

February 16, 2018

TO: Suisun Marsh Landowners

FROM: Suisun Resource Conservation District

SUBJECT: **2018 Lepidium Spray Control Program**

Please read this letter carefully.

Lepidium is a highly invasive nonnative plant that is a threat to the diversity of natural plant communities in the Marsh. It forms dense monospecific stands in a wide variety of habitats and is very tolerant of a wide variety of salinities. This plant is mostly found in wetland/upland transitions, but it can encroach into both wetlands and upland habitats of the Marsh. Stems and roots increase in density over time, eventually out-competing native vegetation like grasses, sedges, and rushes. Lepidium also acts as a “salt pump”, taking in salts from the soil via its roots and depositing them near the soil surface, altering soil salinity and essentially permanently altering the habitat. Lepidium is quickly becoming a dominant plant in many parts of the Suisun Marsh. Without control this plant will take over and change your habitat. Early detection and control is very important in stopping the spread of Lepidium on your property.

SRCD has coordinated a very successful Lepidium spray control program in the Marsh for many years. Some years there was a cost share program, unfortunately these grant funds have run out.

With this in mind. The SRCD still encourages you to continue Lepidium control even though the economic reality is that the landowner will now have to bear 100% of control costs. Lepidium is most effectively treated by the herbicide Telar; however, it can also be controlled by the use of glyphosate (Roundup). So, even if cost issues prevent the application of Telar at least use glyphosate to control Lepidium to the best of your ability.

There are two options for controlling Lepidium on your property. The first option is to have a certified applicator spray the Lepidium with Telar, and the second is to buy the Telar and spray the Lepidium yourself. SRCD is willing to facilitate coordination of a 2018 Lepidium control program for interested landowners. The gross cost of having a certified applicator spray Telar in 2017 was approximately \$185 per acre. The current cost of Telar will run approximately \$65 per acre for landowners to apply Telar themselves. SRCD needs to know which option you would like to use and the acreage of Lepidium to be sprayed before receiving an estimate of 2018 spraying costs.

If you wish to participate in the 2018 program, you must provide SRCD with a detailed map showing Lepidium patch locations, an estimate of the total acreage of Lepidium to be sprayed, and your choice between the two treatment options.

This information is essential to the professional herbicide applicator and SRCD for purchasing the correct amount of chemical. The map provided should also include notes about gates, access issues, keys needed, and any areas unsafe to drive with an ATV. The landowner will need to be present during spraying or meet with the applicator prior to spraying.

Using the form provided, indicate your interest in participating in this year's program and submit your Lepidium spraying request by **March 26, 2018**.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT ITEMS:

- Lepidium patch location: The longer the applicator has to search to find patches, the higher the cost. **Patches must be accurately mapped**. Please send an accurate, detailed map indicating Lepidium patch locations and estimated total acreage of patches. Accurate estimates are critical for the purchase of chemical!
- Landowner acreage estimates: The applicator will record spray hours and the amount of herbicide used on each property for accurate billing.
- Landowner consent: Landowners wishing to participate in the Lepidium spray program shall enter into a written agreement with SRCD stating the maximum amount the landowner is willing to pay. When the application of the agreed upon amount of chemical is complete, spraying for that site will be terminated, even if there is more Lepidium to be sprayed on the property.
- Lepidium should be sprayed when the plants are flowering (April – June). Although SRCD cannot guarantee the results of spraying on each individual property, choosing the proper time to spray will increase the chance of success.
- Telar requires reasonably clear water for mixing. Using raw slough water will reduce the effectiveness of the Telar. **Please note on the attached form where the applicator will be able to access suitably fresh water on your property.**

If you wish to participate in the program this year please mail the enclosed form to SRCD by March 26, 2018. **An original map must be sent to SRCD for the Lepidium spraying program.** Faxed maps will not be accepted. If you do not respond by this date, you will not be included as a participant for this year's program.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Edmunds program coordinator at (707) 426-2431 ext 302 cell (707) 639-6689. Thank you for your interest in this program.

Sincerely,

Steven Chappell
Executive Director

Yes, I would like to participate in the 2018 SRCD Lepidium Control Program. I understand that no cost share funds are available and my cost will be based on 100% of chemical cost and spraying hours for my property.

_____ Contractor spray option

_____ Landowner application option

Landowner Name

Club Name and Number

Phone Number

This is my estimate of acreage to be sprayed:

_____ **Total Acres to be Sprayed**

I hereby give permission to Suisun Resource Conservation District to coordinate ground spraying of Telar on my property. I agree to pay the cost of chemical and spray time based upon applicator calculations. My maximum financial commitment to this spray program will be \$ _____ (Landowner will be charged their actual cost for Telar and spray time).

_____ Name

_____ Date

Address

Work Phone Number

Home Phone Number

E-mail address

* **Add detailed map** and return to SRCD