

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SUMMARY: Clay Township Trustee urges early weed control programs.

Douglas Callahan, Clay Township Trustee, is urging all property owners to begin an early and aggressive program to eliminate noxious weeds on their property. These common weeds include Canada thistle, Johnson grass, sorghum almum, bur cucumber and shattercane. Under Indiana law, property owners are required to destroy these weeds and most owners, particularly farmers, take steps every year to do so, Callahan said. Canada thistle is the most common and easily identified with its purple cluster flower and thistle like leaves. It easily spreads when it is allowed to go to seed. Spraying with products such as Round Up is effective but once in bloom the weed must be mowed.

Indiana code (I.C.15-3-4) requires the Trustee to respond to complaints and if such weeds are found, require the landowner to destroy them. The penalty for allowing weeds to grow and mature is rather severe. Any landowner or anyone having charge or control over a highway or railroad right of way, who allows these weeds to grow, is guilty of a Class C infraction.

The Purdue Extension office in Hamilton County is available for more specific questions on weed types and methods of eradication, Callahan said. They can be reached at 317-776-0854