

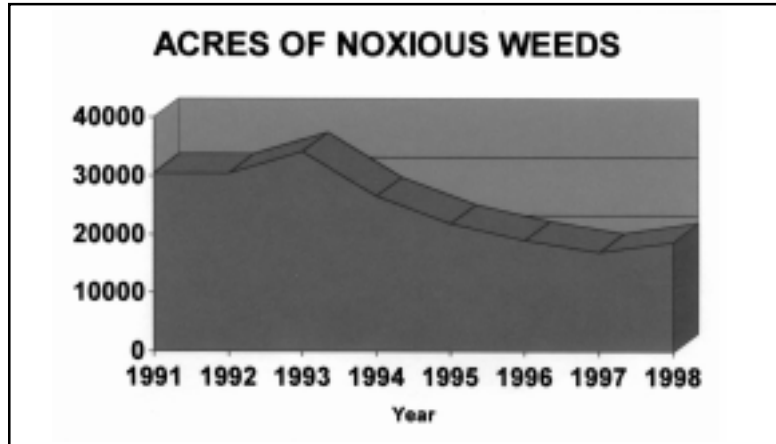


Weed Awareness

Extent of noxious weeds in the county

Noxious weed acres in the county has been on a declining trend the past eight years. The sole reason for this decline has been the result of the control efforts of both public and private landowners. The years

The most visible infestations are along roads and railroads. They have less than two percent of the acres. There has been an aggressive control effort on these transportation corridors resulting in a sharp drop in the acres



1993 and 1998 did not follow this trend. Moisture conditions these two years resulted in more noxious weeds germinating and made control more difficult. If the control efforts are not maintained, the infested acres will increase at a more rapid rate than decrease.

All land uses have significant infestations of noxious weeds. Almost nine percent 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.

infested.

Over three percent of the land area is infested with noxious weeds. Musk thistle makes up 92 percent of the noxious weed infested area. Musk thistle has been found in almost all the sections in the county. Leafy spurge does not cover a lot of acres, but it has been found on over 400 sites and in one out of seven sections. Plumeless thistle and Canada thistle infest less than 500 acres. Diffuse knapweed has only been found on one site. Follow-up inspections of this site indicate that this infestation has been eradicated.

Crop and article inspection program

Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control office will provide noxious weed inspection of a crop or article upon request, a complaint, or when an infestation of noxious weeds in a crop or article comes to the attention of a noxious weed inspector. The purpose of such inspections is to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds by the movement of an infested crop or article from said premises.

Results:

Crop and article inspections will result in a crop and/or article being:

1. certified as noxious weed free; or
2. infested with noxious weeds and quarantined; or
3. release of quarantined crop, once it has been effectively treated to prevent the dissemination of noxious weeds.

Landowners that sell forage or mulch may find it to their benefit to have the noxious weed free certification. Purchasers may find it desirable to purchase forage or mulch that will not infest their property with noxious weeds. The State Roads

Department requires noxious weed free mulch on their roadside plantings.

Treatments

Any infested article, including harvested crops, capable of disseminating noxious weeds, needs to be treated before it is moved from the premises and before it is moved from the location at which they initially became infested.

- All harvesting equipment and other infested equipment should have all loose materials removed by sweeping, use of forced air or forced water, or other methods, as recommended by the manufacturer.

- Grain and seed should be cleaned and the screenings properly disposed.

- There are no known acceptable treatments for soil, sod, nursery stock, hay, straw and other material of a similar nature.

Regional Weed Free Certification Program

A voluntary certification program has been implemented in the western states. Nebraska participates in this program. If

grower ships or plans to ship forage or mulch to these states it may be desirable to obtain a regional certification. Inspections are made to assure that none of the noxious weeds for all the western states are present.

Required Certified Forage and Mulch

Federal public land management agencies are now requiring that any forage or mulch brought onto their lands be certified noxious weed free. Some state agencies are now requiring this certification. As private landowners learn about the threat of the spread of noxious weeds, they are insisting on the weed-free certification.

How is Forage Certified?

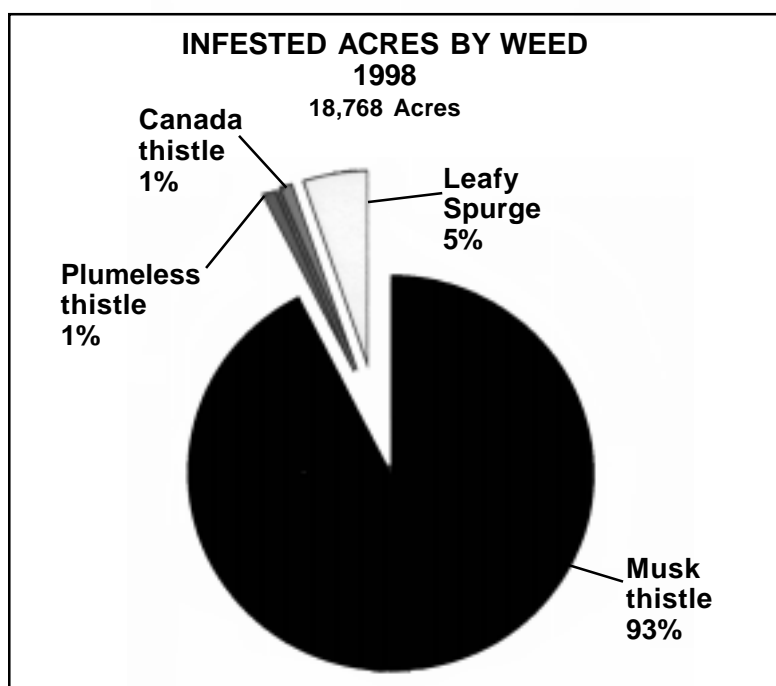
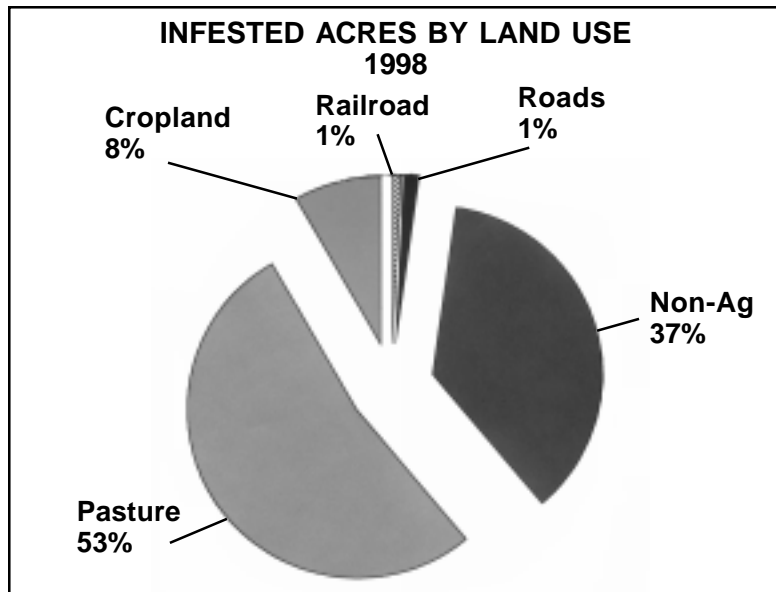
An individual may request a certification inspection from the weed control office. The inspector will make an inspection prior to cutting or harvest. A "certificate of inspection" form is issued to the producer if the field meets the requirements of the regional standards. This certificate will allow the movement of the forage into restricted areas in the western states. (RS)



See us on our homepage

The Weed Control Authority has a website on the Internet. It is a part of the County and Lincoln InterLinc. Our address is <http://interlinc.ci.lincoln.ne.us/InterLinc/cnty/weeds/>

You can find information on the noxious weeds and how to control them. It describes our programs, includes our annual plan and monthly reports. There are answers to frequently asked questions and you can ask questions of particular interest to you. You also can submit a complaint concerning noxious weeds by email. Following is our index page:



The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window displaying the website for the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority. The page includes the following elements:

- Navigation Bar:** Back, Forward, Reload, Home, Search, Guide, Images, Print, Security, Stop.
- Location Bar:** <http://interlinc.ci.lincoln.ne.us/InterLinc/cnty/weeds/index.htm>
- Header:** City of Lincoln logo, Lancaster County Weed Control Authority.
- InterLinc:** Russell Shultz, Weed Control Superintendent, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln, Nebraska 68528.
- Navigation Links:** Weed Control Authority Mission and Goals, Frequently Asked Questions, "How are we doing?" Survey, Contacting the Weed Control Authority (with an Email icon).
- Articles:**
 - What are the Noxious Weeds? (includes pictures and a short description)
 - What are Weeds & Worthless Vegetation?
 - Programs
 - City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program
 - Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Program
 - Weed Complaint Form
 - 1998 Annual Plan
 - City of Lincoln Combined Weed Control Plan
 - Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Plan
 - Monthly Report
 - Recommended Noxious Weed Controls
 - Musk & plumeless thistle
 - Leafy Spurge