of certified turf and seed. It directs and conducts certification programs by which turf and seed are produced to meet standards of purity, variety, germination, and other quality factors. Seed or sod not meeting certification standards is rejected as a result of field inspections or laboratory analysis.

The Section also provides regulatory controls to assure accurate and complete labeling of seed and sod at the time of marketing, thus enabling the consumer to determine what is being purchased. A State Testing Laboratory is operated for both service and regulatory testing to assure compliance with label claims. The regulatory phase involves inspection, testing, reporting results, and corrective actions for each turf and seed lot found to be in noncompliance with the provisions of the Seed Law (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 9-101 through 9-110; 9-201 through 9-213; 9-301 through 9-307).

WEED CONTROL SECTION

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The primary goal of the Weed Control Section is to control and prevent the spread in Maryland of the nuisance weeds Johnsongrass, thistles, and multiflora rose. The Weed Control Program helps landowners bring nuisance weeds under control through their own efforts and through joint efforts of county and State as provided for in cooperative agreements with the various counties. The Department encourages landowners to file Nuisance Weeds Control Plans, outlining methods and procedures for controlling these weeds on their land. The Department is authorized to take regulatory actions against landowners who allow specific nuisance weeds to set seed on their property.

The Secretary of Agriculture has legislative authority to declare other weeds noxious and place them under a control program. The Section Chief serves as the State's authority on weed control matters (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 9-401 through 9-405).