



March 2011 Monthly Report

NWCA Spring Training

The Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA) held its training for Weed Control Superintendents at Central Community College in Hastings on March 29th & 30th. Weed Superintendent Brent Meyer and Chief Inspector Barb Frazier both attended. The Noxious Weed Control Act requires each County Weed Control Superintendent to attend these trainings and pass a written exam to be qualified as a Weed Superintendent.

Topics included: Weed free forage program, Watch list categories, Herbicide choices for Noxious Weed Control, Noxious weeds of South Dakota – what's next for Nebraska? How Herbariums work and what can you do?, and How to write successful grants.

I was able to present on Japanese and Giant Knotweed. My presentation on how to identify and eradicate knotweed is on our website at www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds and click on the *Knotweed presentation* link.



I thought it would be neat to dig some root stock and plant it to see if I could get a plant for display by training time. Just to show the superintendents around the

state what knotweed looked like in person. I dug up the root stock on March 2nd and we planted it the next day. By the 9th it began to grow



and then

there was no stopping it. By the 29th it measured 50" tall. It grew as much as 5 inches some days. (So, from root stock to 50 inches in 27 days.) No wonder this thing is now a noxious weed. I sent out daily pictures and updates to the NWCA and had a contest to

see if people could guess the height by the 29th. It gave everyone a chance to see just how aggressive our newest noxious weed is and what to look for

Noxious Weed Control Act Q & A

Q: Who is responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their property?

A: It shall be the duty of every person to control the spread of noxious weeds on lands owned or controlled by him or her and to use such methods for that purpose as are specified in rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the director.

BNSF Railroad Bid Specifications

Weed Control is currently working with Purchasing to receive bids for Noxious Weed Control on Railroads within Lancaster County. On December 16th, 2010 The Board made a motion to authorize the Noxious Weed Control Superintendent to seek additional contractors to spray weeds in the railroad right-of-ways. We are pursuing this because in the past the contractors for the railroad have done a poor job and our goal is to be able to do follow up work on what they miss. With Leafy Spurge, Musk thistle, Phragmites and Saltcedar all on Railroad ROW the season is too long for a contractor to come in and do one pass application.

April Planned Activities

- 8 NE Invasive Species Council
- 13 5 Rivers WMA – Tecumseh
- 14 Management Team
- 15 Publish General Notice
- 18 Seasonal inspectors begin
- 19 LPWMA Meeting - Wahoo
- 20 Staff training @ Extension
- 28 Problem Resolution Team

