



March 6th, 2024

TO: Suisun Marsh Landowners
FROM: Suisun Resource Conservation District
SUBJECT: **2024 Lepidium Spray Control Program**

Please read this letter carefully.

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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 soil salts via its roots and depositing them near the surface, altering soil salinity and essentially permanently altering the growing conditions for desirable plants. Lepidium has quickly become a dominant plant in many parts of the Suisun Marsh. Without control this plant will take over and alter your habitats. Early detection and control is very important in stopping the spread of Lepidium on your property.

Over the years SRCD has coordinated a very successful Lepidium spray control program in the Marsh. Unfortunately grant funds have run out and there will not be cost share available for the 2024 treatment season. With this in mind. The SRCD still encourages you to continue Lepidium control even though the landowner will now have to bear 100% of control costs. Lepidium is most effectively treated by the herbicide Telar XP.

There are two options for controlling Lepidium on your property. The first option is to have a certified applicator spray the Lepidium with Telar. The second is to buy the Telar and spray the Lepidium yourself. **If you choose option #2, to comply with the Solano County Agriculture Commission requests and Department of Pesticide Regulations requirements. Only landowners will be allowed to request, pickup and spray the chemical they receive from SRCD on their own property.** SRCD is willing to facilitate the coordination of a 2024 Lepidium control program for interested landowners. For planning purposes, a rough cost of having a certified applicator spray Telar is approximately \$200/ acre. The rough cost of chemical to treat it yourself will run approximately \$100/ acre. SRCD would like to know if you are interested in participating in this year’s program and which option you would like to use and the acreage of Lepidium to be sprayed.

If you wish to participate in the 2024 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 information about gates, access issues, keys needed, and any areas unsafe to drive with an ATV.

Using the form provided, indicate your interest in participating in this year's program and submit your Lepidium spraying request by **April 1st, 2024.**

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 chemicals!
- Landowner acreage estimates: The applicator will record spray hours and the amount of herbicide used on each property for accurate billing.
- 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 **April 1st, 2024.** **An original map must be sent to SRCD for option 1.** 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