Field Survey Instructions

Club: Pittsburgh English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club	
Field Location: 400 Robinson Church Road; Bulger PA 15019 (Parcel ID 550-005-00-00-0007-00)	
Land Owner : Imperial Land Company	Phone/Email: pittsburghhuntingspaniels@yahoo.com
The Club received permission to conduct this survey [X]	Survey Date: 08-16-2020

INTRODUCTION

The reason to have event and training grounds surveyed is to locate occurrences of certain grasses that represent an elevated hazard to dogs. The goal is to assist clubs and individual dog owners make an informed assessment of the risk presented by harmful grasses, aka mean seeds.

SURVEY METHOD/INSTRUCTIONS

Equipment/People Needed:

- Two to four people
- Field Survey form
    - Page 1 – Survey Summary
    - Page 2 – Data collection form to be completed by each person walking the field.
- Map of the event grounds. Maps can be printed from Google Maps or Google Earth
- Flagging tape or something to mark areas of concern.
- Tape measure, rake, broom, or walking stick to help define a consistent sample circle radius.

Methodology

The survey should be conducted when the seed heads are readily observable. The individuals conducting the survey should walk the course in different directions. Each surveyor should carry with them a clip board, the survey form, a map of the grounds, flagging tape and something to help determine the sample circle radius, like a tape measure or walking stick etc.

Part I: **Evaluate presence/absence**: Starting at an outside corner of the course, beyond where the outside gun will be, and walk the course. Two people should walk start to finish and two should walk the course gun to gun in a set of parallel lines spaced approximately 9-10 yards apart. As the surveyor walks, they should scan the ground cover that is 10-15 feet to either side of them. Any mean seeds observed should be flagged in the field and noted on the form and map. Be sure to include any areas where a dog may be sent on a retrieve, the parking area and exercise areas etc.

Part II: Determine density and distribution: To get a rough idea of mean seed density and distribution, the surveyor(s) should select several sample areas to review in more detail. These sample areas should be approximately 2-4 flags apart, or 20-40 yards and be selected at random. Each sample location should be marked on the map. The sample area should be approximately 10 feet in diameter[1]. The person conducting the survey should determine if any mean seed grass stems are present within the sample circle and what the approximate quantity is. This information should be record on page two of the Field Survey form. A rough density estimate can be calculated by dividing the number of plots where mean seeds were observed by the total number of sample areas reviewed. The more sample areas that are surveyed the better. Any areas of concern should be flagged for subsequent review and follow up.

After the grounds have been surveyed one person should collect and consolidate the data forms and maps into one report that can be shared with others.

[1] If you double the length of your arm, which is approximately 2.5 feet, by holding out a tape measure, rake or walking stick you will have the radius of the circle, double that distance to get the diameter.

Field Survey Form

TRIAL LOCATION:

Club	Pittsburgh English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club		
Trial Date	September 19, 2020	Survey Date	August 16, 2020
Field Location	400 Robinson Church Road; Bulger PA 15019 (Parcel ID 550-005-00-00-0007-00)		

OBSERVERS/SURVEYORS

Observer(s)	Name & contact	Credentials/ Qualifications/ Experience
Observer#1	Leanna Duppstadt	See attached
Observer#2	Justin Brackenrich	See attached
Observer#3		
Observer#4		

EVENT LOCATIONS SURVEYED

☑ First & Second Series ☑ Third Series ☑ Puppy Stake
☑ Parking area ☑ Exercise area ☑ Lunch area

Were any areas **not** surveyed? Explain: _____

☑ No 'mean' grasses were observed ☐ Yes 'mean' grasses were observed *(provide details on the next page)*

REMEDIATION/AVOIDANCE PLAN

Will observed grasses be removed from event location prior to the event? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If 'no' what is the plan to avoid areas with mean seeds? (*Flag the area, mow a buffer, instruct the judges to avoid etc.)*

MEAN SEEDS GRASS LIST

Species
Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*)
Virginia Wild Rye (*Elymus virginicus)*
Cheatgrass/Downy Brome (*Bromus tectorum)*
Ripgut brome *(Bromus rigidus)*
Foxtail Barley (*Hordeum jubatum)*
Meadow Barley *(Hordeum brachyantheru)*
Mouse Barley *(Hordeum murinum)*

Species
Oldfield Threeawn *(Aristida oligantha)*
Single Awn Aristida *(Aristida orcuttianas)*
Purple or Red Three Awn *(Aristida purpurpea)*
California Needlegrass *(Stipa pulchra)*
Needle-And-Thread (*Hesperostipa comata)*
Sleepygrass/Tall Needle Grass *(Stipa robusta)*
Western Needle Grass *(Stipa occidentalis)*

Field Survey Form

SURVEY SAMPLE AREAS REVIEWED

Observer Name: Leanna Duppstadt / Justin Brackenrich

For each sample area reviewed document the findings below.

Sample #	What was Identified	# of Mean Seed Grass Plants Found	Location Marked
1.		None ◉ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
2.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
3.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
4.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
5.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
6.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
7.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
8.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
9.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐
10.		None ○ 1 or 2 ○ A few ○ A lot ○	In Field ☐ On Map ☐

Rough density estimate = # of sample plots with mean seeds/ total # of samples[1]

NOTES

The Pittsburgh English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club requested educational and experienced assistance from the Penn State Extension as a part of both educating the members and an independent review of the grounds. We conducted a field walk through, educational outreach for members, and mitigation options if any of the above mean seed species were found. See attached summary, aerial layout of surveyed grounds and photographic identification of predominant species found.

DISCLOSURE

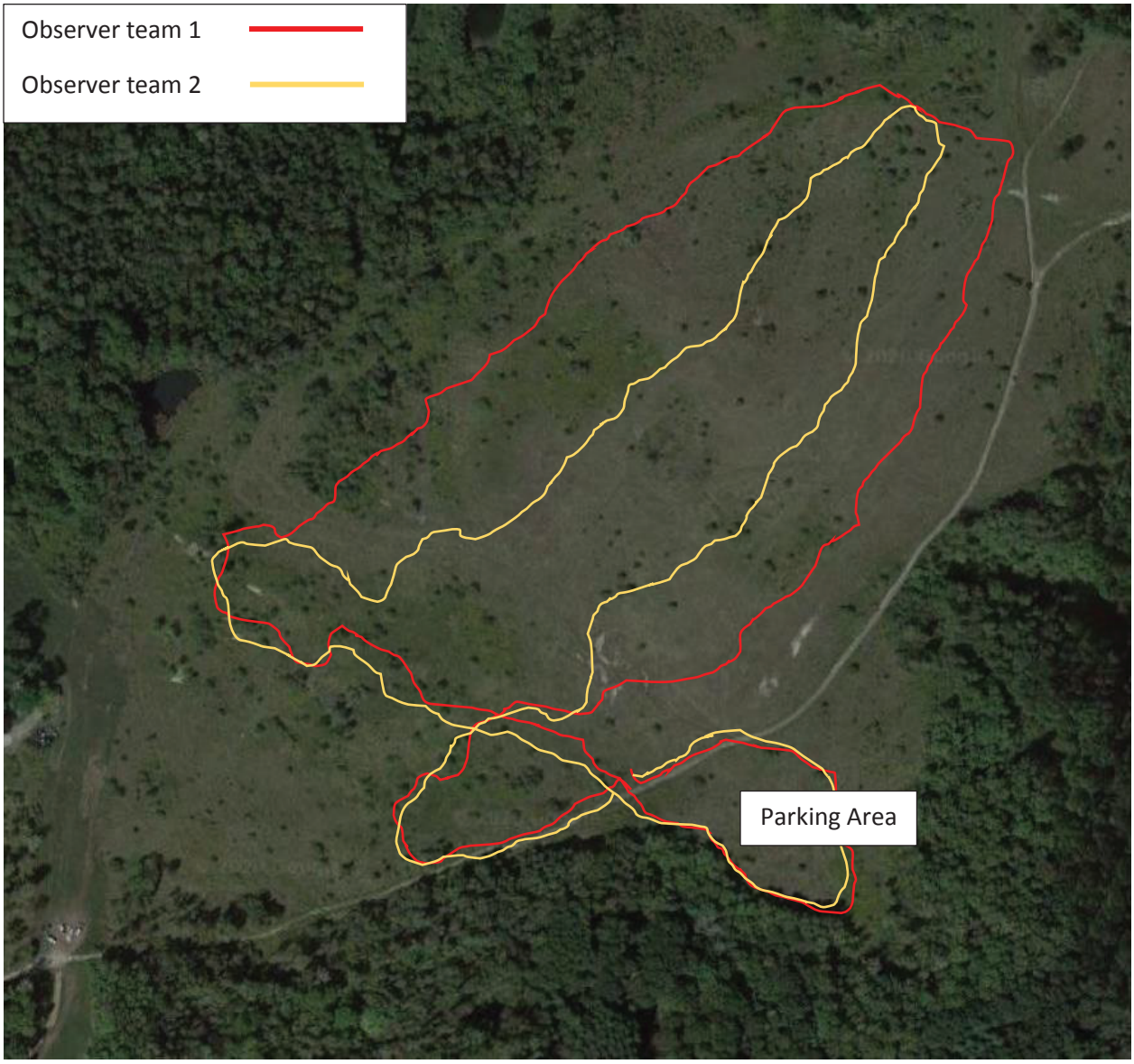
This report attempts to inform the reader of the presence or absence of 'mean seeds' in a training or event field so that each individual owner/handler/club member can make his or her own decision regarding their participation in events held on these grounds. This report is descriptive in nature and neither its author nor the committee that commissioned/prepared it can guarantee the safety of any individual dog. It is impossible to certify that any field is 100% clear of harmful plants; however, the providers of this report can confirm that the fields have been surveyed according to the methodology outlined and all pertinent information has been provided to the best of their abilities.

[1] If mean seeds are identified in 6 out of 10 sample plots = estimate that 60% of the field has mean seeds

FIELD SUMMARY

The survey was performed in the main hunting field, secondary lower field, and parking area including surrounding wood line. The main field consists of predominantly of Smooth Bromegrass (Bromus Inermis), Orchard Grass (Dactylis Glomerata), and Tall Fescue (Festuca arundinacea). Secondary species of both common legumes and deciduous shrubs are sparsely present in the landscape. The predominant secondary species include Canada Goldenrod (Solidago Canadensis), Autumn Olive (Elaeagnus Umbellata), Common Ragweed (Ambrosia Artemisiifolia), and Birds-foot Trefoil (Lotus Corniculatus).

ROUTE



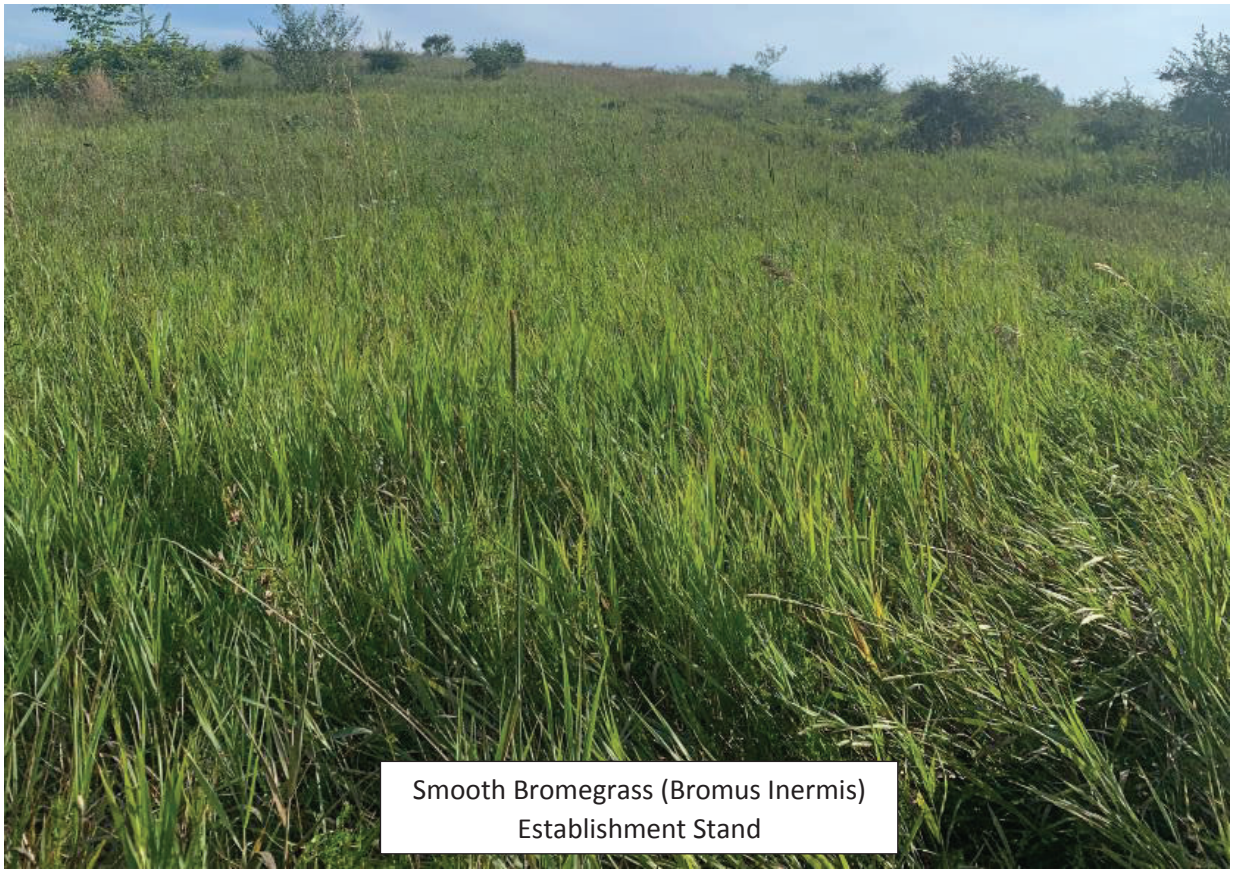
PRIMARY SPECIES AND PREDOMINANT SECONDARY SPECIES

Smooth Bromegrass
(Bromus Inermis)

Smooth Bromegrass
(Bromus Inermis) Seed Head

Smooth Bromegrass
(Bromus Inermis) Water Mark

PRIMARY SPECIES AND PREDOMINANT SECONDARY SPECIES (CONT.)



Smooth Bromegrass (Bromus Inermis)
Establishment Stand

Orchard Grass
(Dactylis Glomerata)

Tall Fescue
(Festuca arundinacea)

PRIMARY SPECIES AND PREDOMINANT SECONDARY SPECIES (CONT.)

Autumn Olive
(Elaeagnus Umbellata)

Canada Goldenrod
(Solidago Canadensis)

Common Ragweed
(Ambrosia Artemisiifolia)

Birds-foot Trefoil
(Lotus Corniculatus)

FIELD EDUCATORS

Leanna Duppstadt

Agronomy Educator

- Penn State Extension – Somerset County Office

Expertise: Pasture Management, Grazing Management

B.S. Animal Science – Penn State University

M.S. Agronomy – Penn State University

Justin Brackenrich

Extension Educator - Field and Forage Crops

- Penn State Extension – Butler County Office

Expertise: Nutrient Management, Pasture Management, Hay Management

B.S. Agriculture - West Virginia University

M.S. Plant and Soil Science – West Virginia University