

WEED AWARENESS

The County Commissioners serve as the Lancaster County Weed Control Authority. Currently Brent Meyer serves as the superintendent and supervises a seasonal staff of six weed inspectors with the assistance of Chief Inspector Pat Dugan and Account Clerk Danni McGown.

2018 Annual Review

The Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority serves the citizens of Lancaster County to protect effectively against designated noxious weeds which constitute a present threat to the continued economic and environmental value of lands in Lancaster County. Our office implements the mandates of the State of Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act — known as Title 25, Chapter 10 — by setting forth management objectives and plans, methods or practices which utilize a variety of techniques for the integrated management of noxious weeds. In establishing a coordinated program for the integrated management of noxious weeds, it is the Weed Control Authority's intent to encourage and require all appropriate and available management methods, while promoting those methods which are the most environmentally benign and which are practical and economically feasible.

Noxious Weed Program

The Weed Control Authority utilizes a three-phase program to assist landowners in reducing the number of noxious weed infested acres in the county.

1: Prevent the development of new noxious and invasive weed infestations — Prevention is the least expensive and most effective way to halt the spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Integrated weed management includes identifying the pathways of how weeds spread, preventing encroachment onto land that is not infested, detecting and eradicating new weed introductions, containing large-scale infestations using an integrated approach and often re-vegetation.

2: Provide education and public outreach on noxious and invasive weed control — The public is generally not aware of the economic and environmental impacts of noxious weeds. There is a need to improve awareness of noxious and invasive weeds, providing educational information to cooperators, land managers and the public. As people become more aware of noxious and invasive weeds, the probability of detecting them is greatly increased, which allows for more effective and timely control.

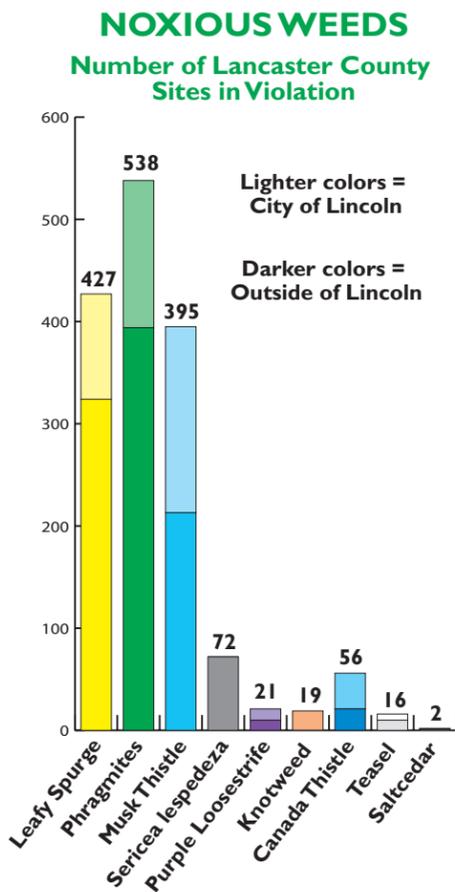
Education and awareness assist:

- Weed identification
- Reporting new infestations
- Prevention
- Control
- Fostering cooperation and partnerships

3: Provide for ongoing management of State of Nebraska-mandated noxious weeds — Noxious weed management is the systematic approach to minimize noxious weed impacts and optimize intended land use. It is very important for all infested areas to be treated with effective methods. Integrated management is a program of noxious weed control that properly implements a variety of coordinated control methods. Types of control methods include mechanical, cultural, chemical and biological. Integrated management greatly improves the success rate for your weed control plan. All noxious weed management must be applied and evaluated over an extended period of time to be successful.

Today's noxious weeds aren't your regular "run of the mill" variety and need to be managed differently. We are seeing a time where weeds are becoming chemical resistant and our global trade moves products around the world more rapidly, allowing new invasives to take root in Nebraska. As the times change, we need to constantly update our management efforts to meet today's challenges.

Lancaster County Noxious Weed Authority is focused on being the education and outreach resource for the residents in



our county. Our staff is constantly trained on the latest management tools of today's invasives and we are always working on ways to help our landowners with the latest techniques to protect their property. Think of Lancaster Weed Control Authority as your "Lancaster County Protective Property Management Division" — helping citizens manage invasive weeds more efficiently and effectively!

The Weed Control Authority is charged with enforcing the State of Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act when a landowner fails to control noxious weeds on property they own. This is necessary to protect neighbors from having noxious weeds spread to their property and potentially devaluing their land.

Noxious Weeds in County Roadsides

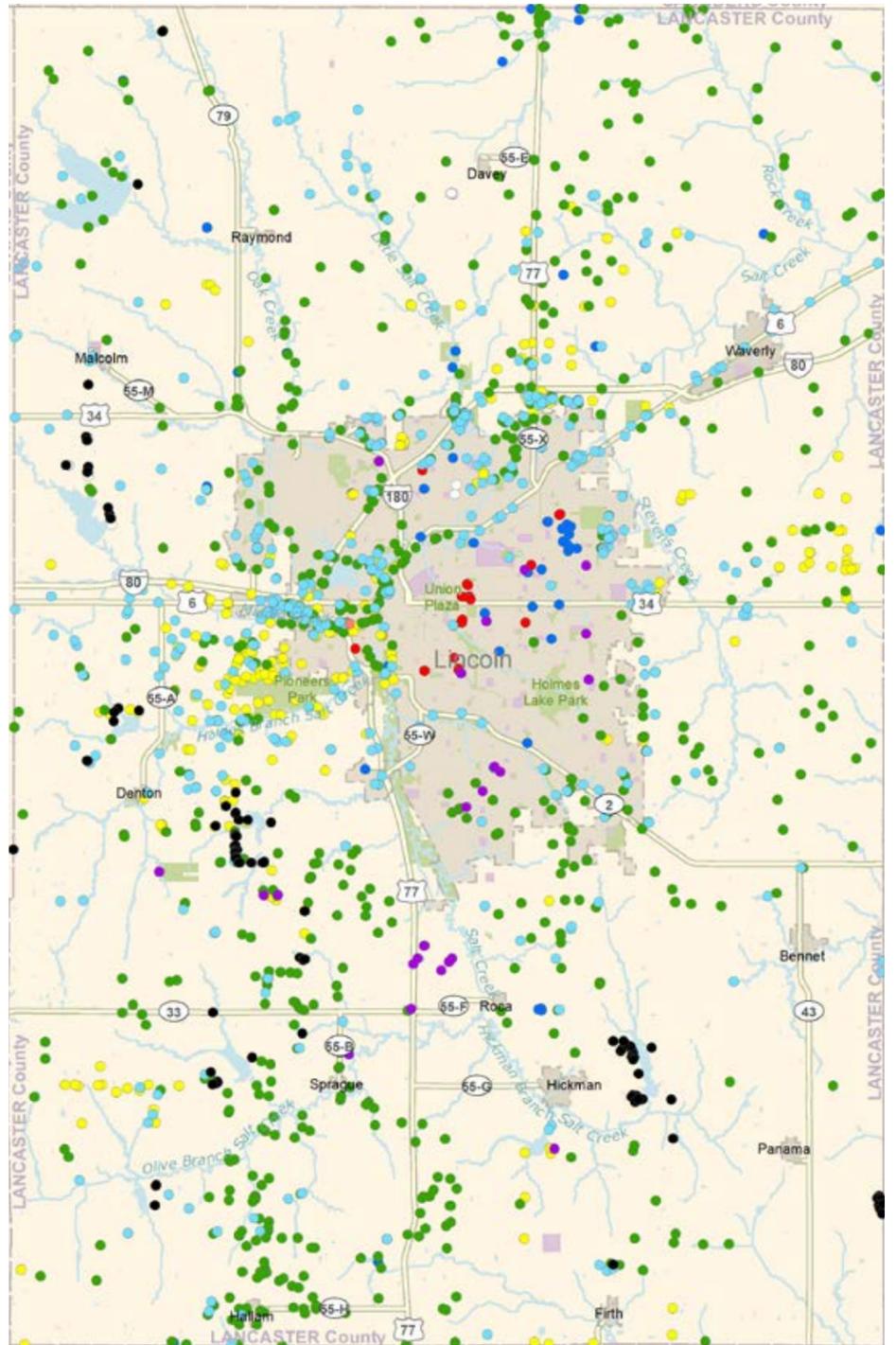
Landowners are encouraged to control noxious weeds along property they own. If not controlled by the adjacent owner, Lancaster County Weed Control will control the perennial noxious weeds such as phragmites, sericea lespedeza and leafy spurge in the county roadsides. A GPS point is recorded for each noxious weed location, making it very easy to find when the time is right to do the application.

Lancaster County works closely with landowners with specialty crops and offers free-of-charge "No Spray Zone" signs when an agreement is signed. The agreement requires the landowner to control all the noxious weeds in their adjacent right of way.

City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Program

Lancaster County Weed Control Authority is responsible to carry out the administration of the City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement program since entering into an interlocal agreement with the city in 1996.

The City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement Ordinance 8.46 requires landowners within city limits to maintain the height of weeds and worthless vegetation below six inches. This includes all areas to the center of the street and/or alley that adjoins their property. Three seasonal inspectors assist in administering this program. The seasonal employees complete inspections based on pre-selected properties due to their history,



Lancaster County Noxious Weeds

- Musk thistle
- Phragmites
- Leafy spurge
- Sericea lespedeza
- Purple loosestrife
- Knotweed
- Canada thistle
- Saltcedar
- Teasel

complaints from the public that are received in our office and by observing severe yards while conducting other inspections.

In 2018, the Weed Control Authority received 2,246 complaints from the public and additional 449 properties were observed as having violations. Our office made 5,891 initial and follow-up inspections on 2,695 sites.

When a property is found to be in violation, the owner of record is notified with a legal notice sent by certified U.S. mail to the last known legal address obtained from the Lancaster County Assessor's office. If the property remains uncontrolled at the expiration of the legal notice, the Weed Control Authority will hire a contractor to cut the property. Our office

carried out enforcement on 183 properties in 2018. Landowners are responsible to pay the cost of control plus an administrative fee. If the cost of control remains unpaid, a lien is placed against the property until paid.

City Landfills

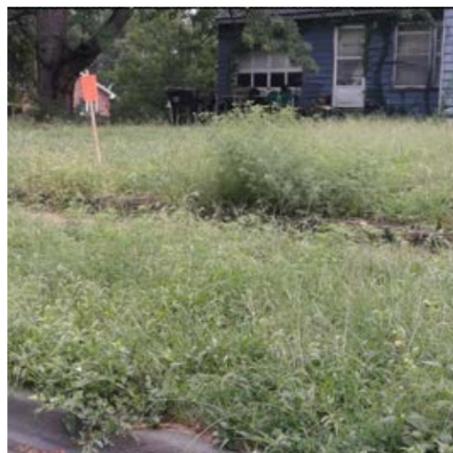
The Weed Control Authority is responsible for managing noxious weeds at the 48th Street and the Bluff Road landfills. Presently, we treat the infestations of musk thistle and leafy spurge at both landfills, and phragmites at the 48th Street landfill. The landfills are annually inspected and mapped prior to treatment. This helps to keep track of the spread of noxious weeds and the effectiveness of the control.

Lancaster County Abandoned Cemeteries

Mowing and general maintenance on six abandoned cemeteries throughout the county falls under the supervision of the Weed Control Authority. Cemeteries included are the County Poor Farm, Dietz, Evangelical, Highland Precinct, Jordan and Uphoff.

Special recognition goes to the following volunteers:

- Lincoln Tree Service for tree trimming and removal.
- Dave Miller for mowing Jordan.
- Terry Briley for mowing Evangelical.
- Clark Liesveld and Boy Scouts of America Troop 64 for mowing Dietz.
- Troy Henning for mowing Highland Precinct and Uphoff.



A property in violation of the City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement Ordinance.