

## Editorial

Positive action taken by the House of Representatives has pushed the Federal Noxious Weed Bill into committee in the Senate. This represents a massive step forward. The need for a law curtailing the movement of noxious weeds is long overdue. The bill currently rests with the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

In essence, the bill would limit the importation or distribution in interstate commerce of weeds considered by the Secretary of Agriculture to be undesirable. Without forming a definite opinion at this point, let's see what this means.

Almost daily, dealers in Florida ship exotic plants to customers cross state lines. Riding the coattails of these plants are troublesome and dangerous weeds such as water hyacinth, alligatorweed and hydrilla. In no time these plants become firmly established and adapted to a new environment where they reek havoc. One only has to recall how southern grown hydrilla was found in Iowa to understand the gravity of the situation.

Further, noxious weed seed because of its size can easily slip through even the most delicate screening process and be transported in a bag of turfgrass seed. Or foreign produced seed or other host parasites can slip past Federal inspectors at ports of entry. We certainly have enough domestic

## Noxious Weed Law – Who Needs It?

weeds to control without the introduction of foreign species for which no control is available.

Senate Bill 2728 would clip the wing on these elusive noxious weeds. If passed, Agriculture Secretary Butz in protecting agriculture, commerce or public health could regulate the movement of weeds and make it stick with a penalty of \$500 and/or imprisonment. It would be accomplished in three ways: 1. stop the means of conveyance into the U.S. and inspect for noxious weeds; 2. stop the means of conveyance moving through the U.S. or interstate and inspect for noxious weeds; 3. enter, with a warrant, any premises in the U.S. for purposes of any inspections or other actions necessary under the Act.

We believe that passage of this Bill is important. Already a resolution for adoption has been submitted to the Southern Weed Science Society. It also has the approval of the Weed Science Society of America. In plain terms, we need it. The five billion dollars or more lost to weeds each year is something we must correct. Our future as a dynamic country depends on the limits we place on undesirable plants entering our country and the transportation of these weed bandits through interstate commerce. We urge strong local support through active senator-voter communications.

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# Manhattan

Turf Type  
**PERENNIAL RYEGRASS**

Manhattan perennial ryegrass was selected and developed by Dr. C. Reed Funk, Rutgers University. Manhattan develops a uniform dark green, leafy, dense turf with leaf blades finer than most Kentucky bluegrasses. Excellent for hard use areas such as tees, green aprons, cart path flare areas and hard use problem areas. Mowability ratings are excellent.

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Manhattan blends well with other grasses. Here it is combined with Bluegrass.

Manhattan is outstanding for hard use areas. Cartpath flare area reseeded with Manhattan perennial ryegrass.

Manhattan's fine texture is illustrated in this comparison.

Left: FINE LEAF FESCUE  
Center: MANHATTAN PERENNIAL RYEGRASS  
Right: KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS

**It's Kid Proof!**