



Lancaster County Weed Control

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

November 2011 Monthly Report

Weed Watcher Program

Lancaster County Weed Control plans to begin its new Weed Watcher Program in 2012. We will be working in the next few months to develop and implement our program. It will be modeled after The Nature Conservancy in Oregon's Weed Watchers program. It will be designed to train and support volunteers to find and report new occurrences of harmful invasive plants in the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County. Weed Watchers help protect natural areas from the impacts of invasive plants by **detecting new populations early** before they get out of hand.



Phragmites used as decoration on a porch in Lincoln

Preventing a plant from invading in the first place is more efficient, less ecologically damaging, and less strenuous than managing large plant infestations after they are already established.

A second and equally important goal of the Weed Watcher program is to build capacity for other organizations to initiate early detection programs by serving as a potential model and providing educational materials for use and adaptation. Invasive plant early detection programs can be as simple as informally training your staff or volunteers on weeds to watch for, or recruiting and training new volunteers to survey high priority weed-free sites.

Education

As you can see in the photos we still have a long way to go on educating the public on what invasive weeds are and how they spread. When someone cuts Phragmites and hauls it across Lincoln to display at their business, it has the potential to create new infestations along the

route. Outreach and education will be a key component in organizing a successful program.

Who are the Weed Watchers?

Weed Watchers are people who care about the health of our lands and want to help prevent the ecological and economic damage associated with plant invasions by looking for and reporting new weeds. Weed Watchers can be private citizens who simply want to scan for new invaders while they hike. Often Weed Watchers are people already actively volunteering as a Master Gardener or for their local UNL Extension. Public and private land owners such as the Nebraska Game & Parks, NRD's, or Farm Service Agencies also have staff and volunteers who watch for weeds as they trek across their land.



Phragmites attached to a sign for display in Lincoln.

What does a Weed Watcher do?

"Weed Watchers Trek to Protect"

Weed Watching is as easy as one, two, three:

One: Learn the weeds.

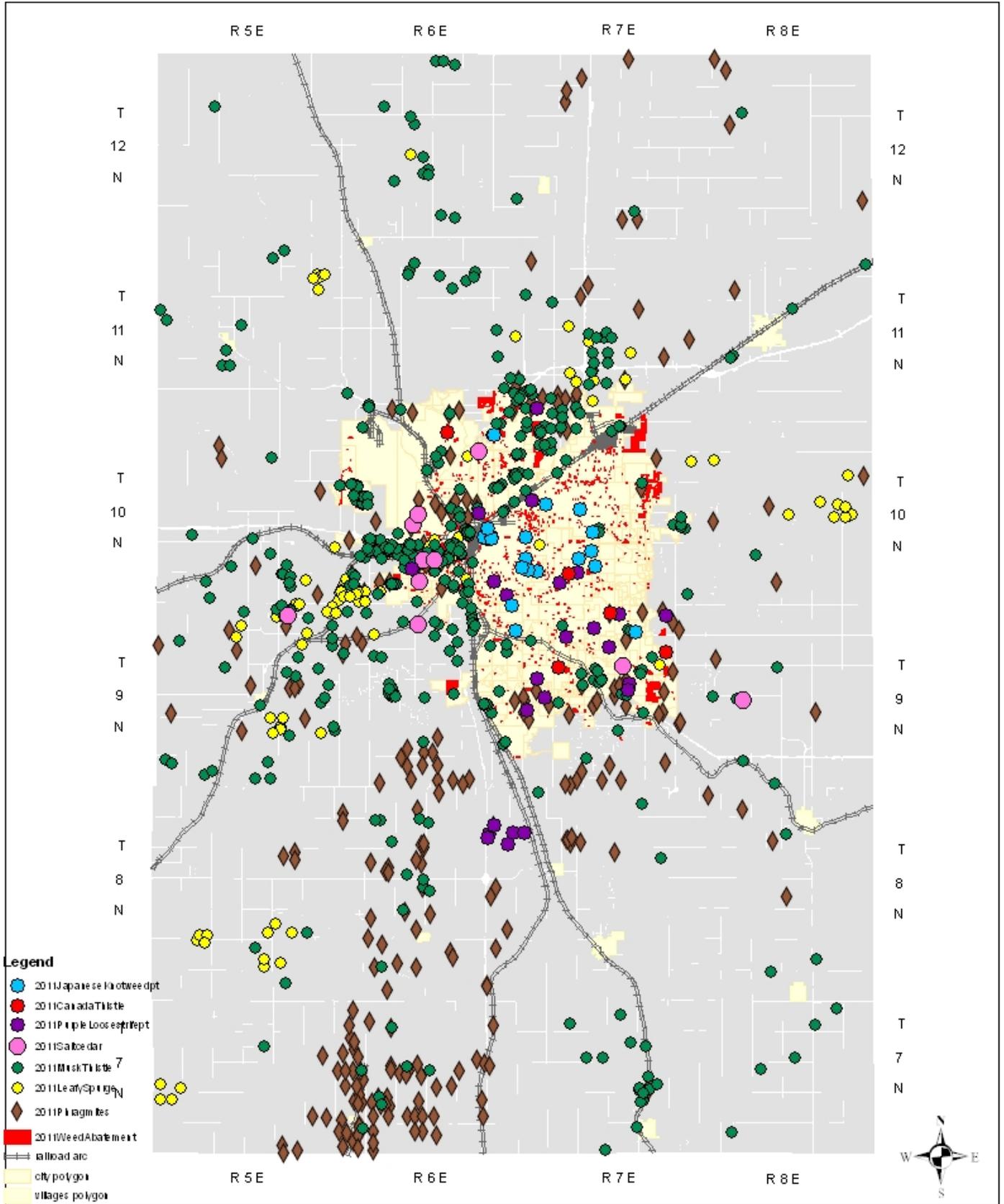
Two: Look for weeds.

Three: Document and report weeds.

December Planned Activities

- 8 Management Team Meeting
- 9 Nebraska Invasive Species Council
- 13 Lower Platte Weed Mgmt Area Mtg
- 14-16 NACO Annual Convention
- 19 Weed Assessment Hearing
- 26 Holiday
- 29 Problem Resolution Team
- 31 Monthly activity report

2011 All Noxious Weeds



map: Lancaster County Weed Control
November 29, 2011