

Noxious Weed Control Authority

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Barb Frazier, Chief Inspector

1998 Annual Report

The 1998 weed season was very busy. The plentiful moisture throughout the year caused increased germination of musk thistle. The wet weather in June made it difficult for control of musk thistle and leafy spurge before they went to seed.

AWARENESS

The Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Program is adequately funded as a result of overall public support. Therefore the key objective is to obtain voluntary compliance by:

- Informing landowners of the presence of noxious weeds,
- Why they need to be controlled, and
- Options for control.

Because of an aggressive inspection program most of the landowners with noxious weed infestations that do not control their weeds on a timely basis have been identified. Since 1988, we have identified 5681 sites with noxious weeds. Approximately 2000 owners need to be reminded about timely control. These owners are the major targets of our information efforts.

A key to getting voluntary compliance is obtaining and maintaining credibility and respect of the landowners with noxious weeds. Some ways to earn this respect and credibility is by

- Obtaining compliance of public land managers,
- Obtaining compliance by railroads,
- Addressing habitual violators,
- Providing immediate response to complaints, and
- Keeping people informed of program efforts.

LANDOWNER CONTACTS

Throughout the year 3,724 landowners having noxious weed or overgrown weed violations were contacted.

LETTERS

Examples of letters sent:
•158 letters sent to landowners with noxious weed infestations that may not have been

controlled the previous year, including control information.

•9 letters sent to landowners/managers on whose CRP land leafy spurge infestations had previously been located, including control information.

•3 letters sent to landowners/managers on whose CRP land leafy spurge infestations had previously been located, including control information.

•29 letters sent to landowners on whose alfalfa land musk thistle infestations had previously been located.

•105 letters sent to property owners on whose property within the City of Lincoln were sent more than one violation notice the previous year.

•65 letters sent to Homeowners Associations as a reminder to outline control schedules regarding noxious weeds and/or mowing and property maintenance.

NOTIFICATIONS

•1,412 Noxious Weeds Notifications

•1634 legal notices on overgrown weeds or worthless vegetation.

•85 legal notices published in the Lincoln newspaper on overgrown weeds or worthless vegetation.

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS AND ENCLOSURES

An estimated 5,000 individuals were provided information at meetings, exhibits, handouts and enclosures.

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

•6 Private Applicator Certification meetings

•Acreage Owner meeting

•CRP Workshop

HANDOUTS & ENCLOSURES

•26 noxious weed posters distributed along with brochures.

•67 flyers included in the Adopt-A-Road packets.

•230 flyers included in packets distributed at the 5 Private Applicator Certification meetings.

•3 packets of information delivered to area high schools

with Vocational Agriculture curriculums.

•Two handouts published and distributed: Be Neighbor Friendly – Keep Your Weeds Under Control and Be Neighbor Friendly – Control Noxious Weeds

EXHIBITS

•Exhibit in lobby of Cooperative Extension Service Conference Center lobby from January to June and December. **Exhibit and handouts available to 200 sessions and 10,000 attendees.**

•September 1 - 7 – Exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair.

REPORTS

12 monthly reports were prepared and provided to the 5 county commissioners and the 7 city of Lincoln council members and the mayor of Lincoln. An annual report was also prepared. Available on homepage [Http://interlinc//InterLinc/cnty/weeds](http://interlinc//InterLinc/cnty/weeds).

NEWS RELEASES

•20 articles, including a four page Weed Awareness insert, appeared in seven issues of the Cooperative Extension Service NEBl ine. **The NEBl ine is distributed to 8300 households and offices.**

•Spring and fall general notices published in the Lincoln newspapers and two rural newspapers.

•NETV program produced by Nebraska Game and Parks Department, about purple loosestrife and the release of beetles for the purpose of biological control on a site south of Lincoln.

INTERNET HOMEPAGES

Developed 34 pages for our Internet homepage [Http://interlinc//InterLinc/cnty/weeds](http://interlinc//InterLinc/cnty/weeds). **We had 3,632 page hits in the first 11 months of the year.**

INSPECTION ACTIVITY

8,847 inspections have been made on 4,168 sites and 20,241 acres for the year.

Spring Musk thistle

•Made 2,389 inspections on 1,156 sites on 10,884 acres.

•Found 843 infestations on 2,545 acres.

•Found no infestations on 311 sites.

•Sent 248 notices, 447 letters and 106 trace cards. & made 98 personal contacts.

•435 landowners provided control plans.

•680 landowners controlled infestations.

•50 infestations controlled by inspectors.

•17 were force controlled.

•Some thistles on 96 sites (1%) were allowed to seed out.

Leafy Spurge

•Made 686 inspections of 394 sites on 2,989 acres.

•Found 294 infestations on 869 acres.

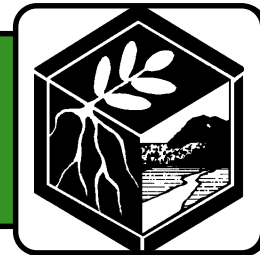
•Found no infestations on 100 sites.

•Sent 25 notices, 135 letters and made 15 personal contacts.

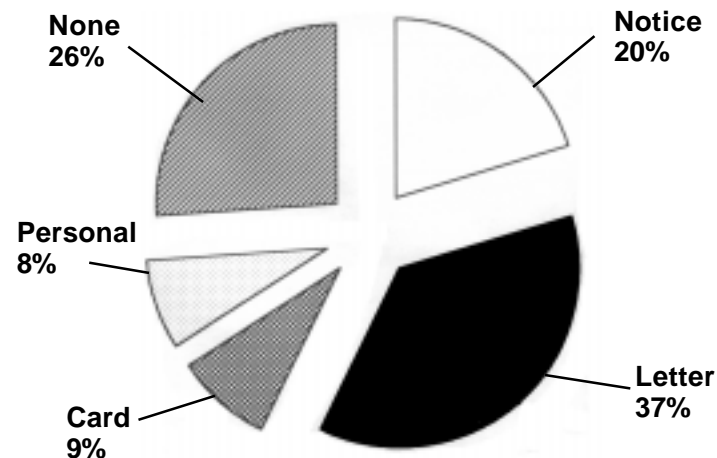
•199 landowners provided control plans.

•227 landowners controlled

Weed Awareness



SPRING MUSK THISTLE 2,384 inspections of 1,155 sites



infestations.

•45 landowners allowed some seeding

Fall Musk Thistle

•Made 997 inspections on 611 sites on 6,271 acres.

•Found 403 violations on 1,132 acres.

•Found no violations on 208 sites.

•Sent 70 notices, 200 letters, 92 trace cards and made 15 personal contacts

•95 have been controlled by landowners.

•2 sites have been contracted.

•Inspectors controlled 29 sites.

•303 sites have been deferred.

Canada Thistle

•Made 56 inspections on 33 sites on 91 acres.

•Found 25 infestations on 9 acres.

•14 have been controlled by landowners.

•Fall Leafy Spurge

•Made 214 inspections on 199 sites.

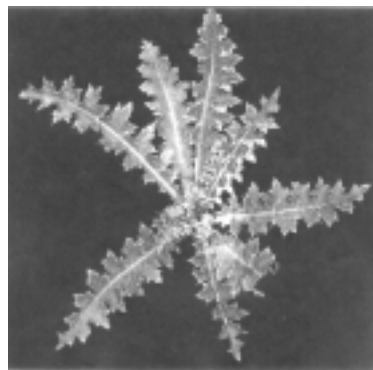
•Found 148 infestations on 135 acres.

•132 sites were controlled by landowners.

Weed Abatement Program

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Control musk thistle now



Musk Thistle is easiest to control when it is in the seedling and rosette stages and is actively growing. This occurs in March and April. During this period you will find rosettes that have over-wintered and new seedlings emerging. The plant is much more difficult to control after it starts to bolt in May.

All areas where musk thistle have been growing the past few years should be scouted since it drops most of its seed at these sites and the seeds can remain viable for eight to ten years. All lands are subject to infestations, including farms, city and rural subdivisions. All of us need to check our own property and control infestations now to prevent seed production.

Pastures

Thistle, like the overgrazed areas, with poor grass cover on dams and watering areas, combine control methods into a management system. Maintain-

ing pastures and rangeland in good condition is a primary factor for musk thistle management. Favor pasture and rangeland grass growth by not overgrazing and fertilizing as needed.

Weed and Feed

An excellent management tool is applying herbicide with nitrogen to cool season pastures. Eight ounces of Tordon 22K with the appropriate amount of liquid nitrogen works well in cool weather. These applications could begin March 1, if the ground is not frozen.

Herbicide controls

Tordon 22K at the rate of 6 to 8 ounces per acre can be applied as soon as the ground thaws out, as long as the temperature is above freezing. A good spray combination after the air temperature reaches 50 degrees is one quart of four pound 2,4-D LV ester and a half pint of Banvel per acre or Escort/Ally at .3 ounce per acre. The ester formulation is effective in killing rosettes and any seedlings. Banvel will provide control of later emerging seedlings. If a residual herbicide such as, Banvel or Tordon 22K is used, required follow-up control will be minimized.

Read and follow label directions. Plants can also be controlled by severing roots two

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INSPECTIONS 8,847 inspections of 4,168 sites on 20,241 acres

