

# ask Sam

**“I want to buy weed-free hay for recreating on national forest lands. What is weed-free hay? We would appreciate any thoughts you have. Thanks.”**

This buyer-beware situation brings the “what is a weed” question to the forefront. Aspects such as end-use of product and correct plant identification can confuse the issue between buyer and seller. Fortunately, utilizing certified weed-seed free products (alfalfa and/or grass hay, straw, gravel) helps ensure a standardized product.

Certified weed-seed free products are inspected based on North America Invasive Species

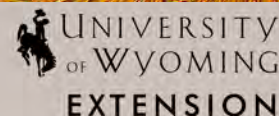
Association (NAISMA) standards. In Wyoming, weed and pest districts are the primary designated authority for NAISMA weed-free inspections. The prohibited NAISMA weeds list has 53 species and any additional species on the state or county list. To pass inspection, products may have vegetative plant parts, but seeds and other reproductive structures are prohibited. NAISMA standards do not assure other hay quality measures or presence of other weeds. Certified weed-free products are required on all federal lands and must be marked with NAISMA-approved twine or tags. The certification program is designed to minimize the spread of prohibited and noxious weeds, protect the end-user,

promote weed-free fields, and protect the environment. If interested in obtaining certification or buying certified products, contact your local weed and pest district.

For more information, go to [bit.ly/certified-hay-map](http://bit.ly/certified-hay-map) or [www.wyoextension.org/haylist](http://www.wyoextension.org/haylist).



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Yearly subscription: <i>Barnyards &amp; Backyards: Rural Living in Wyoming</i>	\$10.00		
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