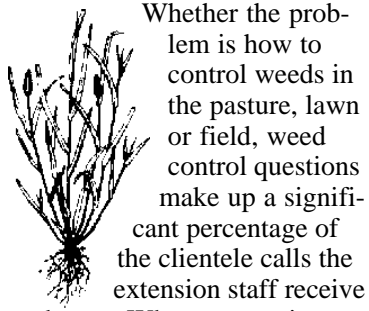


Weed control a universal concern



Whether the problem is how to control weeds in the pasture, lawn or field, weed control questions make up a significant percentage of the clientele calls the extension staff receive each year. When we receive these calls, extension staff use an integrated pest management approach to weed control; recommending cultural, mechanical and chemical control measures as appropriate to the situation and in keeping with what the client is able to do, given the time and equipment available.

Our goal is to recommend the control measures that will be least harmful to the environment and off-target plants. When chemicals are recommended, we try to recommend herbicides

and procedures that minimize risk of off-target injury. We also try to inform the caller of the weed growth stages and environmental conditions that will optimize the effectiveness of the treatment.

Proper identification of the weed species is essential before making a recommendation. Clientele may bring samples to the extension office for identification, if uncertain. Clientele with access to the internet may find it more convenient to get their information from the web. Lancaster County Extension's Nebraska Production Agriculture web site has links to two sites which contain color images of weeds. The link to Rutgers University page has images of over 100 common weeds along with a brief description. The Nebraska Noxious Weeds link takes the user to the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Authority

page which shows color images of all the Nebraska noxious weeds along with a description. Both sites allow the user to click on the image to load a larger version for better visibility. To directly access the weeds web page point your browser to: <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/ag/crops/weeds.htm>.

Another concern that comes up from time to time concerns identification of poisonous plants. Which plants are poisonous to humans or animals and how can they be identified? Once again, the best sources of information can be found on Lancaster County Extension's Nebraska Production Agriculture web pages. On the same page as the weed images discussed above, there are links to databases originating at Rutgers University, Cornell University, the University of Illinois, the University of Pennsylvania, and

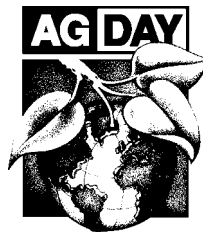
a site produced by Research Branch - Agriculture and Agri-Food



Canada. The first three databases contain color images of each toxic plant species along with information about the type of toxin present and species of animal affected. The other two sites don't have images but have more extensive information about plant poisoning.

In this issue of the NEBLINE, you will find a special section supplied by Russ Shultz, manager of the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority. In this section, you will find articles on controlling problem weeds, a history of acres infested with noxious weeds in the county, a noxious weed identification quiz and other articles on weeds and weed control. (TD)

National Agricultural Day-March 20



Each year, during National Agriculture Day, we encourage the celebration of the crucial role agriculture plays in the daily lives of people around the

world. National Agriculture Day is a vehicle to raise awareness of the positive contribution agriculture makes in providing the necessary food and fiber of everyday life.

Whether you produce the food and fiber, or just consume them, you can take pride in American agriculture. It's an

industry that's meeting the needs of consumers around the world, now and in the future.

Each American farmer is still the picture of efficiency, producing enough food to feed 129 people every day. As a result, agriculture is America's #1 export which is a key contributor to our balance of trade.

What's more, American agriculture is producing higher quality food and fiber while being good stewards of the environment. Take some time on March 20th to think about what American agriculture is doing for your tomorrows. (WS)

Accessing extension information

The extension office functions as the front door to the University of Nebraska, providing a link between the resources of the University and the people of Nebraska. We have a three-fold mission: to educate, to provide research-based information, and to use the resources of the University to help people solve problems. This article will focus on our role of providing research-based information.

Many residents have become aware of the printed publications that can be obtained at the extension office. These come in three general categories: NebGuides - addressing a single topic, limited to four pages or less. NebFacts - addressing a single topic, usually limited to two pages and photocopied on demand at the local extension office. Extension circulars - generally more than four pages, covering broader topics. An example of an extension circular is the Herbicide Guide which is updated annually and contains nearly 100 pages of information about herbicides and weed

control. Another example of an extension circular would be the crop variety test result books which present the variety test results from field trials across the state.

NebGuides and NebFacts are free if picked up singly whereas many of the extension circulars have a nominal cost to cover the expense of printing. The extension office stocks nearly the entire complement of printed publications or can receive them in a few days from the University if a request is made for an item that is not stocked.

Besides the printed publications, two additional information dissemination systems are supported by the staff of the Lancaster County Extension Office. One is a system called Nufacts which is an information retrieval system using an electronic switchboard system. People with questions can call the Nufacts system using a touch-tone telephone and choose to listen to a voice message or choose to have the message faxed to them in print form. People

must know the three-digit number of the message they want to access. A brochure is available at the extension office which lists the topics and their corresponding numbers.

Finally, the extension staff have created an extensive set of web pages. Clientele can access information 24 hours a day on nearly any topic desired. The journey starts at the Lancaster County front page at: <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/>. At this page, one may select one of seven major subject matter categories:

4-H and Youth, Family Living, Ag/Acreage, Horticulture, Nutrition and Food Safety, Environment and Natural Resources, and the electronic version of the NEBLINE Newsletter.

Since agriculture is featured in this issue of the NEBLINE newsletter, I will discuss some of the information available on the Ag/Acreage pages. The Ag/Acreage site consists of a front page which contains links to general program areas and

information as well as links to other related sites such as UNL, IANR, and several popular web search engines. Two major subject matter links are also on this page. One is a link to the Nebraska Production Agriculture pages and the other is a link to the Acreage Insights pages.

The Nebraska Production Agriculture pages are divided into weather, markets, crops and livestock subject matter pages. There are literally hundreds of links to research-based publications, databases and other information contained within the Nebraska Production Agriculture framework. Naturally, nearly every University of Nebraska Extension publication pertaining to a given subject is linked (provided an electronic version of the publication exists) however, the links are not necessarily restricted to the University of Nebraska. Many topics will have links to several land-grant universities and other reputable sources of informa-

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