

Weed Awareness

Prepared by the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority

The Weed Control Authority

The Lancaster County Weed Control Authority staff assists landowners in the job of controlling noxious weeds. Many landowners are accomplishing control without any assistance or contact from the Authority. The Authority carries out a strong information and awareness program along with an extensive inspection program to encourage voluntary compliance of the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act.



The Authority has also provided the inspection and administration of the City of Lincoln's "Weed Abatement Program" since entering into an interlocal agreement with the City.

The County Commissioners serve as the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority. Russell Shultz serves as the superintendent and supervises a seasonal staff of six weed inspectors with the assistance of Chief Inspector, Barb Frazier and Linda Spilker, account clerk.

Contact Info

Lancaster County Weed Control Authority
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Lincoln, NE 68528-1507
441-7817

Annual Report — 2002 in Review

Even though 2002 was a very dry year, more acres of noxious weeds were found and the acres of weed abatement violations was about the same as 2001.

The most significant change during the year was the drop in purple loosestrife violations found. There were 482 violations found in 2001 as compared to 143 purple loosestrife violations found in 2002.

Inspection Activity

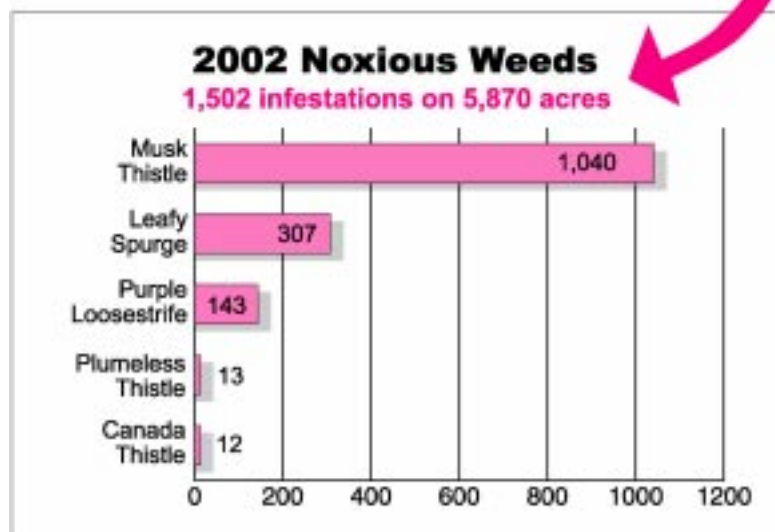
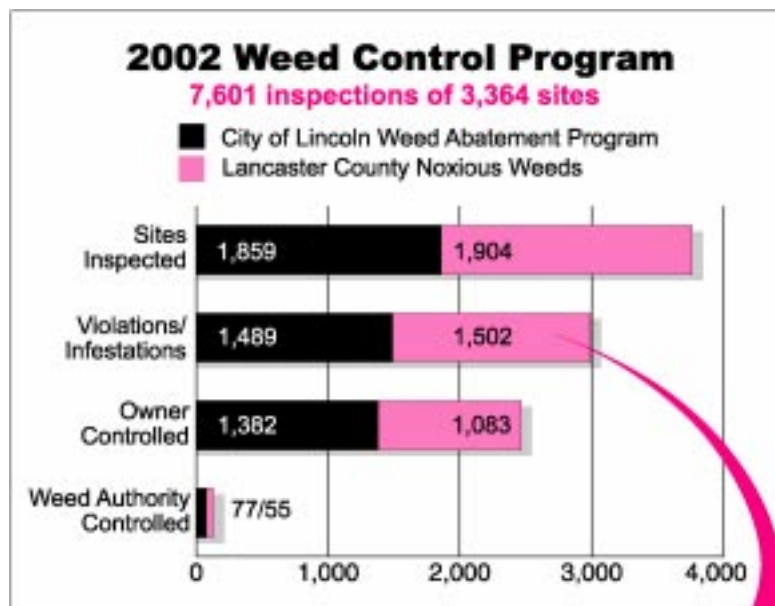
There were 7,601 inspections made of 3,763 sites on 28,503 acres during the year. There were 3,364 violations found on 6,980 acres. Violations dropped 376 from last year but acres of violations increased by 983.

Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Program

We found 1,502 infestations on 5,870 acres. The number of infestations found decreased by 576 but the acres increased by 1,033. There were 344 less purple loosestrife infestations found. This was due to the excellent response from homeowners that removed their ornamental plantings of lythrum. The number of infestations found by noxious weed is shown below. Of these sites, 1,083 were controlled by landowners. The Authority controlled 55 sites and 36 were contract controlled and owners billed \$9,931. We assessed 12 properties for nonpayment.

City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program

The City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement Program requires landowners to maintain weeds and worthless vegetation at



less than six inches on their properties and on one half of the adjacent streets and alleys. There was a continuing emphasis on obtaining voluntary compliance of landowners. After notification, 93 percent of owners cut their overgrowth. This was accomplished with a 10 percent reduction in legal notifications issued from 66 percent down to 56 percent. After notifying 13 different entities by letter or phone, 32 of the 33 violations on public property were taken care of. The east side of 84th Street was not cut. The adjacent landowner is outside the City limits and not subject to the City ordinance. There were 101 properties force-cut and owners billed \$14,087, properties were assessed for nonpayment.

Weed Awareness

A high voluntary compliance with the noxious weed control act and the weed abatement ordinance is

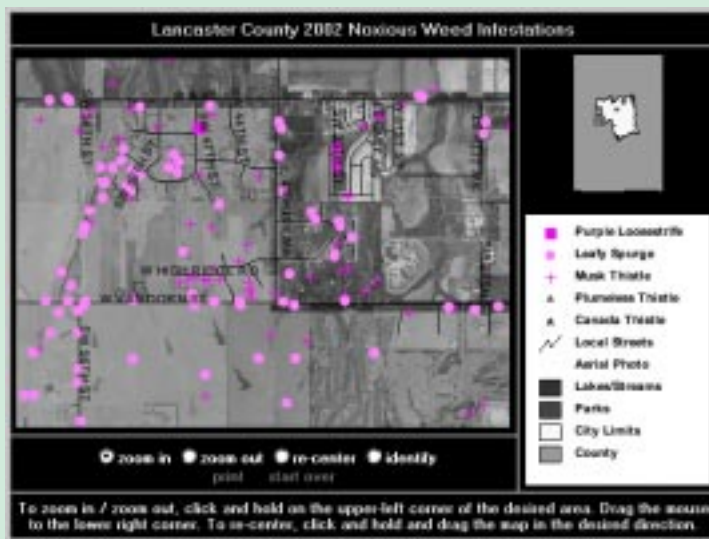
dependent on landowner awareness and acceptance. Several approaches were used to improve the public awareness. This began with a Weed Awareness Special insert to the April Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Service Nebline with a circulation of nearly 11,000. The Authority Web site at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/weeds was maintained and updated. Over 1,000 special mailings were made to multiple violators, leafy spurge owners, homeowner associations, CRP contracts, nurseries and garden centers, public land managers and others. An exhibit was prepared and displayed in the lobby of Lancaster Extension Education Center, at the Nebraska State Fair and other locations.

Lancaster County Weed Control Web site

The Lancaster County Weed Control Authority Web site at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/weeds provides very useful information about the Authority's program and activities and about weed control and management. The site is continually being updated. In 2002, the site received more than 37,000 hits.

Via the Web site, you can:

- Contact the Weed Control Authority.
- Make a weed complaint.
- Make a real-time search of current weed inspections.
- Look at a map of noxious weed locations in the county.
- See the latest listing of possible weed special assessments.
- Study noxious weed and weed abatement laws and regulations.
- Learn about noxious weed identification.
- Read about the County Noxious Weed and City Weed Abatement Programs.
- See plans and reports.
- Check on noxious weed controls.
- Learn about managing natural areas in an urban setting.
- Test your knowledge about Nebraska weeds.
- Link to other weed control Web sites:
 - Nebraska Weed Control Association: www.neweed.org
 - North American Weed Management Association: www.nawma.org
 - Federal Noxious Weed Program: www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds



Map of Noxious Weed Locations

Maps of noxious weed locations are available on the Authority Web site. A county map is displayed with the noxious weed locations. You may zoom into an area of interest. As you zoom in, an aerial photo background with ownership lines becomes visible. You also can see symbols representing the approximate location of a noxious weed site. You then may find 2002 information on the site by clicking on a symbol.



Current Weed Inspections Search

You may now access information on the Web site about any active inspection made by the authority.

All inspections are shown for sites with infestations not yet under control. You may search for individual sites by entering the address of the parcel, the parcel ID number or the owner's name. You may also look at all the inspections for a weed problem: musk thistle, plumeless thistle, Canada thistle, leafy spurge purple loosestrife or weed abatement in Lincoln.

Weed Awareness

Seven plants have been designated as "noxious weeds" Nebraska. Five of these can be found in Lancaster County:



Musk Thistle

(1,040 reported infestations in 2002)



Leafy Spurge

(307 reported infestations in 2002)



Purple Loosestrife

(143 reported infestations in 2002)



Plumeless Thistle

(12 reported infestations in 2002)



Canada Thistle

(12 reported infestations in 2002)

Where Do Weeds Come From?

Most weeds owe their beginning to seed in the soil. The soil acts as a seed storage reservoir and a growth medium for weedy plants.

The number of seeds in the soil is variable and may range from two seeds per pound of surface soil in grassland to 140 seeds per pound of surface soil in cropland. In western Nebraska an average cropland soil contained 114 seeds per pound of surface soil. On a per acre basis, the seed content approached 200 million seeds per acre.

In grasslands, a majority of the weed seed is located within one inch of the soil surface, while in cultivated soil, the majority of the seed is located in the upper six inches of soil.

Loss of Seed From the Soil

Seeds are lost from the soil due to feeding by rodents and insects, decay or germination. The length of weed seed survival depends on the species, depth of burial and tillage. Seeds from some weeds may only survive a year when

buried in the soil, while others will remain viable for 30 years or more. As soils are cultivated, seeds are exposed to light and moved closer to the soil surface, stimulating germination. If weed seed production is prevented, weed seed can be lost from the soil at a rate of 25 percent per year in cultivated soil and 12 percent per year in undisturbed soil. **The quickest way to reduce seed numbers is to practice shallow tillage and prevent weeds from producing seed.**

In experiments conducted across Nebraska, weed seed decline was examined in continuous corn where atrazine was combined with cultivation for five consecutive years. After five years of preventing weeds from producing seed, the weed seed density was reduced 95 percent. During the sixth year, weed control efforts stopped and the weed seed density began to rapidly increase. **Weed control must be continually practiced to prevent an increase of weed seed content in the soil.**

Introduction of Weed Seed Into the Soil

Seed is introduced to the soil through several avenues, with **the chief source being the production of seed by weeds allowed to mature.** Weed seed can also enter a field from outside sources, with the primary seed dispersal methods being wind, water, animals and man.

Man also introduces weed seed into cropland. As crop seed is planted, weed seed is often a contaminant. As a farmer combines his crops and moves from field to field, he may contaminate the entire farm with numerous weed seeds.

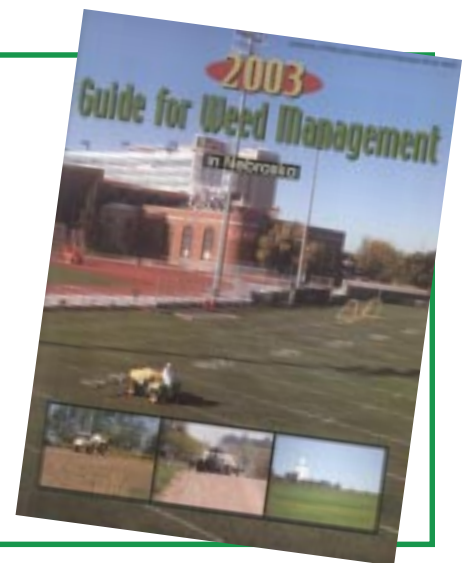
Many weed seeds pass through the digestive tracts of animals and remain viable. When manure is used to fertilize cropland, weed seeds are systematically introduced across fields.

Reference: NebGuide (G86-807-A) "Where Do Weeds Come From?" online at www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/weeds/g807.htm

"Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska" Updated for 2003

The University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension has updated its "Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska" (EC03-130) for 2003. The 148-page publication is available online at www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/fieldcrops/ec130.htm or you may purchase a copy for \$3 at the UNL Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County office.

The guide features several new sections as well as the latest research-based updates to the existing information on weed control and herbicide efficacy for a range of Nebraska crops and cropping practices.



Another available resource is "Weeds of Nebraska and the Great Plains," published by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. For more information please contact: Nebraska Department of Agriculture, PO Box 94756, Lincoln, NE 68509 or call 471-2394.

When Will Weeds Bloom?

When noxious weeds bloom depends whether you are in eastern Nebraska or western Nebraska or if the growing season is warmer or cooler than normal. Plants will bloom earlier in eastern Nebraska and earlier if the growing season is warmer. The concept of growing degree days was developed to predict the dates for growth stages for crops. Growing degree days can also be applied to other plants.

Growing Degree Days

The concept of growing degree days (GDD) resulted from observations that plant growth and development are more closely related to an accumulation of temperature above a certain base than time alone. The base temperature is a threshold below which growth does not take place. A base temperature of 40° F is commonly used for cool-season crops and 50° F for warm-season crops.

GDD for a particular day are obtained by subtracting the appropriate base temperature from the average daily temperature. Thus, on a

day with temperature averaging 60° F, the GDD for a cool-season plant such as noxious weeds would be 60 - 40 = 20. For a warm-season crop such as beans, GDD would be 60 - 50 = 10.

GDD and Stages of Growth of Nebraska Noxious Weeds

The Weed Control Superintendents in counties having an official Nebraska Weather Station were asked to record

the dates that 50 percent of the musk thistle, Canada thistle, plumeless thistle and leafy spurge reached their key stages of growth. These observations were made in 1995, 1996 and 1997. The observed dates that 50 percent of the noxious weeds reached each of its growth stages was matched up with 40° F GDD data from the weather stations arriving at an average GDD required to reach each growth stage. Following is the average GDD required to reach the

key growth stages for each of the observed noxious weeds and the date that this would occur in Lincoln in an average year.

GDD by Stage of Growth and Lincoln Date

This information can be used to project the dates the noxious weeds would reach each of its growth stages in a normal year or a year that varied from normal by tracking the accumulated GDD for that year. Growing Degree Day information is available at Crop Watch Weather at cropwatch.unl.edu/weather.htm

Average growing degree days for noxious weeds (by stage of growth) and date this would occur in Lincoln

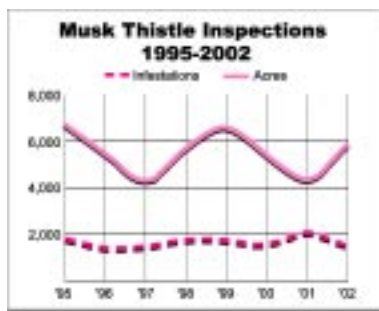
	Musk Thistle	Plumeless Thistle	Canada Thistle	Leafy Spurge
Bolting	1,000 May 5	1,000 May 8		
Bud	1,300 May 26	1,600 June 23	1,300 June 23	
Flower	1,700 June 14	2,000 June 30	2,000 June 30	1,000 May 5
Seed Dispersal	2,300 July 1	2,600 July 14	2,600 July 14	
Seed Filled				1,600 Jun 16

Weed Awareness

Musk Thistle Management Strategy

To successfully fight weeds, you need to know as much as possible about each weed. Then you need to develop a strategy to manage that weed.

Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) is usually thought of as a biennial, germinating one year, usually in the fall, overwintering and flowering the next year. When there is a long enough cool period in the spring, some musk thistle plants will act as annuals by germinating in the spring and flowering in early summer. Musk thistle spreads only by seed. One seed head can produce over 1,000 seeds. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for ten years. The key to managing musk thistle is to prevent all plants from going to seed.



The acres of musk thistle found by inspections the past eight years have fluctuated from about 4,300 acres to about 6,500 acres. The number of infestations found has remained more constant from about 1,500 to 2,000. This would indicate that the noxious weed infestations

occur in the same sites year after year but size of the infestations vary considerably due to climatic conditions. Good moisture conditions in the fall, like we received in the fall of 2002, favor the germination of musk thistle seeds near the soil surface at these sites. These plants will flower the next spring if the plants are not controlled that fall or the next spring.

Control Steps

1) Scout the areas with past infestations in late September and early October for seedlings and rosettes. A seed bank has built up in the soil at these sites. These seeds will remain viable for eight or more years waiting for the right conditions to germinate.

2) It is most effective to treat the entire area with herbicides in order to control all the small seedlings and rosettes and seedlings that have not emerged. Spot control of these sites usually results in a lot of escapes since not all the plants are observed and some plants germinate later.

3) Use 2,4-D as a contact herbicide along with a herbicide that will add to the effectiveness of killing the plants present but also have residual that will kill later germinating plants. Some of the herbicides that will provide residual control are Escort



Musk thistle rosette

(www.dupont.com/ag/vm/products/escort.html), Tordon 22K, Vanquish, Banvel and Telar (www.dupont.com/ag/vm/literature/h87276.pdf).

4) Scout these fall treated areas in March and April for escapes and new plants.

5) Provide control prior to bolting of the flower stem in May. Use 2,4-D along with a residual herbicide.

6) Scout these areas weekly and provide needed follow-up control until July. Be alert to the musk thistle plants acting as annuals due to a cool spring.

Remember, the best approach to control musk thistle is to scout and treat areas with past infestations (these areas have built up a seed bank in the soil) in the fall and spring. Provide treatment in the spring prior to bolting and always scout treated areas for escaped plants. Only one plant going to seed can contribute thousands of seeds to the seed bank.

Mechanical Control

Severing the root of musk thistle a couple of inches below the soil surface will kill the plant. The entire root does not have to be removed.

Hand cutting or mowing has to be done at weekly intervals to be effective.

Fire has not proven to provide effective control. The plants survive prescribed burning, but can be easily found and controlled by other means after the burn.

Biological Control

Musk thistle head weevil (*Rhinocyllus conicus*) is an introduced biocontrol species wide spread in Lancaster County. They are reducing the number of viable seeds being produced, but do not provide complete control by themselves. You can learn more about

biological control by visiting Cornell University Web site at www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/biocontrol/weedfeeders/wdfdrtoc.html

Prevention

Infestations occur where there is a seed bank in the soil and the conditions are right for germination and survival. Healthy vegetation provides competition and minimizes the survival of musk thistle seedlings.

Care should be taken not to spread seeds from infested sites or to use forage or seeds that are contaminated with noxious weed seeds. Equipment should be cleaned before leaving an infested site if it is possibly contaminated. Only weed-free certified forage and seed should be used.

Reference: You can find much more information on musk thistle by looking at The Nature Conservancy Element Stewardship Abstract for *Carduus nutans* at: <http://mcweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/documnts/cardnut.pdf>

Spot Treatments

For hand sprayers used for spot treatments, add 1-1/2 tablespoons of herbicide per gallon of water for each one quart per acre required broadcast. Apply to 1,000 square feet. Application amounts are dependent upon spray pressure, walking speed during treatment, and tip size. For powered handgun applications, mix broadcast rate in 100 gallons of water.

NOTE: Wettable powder herbicide rates would be determined by the same procedure; however, since volume or density of wettable powder herbicides varies, the calculated rate per 1,000 square feet, should be carefully measured by weighing on a precision scale.

Rate Per Acre to 1,000 Square Feet

1. Known facts and assumptions:

- 1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft.
- 2 pounds = 32 oz.; 1 pint = 16 oz.; 1 quart = 32 oz.
- 1 ounce = 2 tablespoons = 6 teaspoons
- Herbicide rate per acre from bulletin or label
- Hand sprayers apply about 1 gallon per 1,000 sq. ft.

2. Convert herbicide rate per acre to ounces:

- For example, 2 quart per acre = 64 oz.

3. Convert 64 ounces per acre to ounces per 1,000 sq. ft.

- $64/43 = 1.50$ oz. or three tablespoons per 1,000 sq. ft.

4. Add three tablespoons of the product to one gallon of water and apply uniformly to 1,000 sq. ft.

Leafy Spurge Management Strategy

Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) is a perennial plant ranging in size from six to 36 inches in height. A native of Europe and Asia, leafy spurge emerges early in the spring and gets a head start on other vegetation in a race for space, sunlight, nutrients and water. Prolific seed production and an extensive root system give the plant a huge competitive advantage and make consistent, long-term control difficult.

Monitoring of areas with known or potential leafy spurge infestations is critical; adequate control is possible if management procedures are implemented in the early stages of infestation, before the root system gets fully established. You can rarely achieve 100 percent eradication of spurge, but infestations can be reduced to manageable levels with the use of herbicides.

Strategy

The control of well-established leafy spurge stands must be considered a long-term management program. A landowner must develop a persistent annual program that will prevent the spread of larger stands, eliminate smaller infestations and prevent the spread of leafy spurge to uninfested areas. The extensive leafy spurge root system allows the plant to regrow from depths of 15 feet

or more for several years. No single treatment will eradicate this weed. A consistent annual treatment program can provide long-term control. Once you have achieved a high level of control, remaining isolated patches can be spot-treated, resulting in a less costly control program.

This plant spreads by underground roots and there is always a fringe area of younger plants that do not bloom. There



Leafy spurge extend roots deep into the ground as well as laterally.

are also roots underground that extend laterally beyond the younger plants. A 15-foot perimeter should be treated around leafy spurge patches to control seedlings and spreading roots. Treated patches should be watched carefully for any regrowth and/or seedlings and retreated.

Chemical Control

Currently, the three most effective herbicides are Tordon 22K, Plateau and Glyphosate (Roundup and others)

Before using any herbicide, always read and follow label

directions. Check label for permitted uses on your site.

Tordon (picloram)

Tordon has been an effective herbicide for controlling leafy spurge. Tordon applied at two quarts per acre during flowering or fall regrowth can give 75 percent or more leafy spurge control the first year after treatment. A less expensive option for leafy spurge control is repeated annual treatments of Tordon at one to two pints per acre plus 2,4-D at one quart (four pound per gallon concentrate) applied in June, during flowering, can be quite effective. Tordon is a restricted use pesticide requiring an application license to apply. Note label precautions.

Plateau (imazapic)

Plateau applied in the fall at eight to 12 ounces per acre can provide up to 90 percent leafy spurge control one year after treatment. The label recommends application from late-August to mid-October, but prior to a killing frost. Plateau should be applied with a methylated seed oil, (MSO), at one quart per acre. The addition of 28 percent UAN liquid fertilizer to Plateau plus the MSO has occasionally increased long-term leafy spurge control. Plateau is safe to use around a variety of trees, many wildflowers and legumes.

Glyphosate (e.g. Roundup)

Glyphosate (e.g. Roundup) applied at a rate of one quart per acre from mid-July to mid-September can result in 80-90 percent control of leafy spurge. Note that glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide and it will kill grasses and other desirable plants. A follow-up treatment with 2,4-D at one pint (four pound per gallon concentrate) the following year (mid-June to mid-July) is necessary to prevent seedling reinfestation.

Mechanical and Grazing

Tillage, digging, mowing and grazing will control the top growth but does not kill the roots.

Biological Control

Two Aphanthia flea beetle species have been released in Lancaster County. When their numbers get large enough, they will be redistributed to

other infestations. Flea beetles typically take several years to impact leafy spurge infestations, but the payoff can be well worth the wait. It is important to understand that flea beetles do not eliminate leafy spurge. When flea beetles work, they establish a natural balance with the weed, reducing it to a non-impact plant and tolerable member of the plant community.

Reference: TEAM and Leafy Spurge has developed a comprehensive, easy-to-read manuals on using herbicides and biological control. These manuals, "Herbicide Control of Leafy Spurge" and "Biological Control of Leafy Spurge," can be found at www.team.ars.usda.gov by clicking on Brochures, Reports & Publications.



Flea beetles have been released in Lancaster County to help control leafy spurge.

Weed Awareness

Crop, Forage and Article Inspection Program

Lancaster County 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, forage 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, forage 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 would be 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, preferably, before it is moved from the location at which they initially became infested. All harvesting equipment and other infested equipment should have all loose material removed by sweeping, use of forced air, 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.

North American Weed-Free Certification Program

A voluntary certification program has been implemented by the North American Weed Management Association and cooperating 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 certification. Inspections are made to assure that none of the noxious weeds for all the western states and Canada are not present.

Required Certified Forage and Mulch

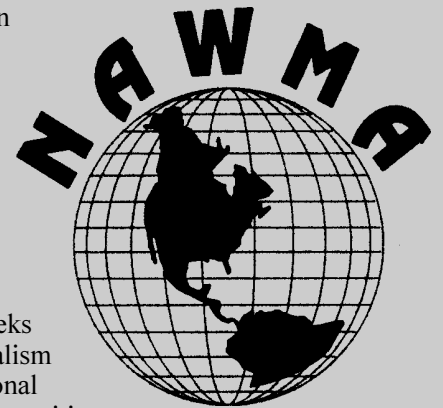
Federal public land management agencies are now requiring that any forage or mulch brought onto their lands be certified noxious weed free. Some state agencies are now requiring this certification. As private landowners learn about the threat of the spread of noxious weeds, they are insisting on the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

North American Certification Program for Managers of Invasive Plants

The North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) in cooperation with Central Community College, Hastings, Nebraska just initiated a North American Program For Certified Manager of Invasive Plants. The program seeks to recognize professionalism and encourage professional development among all practitioners of the component skills of invasive weed management. The certification as a (CMIP) is a voluntary, examination-based program with continuing education requirements which provides recognition of professional and technical competency. There has been some interest by states and others to utilize the program as a requirement for employment, training, etc.



This program was approved for implementation by the NAWMA board July 29, 2002. The program standards and application form have been finalized and may be seen at www.nawma.org/. A person must meet the education and experience requirements listed in the standards and be a current member of NAWMA. An application form must be completed and submitted along with the fee. The first examination will be given during the NAWMA's Annual Conference and Trade Show in Park City, Utah September 9-11, 2003. Individuals interested in receiving this certification should become a member of NAWMA, if not already a member, complete and submit their application and review the suggested study materials in preparation for the examination.

2003 Weed Control Plan

The mission of the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority is: The education of the public concerning noxious weeds and to exercise the necessary authority to obtain effective control of noxious weeds county-wide and the education of the public concerning weed abatement and to exercise the necessary authority to cut and clear overgrown weeds and worthless vegetation in the City of Lincoln.

The 2003 plan is directed at prevention of new weed problems, managing existing weed problems and making landowners and the public more aware of the need and benefits of controlling noxious weeds and the prevention of accidental or intended introduction of highly invasive plants.

Prevention

Efforts will be implemented to detect new occurrences of noxious weeds or plant species with noxious weed potential. Sericea lespedeza, Johnsongrass and Spotted and Diffuse Knapweeds will be target in this effort. Inspectors will be trained to identify and monitor presence of these weeds. Others will be alerted and encouraged to report any findings of these weeds. Immediate response will be made to new outbreaks of noxious weeds or potential noxious weeds. It is also important to control the spread of noxious weeds to new sites. Article inspections and quarantines will be used as needed to control dissemination. Weed-free forage inspections will be made upon request.

Management

Plans are to encourage voluntary compliance of required noxious weed control county-wide weed and abatement in the City of Lincoln by making inspections of 3,300 sites.

- 700 musk thistle sites will be inspected

during the spring-summer season. This will include inspections of private lands, Union Pacific and BNSF railroads, of the Bluff Road and 48th Street landfills, of all complaints, all observed infestations and make an end of the season drive of the 1,400 miles of county roads to observe undetected infestations on roadsides and adjacent properties.

- 400 Leafy spurge sites will be inspected, including 200 county roadside sites. Monitor the two biological insectaries and make redistribution to new sites.
- 200 Problem musk thistle sites and the

landfill sites will be inspected in the fall.

- 100 previously found purple loosestrife sites will be inspected.

Inspections will be made on 1,900 sites for violations of City Weed Abatement Program. Notifications and needed follow-up will be made on all inspections.

Awareness

Several education efforts will be made to make the public aware of noxious weeds and City Weed Abatement.

- Publish this Weed Awareness Special insert into the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension Nebline with a

circulation of nearly 11,000.

- Maintaining and updating Internet Homepage at www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/weeds.
- Special mailings to multiple violators, leafy spurge owners, owners of problem infestations, homeowner associations, public land managers and Adopt-a-Clean Road volunteers.
- Prepare and display exhibit in lobby of Lancaster Extension Education Center and Nebraska State Fair.

Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003

There is proposed legislation in congress to require the Secretary of Interior to establish a program to provide assistance through states to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate harmful, non-native weeds on public and private land. Noxious Weed Control Act of 2003 (S.144) was introduced in Senate. Harmful Invasive Weed Control Act (H.R.119) was introduced in House.

This legislation would:

- Provide assistance to weed management entities such as the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority in carrying out weed management projects.
- Coordinate the projects with existing weed management entities across all jurisdictional boundaries.
- Stimulate the formation of new weed management entities, that organize locally affected stakeholders to control or eradicate weeds.

- Leverage additional funds.
- Promote healthy, diverse and desirable plant communities, which in turn promote optimal (or biological potential) production of the land.

This act requires the secretary to determine the amount of federal funds allocated to a state or tribe on the basis of: (1) the severity of the weed problem; (2) the extent to which the federal funds will be used to leverage non-federal funds to address the problem; and (3) the progress the state or tribe has made in addressing weed problems.

This act also requires states to select projects for funding on a competitive basis, taking into consideration: (1) the seriousness of the weed problem; (2) the likelihood that the project will prevent or resolve the problem or increase knowledge about resolving similar problems; (3) the extent to which the payment will leverage non-federal funds to address the problem; (4) the extent the entity has made progress in addressing weed

problems; (5) the extent the project will provide a comprehensive approach to weed control or eradication, (6) the extent the project will reduce the total population of harmful, non-native weeds within the State, and (7) the extent the project uses the principles of integrated vegetation management.

Situation

The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act does not currently provide the state with the authority to handle federal pass-through grant funds to counties. The Nebraska Weed Control Association is working with the Agricultural Committee of the Nebraska Unicameral amend the current law to have the authorities in place to utilize allocation of federal funds from the federal Noxious Weed Control Act. States that do not have these authorities in place will not be able to utilize this federal funding.