

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2024-26
July 25, 2024

Subject: APHIS Updates the Witchweed (*Striga* spp.) Regulated Areas in North Carolina and South Carolina

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is updating how the agency describes sites in the regulated areas for witchweed (*Striga* spp.) in North Carolina and South Carolina. APHIS will describe sites in the regulated areas listed in [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.80-2\(a\)](#) using the center point of the site, the total number of acres in the site, and the site type (e.g., field/pasture, residential, right of way, etc.). The updated description will remove landowners' names from the regulated areas in 7 CFR § 301.80-2(a) and will result in more accurately defined areas by identifying specific fields rather than entire farms.

After the above changes, the total regulated area for the United States is 2,530 acres. The total regulated area for five North Carolina counties is 1,969 acres: Bladen County (825 acres in 88 sites), Cumberland County (529 acres in 62 sites), Pender County (62 acres in 8 sites), Robeson County (449 acres in 27 sites), and Sampson County (104 acres in 8 sites). The total regulated area for two South Carolina counties is 561 acres: Horry County (432 acres in 32 sites) and Marion County (129 acres in 21 sites). The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Clemson University Department of Plant Industry have each established a parallel state quarantine.

APHIS regulates witchweed because it is a parasitic plant that affects corn, sorghum, sugar cane, rice, and other important crops. APHIS appreciates the cooperative relationship with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Clemson University Department of Plant Industry in the effort to eradicate witchweed. APHIS will follow this action by publishing a notice in the Federal Register.

More information about the Witchweed Eradication Program and Federal witchweed regulations is available on the [APHIS witchweed webpage](#). For additional information you may contact:

Anne LeBrun
National Policy Manager
(301) 851-2259
anne.lebrun@usda.gov



Dr. Mark L Davidson
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

Federal Order

Update to the Witchweed (*Striga* spp.) Regulated Areas in North Carolina and South Carolina

DA-2024-26
July 25, 2024

Effective immediately, this Federal Order updates how the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) describes sites in the regulated areas for witchweed (*Striga* spp.) in North Carolina and South Carolina.

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) § 301.80](#) *et seq.*

APHIS will describe sites in the regulated areas using the center point of the site, the total number of acres in the site, and the site type (e.g., field/pasture, residential, right of way, etc.). The updated description will remove landowners' names from the regulated areas in 7 CFR § 301.80-2(a) and will result in more accurately defined areas by identifying specific fields rather than entire farms.

Section 7 CFR § 301.80-2(a)(2) allows the designation of less than an entire State as a witchweed regulated area only when the Deputy Administrator of APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) has determined, as in this case, that such a designation is adequate to prevent the interstate spread of this pest. In addition, 7 CFR § 301.80-2(a)(1) requires that the state enforces an intrastate witchweed quarantine that is equivalent to the Federal witchweed regulations. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Clemson University Department of Plant Industry have each established a parallel intrastate quarantine that mirrors the Federal regulatory requirements as specified in 7 CFR § 301.80 *et seq.*

In accordance with 7 CFR § 301.80-2(a), this Federal Order supersedes all previous versions of the regulated areas. After the above changes, the total regulated area for the United States is 2,530 acres. The total regulated area for five North Carolina counties is 1,969 acres: Bladen County (825 acres in 88 sites), Cumberland County (529 acres in 62 sites), Pender County (62 acres in 8 sites), Robeson County (449 acres in 27 sites), and Sampson County (104 acres in 8 sites). The total regulated area for two South Carolina counties is 561 acres: Horry County (432 acres in 32 sites) and Marion County (129 acres in 21 sites). A list of the revised witchweed

regulated areas is available on the [APHIS witchweed webpage](#). APHIS will follow this action by publishing a notice in the Federal Register.

For more details on the Witchweed Eradication Program and federal witchweed regulations, please contact National Policy Manager, Anne LeBrun, at anne.lebrun@usda.gov or (301) 851-2259.

APHIS appreciates the cooperative relationship with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Clemson University Department of Plant Industry in the effort to eradicate witchweed.