
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2326 (Committee on Agriculture) - Noxious weed management: Broomrape Program: extension

Version: June 8, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: AGRI. 5 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Robert Ingenito

Bill Summary: AB 2326 would (1) make specified changes to the Broomrape Program, and (2) extend the Program by 2 years, until July 1, 2030.

Fiscal Impact: The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) would incur ongoing annual costs to CDFA in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to continue operating the Broomrape Program until July 1, 2030 (Broomrape Management Account).

Background: Broomrape is a root parasitic plant that can cause devastating damage to tomatoes and other broadleaf crops by fusing into a host plant root and extracting nutrients and water. Broomrape was the focus of an eradication effort in California four decades ago but has recently reemerged in tomato fields across several Central Valley counties. The discovery of broomrape in commercial tomato fields leads to quarantine and crop destruction without harvest, as processors will not accept tomatoes from an infested field. According to CDFA, susceptible food crops, with an economic value totaling \$6 billion, may experience up to 70 percent annual crop losses in areas infested with broomrape.

Proposed Law: This bill, among other things, would do the following:

- Extend the operation of the Broomrape Program by 2 years until July 1, 2030.
- Make the 60 percent of the moneys in the Noxious Weed Management Account allocated for the control and abatement of noxious and invasive weeds only available to eligible weed management areas, as provided.
- Revise the requirements for an integrated weed management plan submitted by a weed management area to include specific goals and purposes, as provided.
- Revise the definition of “qualified applicant” for purposes of the 20 percent of the moneys in the account allocated for research and other purposes.
- Specify that a given geographic area may only be part of a single weed management area and would prohibit more than 25 percent rather than 10 percent, of the noxious weed management funds distributed to a weed management area from being used for meeting, travel, administration, and coordination costs.

Related Legislation: AB 402 (Aguiar-Curry, Chapter 651, Statutes of 2023) established the Broomrape Program within CDFA for the purpose of funding research and control methods for Broomrape. Among other things, AB 402 created a Broomrape Board and required the Board to recommend an assessment rate for approval by the CDFA secretary. In 2025, CDFA established an assessment of \$0.14 per ton of processing tomatoes produced in each district to be paid equally by the producer and handler.

Staff Comments: The broomrape assessment is an industry-funded special fund revenue source that finances CDFA's Broomrape Control Program without direct General Fund support. CDFA has established an assessment of \$0.14 per ton of processing tomatoes produced in each district to be paid equally by the producer and handler to fund the program. CDFA projects approximately \$535,000 in program costs for the current year. To date, the industry assessment for broomrape has totaled \$1.6 million, which has been used to fund research and other activities such as grower outreach and education to limit the spread of broomrape within the State.

Any local government costs resulting from the mandate in this measure are not state-reimbursable because the mandate only involves the definition of a crime or the penalty for conviction of a crime.

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