

# Weed Abatement Program

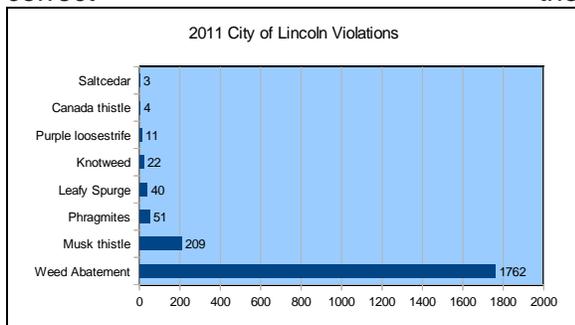
## Lancaster County / City of Lincoln

### December 2011 Monthly Report

[www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds)

### 2011 Weed Abatement Recap

The City of Lincoln Weed Abatement Ordinance requires owners of land within the city limits to maintain the height of weeds and worthless vegetation below six inches, including to the center of the street or alley that joins their property. Three seasonal inspectors are used in administering this program. Most inspections are carried out as a result of complaints. There were 149 properties that were pre-selected for inspection because of past violations and the lack of response to correct the



violations. Our office received 1,852 complaints from the public and an additional 306 properties were inspected that were observed as having violations. It required 4,788 inspections to make the initial and follow-up inspections on 2,158 sites. Properties not in compliance were notified of the violations with 1,128 legal notices, 926 reminder letters, and 15 personal contacts. Landowners cut 1,468 sites.

### Force Cuttings up 40%

2011 saw an increase of 75 more force cuttings than in 2010. 261 sites were force cut in 2011 vs. 186 in 2010. The list of reasons and excuses on why they don't cut their properties are endless. Some of the reasons I see are:

- Continue to see a rise in foreclosed and vacant properties we deal with. There is a time when the occupant is out and the banks haven't taken over.
- Larger developers are also changing. Some of these were due to Tier One Bank going under and some are just having financial troubles and are cutting expenses.
- More people are using the Cities Interline Action Center and the complaint form on our web site to file complaints. Making it easier for people to complain via mobile devices and the internet.
- Continue to get more complaints. I really think we are the victim of our own success. When people complain and get results they tell others and we get more complaints.
- More referrals from other city agencies.
- PRT (Problem Resolution Team) properties are also on the increase.
- Residents still don't understand some of their responsibilities. The main one is mowing to the center of the street or alley next to their property. N 14<sup>th</sup> street and NW 56<sup>th</sup> street are two areas we spent a lot of time working to clean up.

### January Planned Activities

- 2 Holiday – New Years
- 12 Management Team Meeting
- 12 County Board / Annual Reports
- 16 Holiday – MLK
- 17 NEBlinc Insert deadline
- 17-18 Weed Mgmt Area Summit @ Kearney
- 20 Nebraska Invasive Species Council
- 24 Lower Platte Weed Mgmt Area Mtg
- 26 Problem Resolution Team
- 31 NDA Annual Reports Due
- 31 Monthly activity report