

# Noxious Weed Control Authority News

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## 1997 Noxious Weed Control Report

The most important part of the Noxious Weed Control Authority Program is public awareness.

### Awareness

The cooperation of the landowners and support of the public are essential ingredients of a successful program. A strong effort continues to be made to increase public awareness of the legal requirements of noxious weed control and to increase voluntary compliance on private lands, public lands and railroads.

- Published 2 General Noxious Weed Notices, 15 articles, displayed exhibit or made presentations at 20 meetings.
- Updated and added articles on InterLinc home page.
- Contributed to Extension Acreage Owner Publication
- Reviewed 522 weed control plans and provided assistance on weed prevention.
- Distributed 800 publications, 1000 letters, 450 cards and made 200 contacts.
- Updated public land contact list and maintained contact throughout the weed season. The Authority provided almost \$15,000 of contracted weed control to the two landfill sites. The Authority contracted for spraying of all the leafy spurge sites on county roads. The County Engineer provided control of musk thistle on the county roads. The Authority inspectors drove the 1,400 miles of roads at the end of the season to assure that all sites were controlled.
- Contacted, provided maps and follow-up to the 2 railroads contractors and mower operators. Made early contacts and provided follow-up to assure weed control was obtained. Their contractors provided most of the required control. The Authority was authorized to do \$5,000 of follow-up control.

### Inspection and control

A total of 3,779 inspections were made on 2,048 sites and 19,739 acres during the year.

#### Spring Season

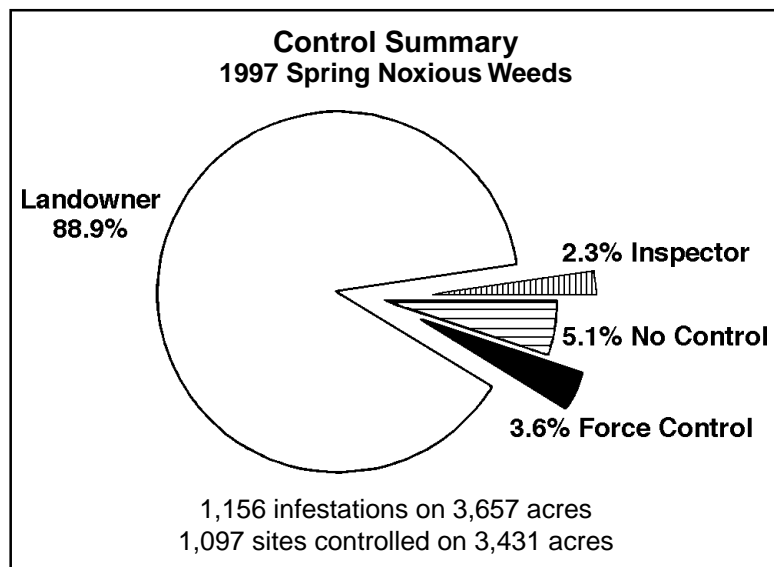
Carried out 3,079 inspec-

tions of 1,587 noxious weed sites on 15,095 acres in the spring-summer season.

- Found 1,156 infestations on 3,657 acres.
- Found no infestations on 451 sites.
- Sent 487 reminder letters and 137 trace cards.
- Issued 315 notices.
- Made 175 informal contacts.

### City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

- Carried out 3,697 inspections on 1,672 sites for violations of City Weed Abatement Program.
- Found 1,387 violations on 1,729 acres
- 285 sites found not to be in violation.
- Made 67 informal contacts.
- Sent 154 reminder letters.



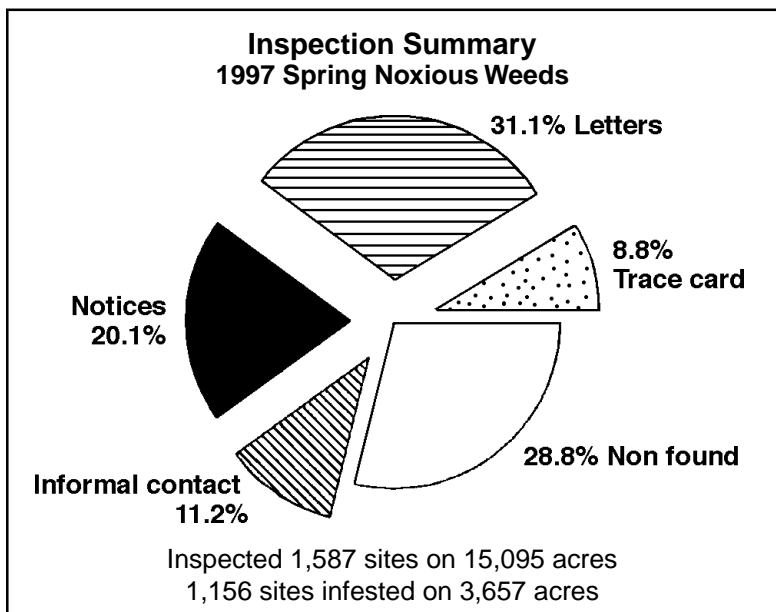
- Landowners controlled (1,028) 88.9% of the sites on 3,378 acres
- 42 infestations on 44 acres were forced controlled.
- Inspectors controlled 27 infestations on 9 acres.
- 59 (5%) sites were not completely controlled or were deferred.

#### Fall Season

Made 700 inspections of 461 problem noxious weed infestations on 4,644 acres in the fall

- Found 317 infestations on 650 acres.
- Found no infestations on 114 sites.
- Made 97 informal contacts.
- Sent 95 reminder letters and 64 trace cards.
- Sent 64 trace cards.
- Issued 43 notices.
- Landowners controlled 55 sites on 20 acres
- Force controlled 3 sites.
- 259 sites were deferred due to the early snow storm.

Number of sites inspected were reduced because of the dry fall. The weather also contributed to noxious weeds not found on 33% of the sites.

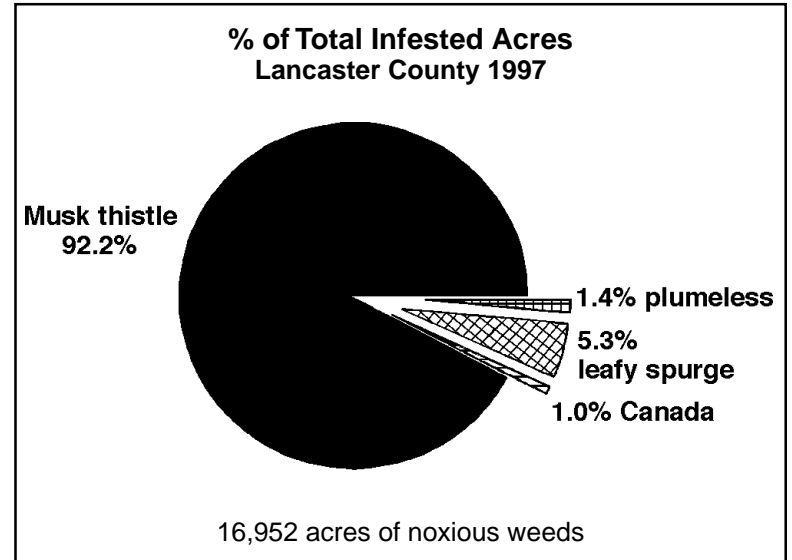


## Weed Awareness



## Extent of noxious weeds in the county

Over 3% of the land area is infested with noxious weeds. Musk thistle makes up 92% of the noxious weed infested area. Leafy Spurge does not cover a lot of acres, but it has been found on over 400 sites. Plumeless Thistle and Canada Thistle infest less than 500 acres. Diffuse Knapweed has only been found on one site.



All land uses have significant infestations of noxious weeds. Almost 9% of the pasture land is infested. Non-ag land which includes the City of Lincoln and rural lots is second in the amount of noxious weed infestations. Cropland infestations are found mostly in alfalfa fields and idle cropland. The most visible infestations are on roadsides. Railroads have the smallest acres and the largest percentage of infestations. Musk thistle has been found in almost all the sections in the county. Leafy Spurge has been found in 1 out of 7 sections.

### Acres Infested by Land Use Lancaster County

Land Use	Acres Infested	% of Land Use
Pasture	9,325	8.6
Non-Ag	5,907	5.3
Cropland	1,188	0.4
Roads	250	1.8
Railroads	282	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,952</b>	<b>3.2</b>

### Acres of Noxious Weeds Drops

The estimated total acres of noxious weeds in the county has dropped by more than 44% in the past five years. This has been as a result of the excellent cooperation and voluntary compliance of both public and private landowners. As shown in the following graph the estimated acres of noxious weeds in 1993 was 30,614 acres as compared to 16,952 acres in 1997.

### Estimated Noxious Weed Acres 1993-1997 Weed Seasons Lancaster County

