



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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**PEST CONTROL  
DISTRICTS ACT**  
STATE OF COLORADO  
TITLE 35 ARTICLE 5

## **PEST CONTROL DISTRICTS**

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This Act provides for the establishment of districts for control and eradication of specified pests. This applies to noxious weeds, insect pests, and plant diseases.

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## **Pest Control Districts**

### **What is a pest control district?**

Pest control districts are organizations within a contiguous territory, formed under the general supervision of boards of county commissioners, for the control and eradication of noxious weeds, insect pests, or plant diseases injurious to agricultural crops, trees, fruits, or pasture.

Pest control districts may be established to control specific pests. Examples include mosquito control districts, grasshopper control districts, and weed control districts.

### **How is a pest control district set up?**

1. Residents in your area must petition the board of county commissioners.

The petition must include:

- Description of the boundaries of the proposed district
- Description of the land of each person signing the petition
- Statement of specific pests or diseases to be controlled
- Statement of termination date of the proposed district
- Signatures by 25% of resident landowners/lessees

The petition may include:

- Request that the board of county commissioners take charge of and supervise the control and eradication of the pests named
2. The county commissioners will mail ballots to all landowners and lessees in the proposed district
3. Landowners and lessees owning or leasing 50% of the land in the proposed district must vote
4. A vote of 66.66% in favor of the district is required for the board to declare the district established

### **How are pests controlled and who pays for pest control in the district?**

1. The county pest inspector must send out a notice of the pests that need to be controlled and the best methods for control
2. Notification must be sent out by radio, newspaper, or any other method of communication
3. Individual landowners are required to control pests on their land using methods specified by the county pest inspector

4. If you do not comply with the requirements, the county pest inspector may initiate control measures and charge you for the work. The county may assess a lien on your property if you do not pay the charges within 30 days
5. The county commissioners may levy a tax on your property to pay the costs of pest control. The money collected must be used for pest control in your district

### **What if I disagree with what I am charged for pest control on my land?**

1. Failure to receive a notice from the county pest inspector is not a defense
2. You must file a written protest within 30 days if you do not agree with the charges
3. You are entitled to a hearing with the county commissioners within 30 days of your protest
4. Findings and changes in assessments must be provided in writing immediately after the hearing
5. If you do not pay the assessment, it will be added to your taxes

### **What if there are public lands in my district?**

1. The county commissions must notify the proper public agency that the district has been formed
2. The public agency must control the pests on its land in the district
3. If this is not done, the county pest inspector may undertake control measures and charge the public agency
4. Pest control on park land that is state or locally owned will be paid by that county

### **References and Resources**

Lane, E. 2002. Personal communication. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Lakewood, CO.

*Pest Control Districts*. Title 35, Article 5, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO. <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/publications/pestcontroldistrictact.pdf>

*Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Pest Control Districts*. Title 35, Article 5. Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Lakewood, CO. <http://www.ag.state.co.us/DPI/publications/pestcontroldistrictrules.pdf>

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