



February 10, 2023

Suisun Marsh Landowners  
SRCD Distribution List

Dear Suisun Marsh Landowner,

This letter provides information on the **2023 *Lepidium* Spray Control Program**. Please read this letter carefully.

*Lepidium latifolium* or perennial pepperweed is a highly invasive nonnative plant that is a threat to the diversity of natural plant communities in Suisun Marsh. It forms dense stands in a wide variety of habitats and is very tolerant of a wide variety of salinities. This plant is mostly found in wetland to upland transitions, but it can encroach into both wetlands and upland habitats of the Marsh. The plant stems and roots increase in density over time, eventually out-competing native vegetation including grasses, sedges, and rushes.

*Lepidium* acts as a “salt pump,” taking in salts from the soil via its roots and depositing them near the soil surface, altering the soil salinity of an area and essentially permanently changing the habitat. *Lepidium* is quickly becoming a dominant plant in many parts of the Marsh, and without control, this plant will take over. Early detection and rapid response is very important in stopping the spread of *Lepidium* on your property.

SRCD has coordinated a *Lepidium* spray control program in the Marsh for many years. Although there has been a cost share program in the past for several years, these grant funds have run out. SRCD still encourages you to continue *Lepidium* control efforts, although the landowners will now have to bear 100% of control costs.

*Lepidium* is most effectively treated by the broadleaf-specific herbicide Telar, but it is a relatively expensive chemical. *Lepidium* also may be controlled with glyphosate (Roundup), but that chemical is not selective and affects all plants. However, if the higher costs of Telar are not affordable, carefully-applied glyphosate may be used to treat patches of *Lepidium*.

There are two options for applying herbicide to control *Lepidium* on your property: the first option is to have a certified applicator spray the *Lepidium* with Telar. The second option is to buy the Telar and spray the *Lepidium* yourself. The cost of having a certified applicator apply Telar is about \$250 per acre, while the rough cost of the chemical to treat it yourself is about \$100 per acre. SRCD will facilitate the coordination of a 2023 *Lepidium* control program for interested landowners. SRCD needs to know which treatment option you would like to use and the acreage of *Lepidium* you would like to treat to estimate your 2023 spraying costs.

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Terry Connolly  
Arnold Lenk  
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Executive Director  
John Takekawa, PhD  
Operations Manager  
Kelli Perez  
Office Supervisor  
Tim Edmunds  
Water Manager/Biologist  
Jeff Taylor  
Water Manager/Biologist  
Marina Guzman  
Water Manager/Biologist  
Jesirae Collins  
Biologist  
Jason Hagani  
Analyst Biologist  
Marque Mouton  
LJI Resident Caretaker

**SUISUN RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

2544 Grizzly Island Road  
Suisun City, CA 94585-9539  
(707) 425-9302  
[srccd@suisunrcd.org](mailto:srccd@suisunrcd.org)  
[www.suisunrcd.org](http://www.suisunrcd.org)

If you wish to participate in the 2023 program, you must provide SRCD with a detailed map showing the *Lepidium* patch location that you would like to treat, an estimate of the total acreage of *Lepidium* to be sprayed, and your choice of one of the treatment options. This information is essential 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, please indicate your interest in participating in this year's program and submit your *Lepidium* spraying request by **March 24, 2023**.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT ITEMS:

- Lepidium patch location: the longer the applicator has to search to find patches, the higher the cost of treatment. **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 the correct amount 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 2023 *Lepidium* spray program shall enter into a written agreement with SRCD stating the maximum cost that the landowner is willing to pay. When application of the agreed upon amount of chemical is completed, 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 fresh 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 24, 2023**. **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 program coordinator Tim Edmunds at (707) 426-2431 ext 302, cell (707) 639-6689. Thank you for your interest in the program.

Sincerely,



Steven Chappell  
Executive Director