



# Lancaster County Weed Control

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

## October 2011 Monthly Report

### Inspection Activity

A total of 2,503 initial and follow-up inspections were made this year for noxious weeds in Lancaster County. Our inspectors averaged 1.85 inspections per site. While Musk thistle and Leafy spurge are holding steady we continue to find a large number of new infestations of Phragmites. Knotweed moved all the way up to #5 on our list in its first year of being a noxious weed in the state. Early detection along with rapid response will be the key in the eradication of our newest invader.

### Number of Noxious Weed sites in Lancaster County

Musk thistle	587
Leafy spurge	360
Phragmites	338
Purple loosestrife	31
Knotweed complex	21
Canada thistle	9
Saltcedar	8
Plumeless thistle	1
<b>Total sites infested</b>	<b>1,355</b>

New Weed Abatement Ordinance and Interlocal Agreement now in effect.

The new Weed Abatement Ordinance and the new Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County were passed and signed and we are now busy filing the liens against the properties.

I feel this is a positive step in the right direction for the combined weed control program to move forward.

The new process follows closely what State Law requires by having us file a "Possible Notice of Unpaid Assessment" with the Register of Deeds office within 5 days of doing the enforcement. This will put a red flag on each property we've enforced on. All title companies check with Register of Deeds, so this will eliminate any properties being sold in that time period without clearing the lien. We will still present the unpaid enforcements to the Council at the December meeting to officially make it a lien against the property, but at least it will close the 5 to 6 month period loop hole that is there now. Another positive change in the interlocal agreement is on the mowing of large properties. This will allow large properties to follow more closely what Parks and Recreation are doing in the city parks. It would allow us to not conduct control activities on lots of one acre or more if such lots meet the following conditions:

- Grassy areas are kept free of weeds
- Mowed when vegetation is mature in the fall
- The lot is mowed back no less than 50 feet from streets, residences, or businesses at all times

### November Planned Activities

- 1 Nebraska Dept of Agriculture evaluation
- 8 Van Diest Supply Training
- 10 Management Team
- 11 Veterans Day
- 15 Lower Platte WMA @ Wahoo
- 17 Problem Resolution Team
- 18 NE Invasive Species Council
- 24/25 Thanksgiving Holiday

### Noxious Weed Sites

