



2020 Weed Awareness

The Weed Control Authority is responsible for implementation of the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act throughout Lancaster County. 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 in 1996.

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Weed Prevention: Identify and Restrict Pathways for Spreading

Lancaster County Weed Control

Prevention is the most effective method of dealing with weeds. Once a weed has entered an area and become established, eradication is far more expensive and it is likely that greater resources will be required to control its further spread and reduce its impact.

The first step in weed prevention — and the most cost effective means of managing weeds — is preventing the entry of new weeds into an area.

Once a weed has entered into an area, Early Detection — Rapid Response (EDRR) is crucial to reduce its potential environmental and economic impacts. It is much easier to treat weeds when present in small numbers than when they are well established.

EDRR requires an awareness and understanding of the factors that favor the establishment and spread of weeds, and applying appropriate management practices that can prevent or reduce the risks.

The importance of weed spread prevention has grown with the recognition that the spread of most weeds occurs through similar pathways, such as the movement of goods, animals and vehicles contaminated with weed seeds.

Weed Prevention in Agriculture

In agriculture, the pathways for spread include transported livestock and forage (food, especially dried hay or feed, for cattle and other livestock), contaminated crop and pasture seeds, deliberate introductions of new species, and contaminated machinery such as harvesters and recreational vehicles (including boats which can spread aquatic weeds).



Vehicles can be a pathway that weeds are spread.

There are many ways to prevent weeds in agricultural activities which are well known including:

Restricting the opportunity for new weeds to invade and spread:

- Be vigilant about introducing stock, forage or seed onto your property to ensure weeds will not be introduced.
- When buying stock, find out where the stock has come from and what weeds infest that area.
- Buy certified weed-free forage and seed where possible.
- Restrict the movement of vehicles and machinery on your property in periods when seeds are likely to spread.
- Establish tracks and roadways along which vehicle movement can be concentrated.
- Wash down vehicles which have been in known infested areas.
- Do not allow machinery or vehicles to enter your property unless they are clean.

Restricting the spread of existing weed infestations:

- Carry out control works prior to other works.
- Cut and cultivate when weeds are outside of seeding period.

- Work the clean area first and the infested area last. Work from the outside in and clean down equipment prior to moving into a clean area.

Quarantine:

- Hold livestock that may be infested with seed in a single location until they are shorn or until weed seeds have had the chance to pass through their digestive system.
- Feed out infested forage in a feedlot-type situation only and introduce clean forage to stock.

Monitor:

- Continually monitor weed infestations and carry out control works.

Weed Prevention in Your Backyard

Plants from commercial nurseries, landscaping suppliers and gardening clubs can also be pathways for the introduction and spread of weeds. Another significant cause of weed spread is inappropriate use and disposal of garden waste.

There are a large number of potential weeds in our gardens. Private gardens contain thousands of plant species with weed potential; however, the likelihood any particular plant will become a weed is difficult to predict.

Weed Prevention in the Natural Environment

Landscapes that contain a diversity of healthy, vigorous vegetation with

very little bare ground have the ability, in most cases, to discourage weed invasion. It is important to reduce the risk of the environment becoming vulnerable to invasion by exotic species by encouraging beneficial vegetation growth and by avoiding disturbance as much as possible.

Measures for weed prevention in the landscape include:

- Minimize the disturbance of desirable plants along trails, roads and waterways.
- Maintain desired plant communities through good management.
- Monitor high-risk areas such as transportation corridors and bare ground.
- Revegetate disturbed sites with desired plants.



Boots and clothing can be pathways.



Animals can be a pathway.



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS.

PlayCleanGo.org

Pledge To Stop Invasive Species

Invasive species can cause damage to the economy, the environment and to human health. But **each person can make a difference** in preventing new invasions and stopping the spread of existing ones!

People across North America are joining together to protect the places we love by taking the **PlayCleanGo Pledge**.

When you take the Pledge to stop invasive species, you agree to:

- **Remove** plants, animals and mud from your boots, gear, boat and trailer.

- **Clean** your gear before entering and leaving a recreation site.

- **Drain** bilge, ballast, wells and buckets before leaving the area.

- **Dry** equipment before launching into another body of water.

- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in a sealed container.

- **Use** certified or local firewood and hay.

Visit www.playcleango.org and take the pledge.

Be Careful What You Plant

Brown County Weed Control

Many of us enjoy passing the long, dark winter months pouring through the numerous gardening catalogs that fill our mailboxes and our minds with images of beautiful and unique flowers and plants we can't wait to try to grow in our own gardens. There is nothing wrong with wanting to beautify our living spaces.

There is a right way and a wrong way to bring exotic plants into our environment. By buying plants which have been vetted, you can enjoy them for many years. If you buy new plants the wrong way,

you could be introducing the next noxious invader into your area that may cost much money and time to eradicate. Here are some common-sense rules to remember when buying plants and seeds online.

The first and most important rule is to never buy seeds from foreign countries, especially China and Vietnam. Seeds from these places pose the greatest risks. These plants could escape and establish themselves in road ditches, along streams and in our pastures. A second red flag to look for is the price the seller is asking for the offering. If the price seems low, like 99 cents for several seeds, that usually

indicates you are not buying quality. There is a cost to properly prepare seeds and document them for sale and shipment. Cheap seeds can harbor fungal spores and other weed seeds. Buying live plants pose other risks as well. The soil and packing materials can bring in unwanted seed, insects or insect eggs. This has happened before. There was an instance of a plant being shipped from the southern U.S. in soil that had fire ants in it.

Seed Exchange sites can be a bit of a disappointment, and risky as well. Seeds we plant don't always turn out

the way we think they should. *continued on next page*



This ornamental knotweed grew out of control.