

(B) THE EXISTENCE OF THISTLES BELONGING TO THE ASTERACEAE OR COMPOSITE FAMILY IS DECLARED TO BE A PUBLIC AND COMMON NUISANCE.

9-402.

The Secretary may:

(1) Make investigations, studies, and determinations he deems advisable in order to ascertain the extent of growth and infestation of Johnson grass, THISTLE, and other weed species in the State, and the effect of the species on agricultural production;

(2) Following public hearing, designate AS NUISANCE WEEDS other species of weeds PLANTS which adversely affect or threaten agricultural production, and carry out practices necessary to bring about control or abatement of the species, or both;

(3) Institute programs of control and eradication;

(4) Enter into agreements with any county and subdivision of the State, with any adjoining state, and with agencies of the federal government to effect a program of control and eradication; and

(5) Accept, use, or expend any aid, gift, grant, or loan made available from any private or public source to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

9-403.

After an agreement between the Secretary and the county is executed ~~and certified in writing to the Secretary of State~~, the Secretary and the county may conduct surveys to determine the location and amount of infestations of Johnson grass, THISTLE, or other PLANT species within the county. Both parties ~~also~~ may provide technical ~~and--financial~~ assistance to landowners in a cooperative control or eradication program, and may effect a program of mowing, spraying, or other control or eradication practices on any road right-of-way, drainage ditch bank, park, playground, and any other public or private land. The agreement between the Secretary and county may be terminated by either party on 30 days written notice.

9-404.

(a) No person may:

(1) Import or transport Johnson grass OR THISTLE in the State in any form capable of growth, except for research purposes with the prior written approval of the Secretary; or