

# Weed Awareness

Prepared by



**Weed Control Authority**  
Lancaster County



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(402) 441-7817 • [www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/weeds](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/weeds)

## About the Weed Control Authority

The Lancaster County Weed Control Authority is the Lancaster County Commissioners. The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act requires each county to have a weed control authority and to employ a weed control superintendent. The Act requires the authority to inspect and assist landowners in the control of noxious weeds. By an interlocal agreement with the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County has agreed to administer the City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement Program.

Russell Shultz serves as the Weed Control Superintendent. Barbara Frazier, chief inspector, Linda Spilker, account clerk and six seasonal inspectors assist in carrying out the functions of the Authority.

### Mission and Goals

1. 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.
2. Make the landowners of Lancaster County aware of the legal requirements and benefits of controlling noxious weeds.
3. Make the citizens of Lincoln aware of legal requirements and benefits of cutting and clearing overgrown weeds and worthless vegetation.
4. Efficiently and effectively exercise authority when necessary to obtain acceptable noxious weed control.
5. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of operations through management techniques.

## Annual Report — 2003 in Review

2003 was a good year for weeds, more acres of noxious weeds were found and more weed abatement violations were found.

There were 7,422 inspections made of 3,334 sites on 27,800 acres during the year. There were 2,685 violations found on 7,826 acres. Violations dropped 586 from last year but acres of violations increased by 846.

### Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Program

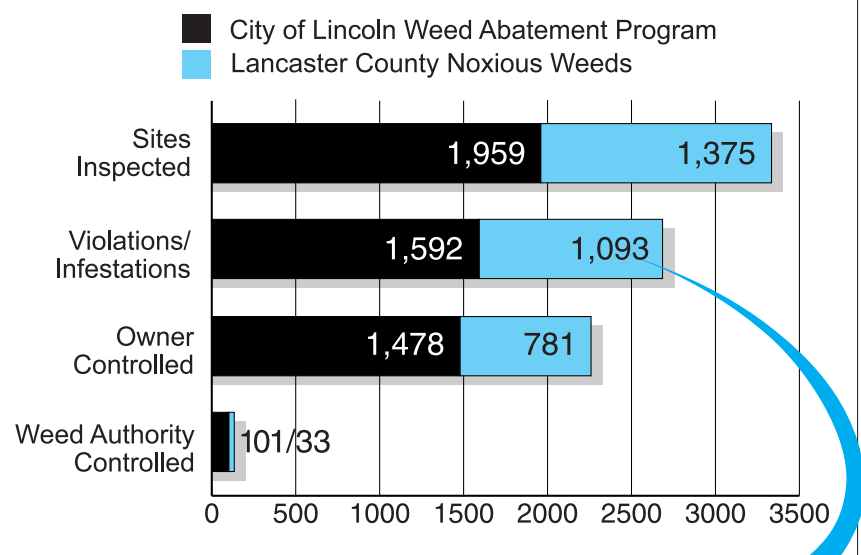
We found 1,093 infestations on 6,694 acres. The number of infestations found decreased by 316 but the acres increased by 824. There were 344 less acres of purple loosestrife infestations found. The number of infestations found by noxious weed is shown below. Landowners controlled 781 of these sites. The Authority controlled 26 sites and 19 were contract controlled and owners billed \$12,142. There were seven properties assessed for non-payment.

### City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program

There were 4,412 inspections made of 1,959 sites. As a result of 1,920 complaints, we found 1,592 violations. This was 103 more violations than in 2002. There was a continuing emphasis on obtaining voluntary compliance of landowners. After notification, 93 percent of owners cut their overgrowth. This was accomplished with 43 percent legal notifications. Forced cutting had to be performed on 101 sites at the cost of \$18,824. Of these sites, 76 had to be specially assessed for \$13,260.

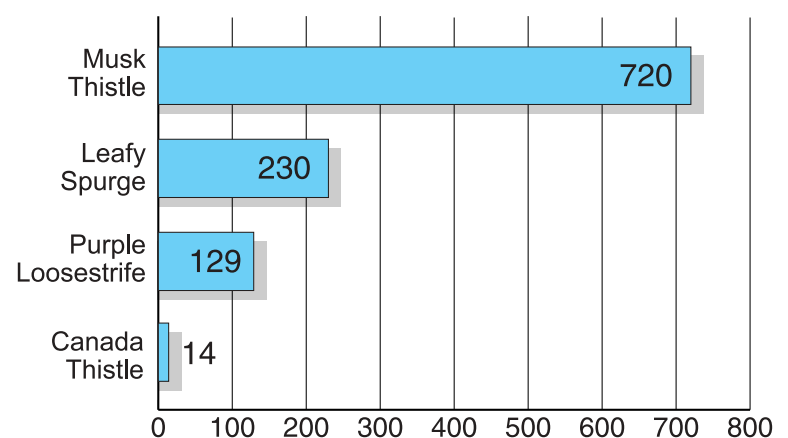
### 2003 Weed Control Program

7,422 inspections of 3,334 sites



### 2003 Noxious Weed Violations/Infestations

1,093 infestations on 6,694 acres

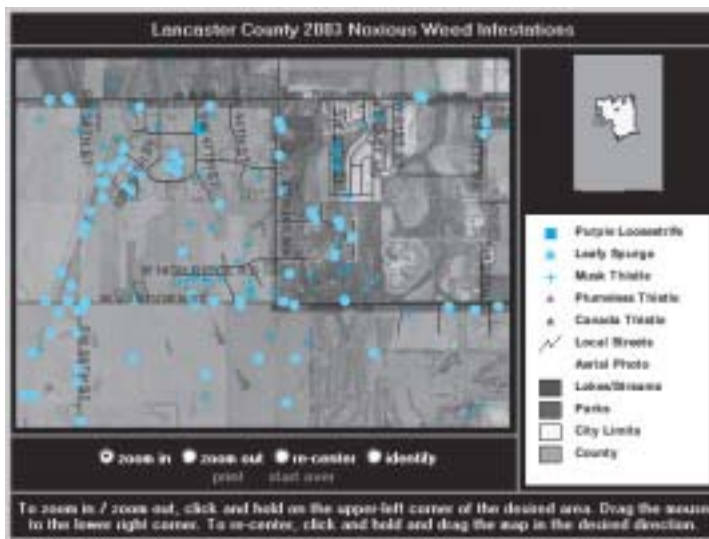


## Lancaster County Weed Control Web site

The Lancaster County Weed Control Authority Web site at [www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/cnty/weeds](http://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 2003, the site received more than 27,500 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](http://www.neweed.org)
  - North American Weed Management Association: [www.nawma.org](http://www.nawma.org)
  - Federal Noxious Weed Program: [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/weeds](http://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 2003 information on the site by clicking on a symbol.



### Current Weed Inspections Search

You may 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.