



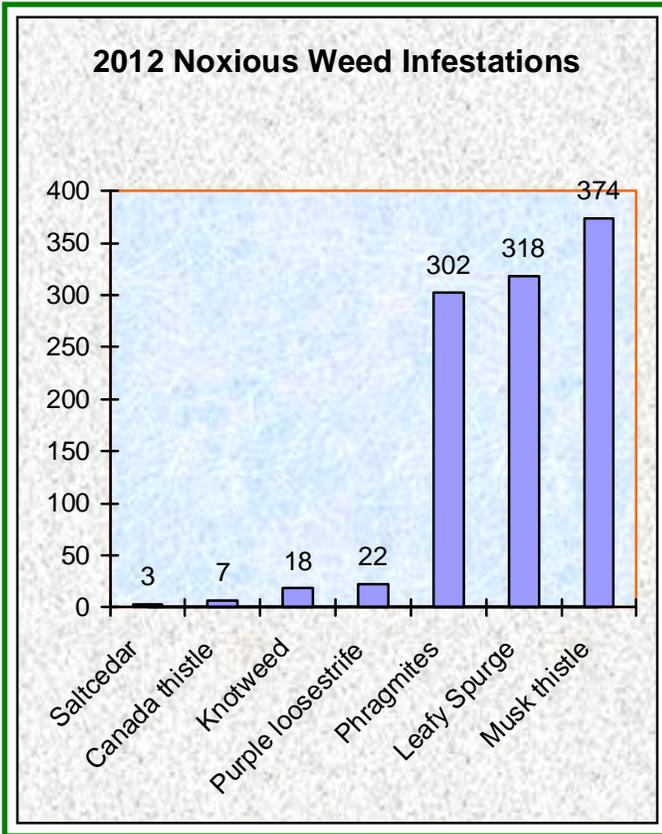
Lancaster County Weed Control & City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

July 2012

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

Noxious Weed Inspection Activity

A total of 1,971 inspections on 1,278 sites have been made this year on Noxious Weeds in Lancaster County. Noxious weeds were found on 1,044 sites.



Noxious Weeds *inside* City Limits

Our inspectors made 769 inspections on 424 sites, totaling 2,079 acres inspected.

Found 354 sites with violations.

- 193 Musk thistle
- 64 Leafy spurge
- 57 Phragmites
- 18 Knotweed
- 14 Purple loosestrife
- 6 Canada thistle
- 2 Saltcedar

Noxious Weeds *outside* City Limits

We made 1,202 inspections on 854 sites, totaling 6,939 acres inspected.

Found 690 sites with violations.

- 181 Musk thistle
- 254 Leafy spurge
- 245 Phragmites
- 8 Purple loosestrife
- 1 Canada thistle
- 1 Saltcedar

Weed Abatement – City of Lincoln

A total of 3,974 inspections have been completed on 1,831 sites for overgrowth within the city limits. Our office has received 1,095 complaints from the public concerning weed abatement violations. In attempt to get the overgrowth controlled the Weed Control Office made 33 personal contacts, sent 1,170 letters and 583 legal notices. As of July 31st, we have completed 114 contracts to have the vegetation cut.

The following article went out on this months Acreage Owners E-news from UNL – Extension

Fall Treatment of Phragmites

By [Brent Meyer](#), Lancaster County Weed Superintendent



The Lancaster County Weed Department is currently having a signup for landowner's that would like to have their phragmites sprayed this fall by helicopter.

Our goal is to work with each landowner to make sure all the phragmites in Lancaster County gets treated this fall. If you are aware of a patch of phragmites on your acreage and would like more

information about helicopter treatment you are encouraged to contact our office.

Fall Treatment Options for [Phragmites](#)

Helicopter Application

Since some patches are only accessible by **helicopter** we had Lancaster County Purchasing department take bids to get the best possible price. The price of *imazapyr* (Arsenal or Habitat) chemical used to treat phragmites has come down since the 2009 application so we were able to get a bid of **\$200 per sprayed acre** for application and chemical from Skycopters (*all locations will be measured by GPS in the helicopter for accuracy of sprayed acres*). This is the same applicator we have used for the last few years and has shown to be very cautious and accurate. The helicopter will be in the area sometime between mid to late August prior to killing frost. It will depend on their schedule. Contact our office so we can add you to the list to get the **discounted rate**.

Ground Application

Ground application may be possible for some locations and is acceptable if you notify our office this is your intent. Follow the control recommendations below for best results.

Cost of Application

It is the landowner's responsibility to control noxious weeds on their property and **you will be responsible for the cost**.

When and How to Control?

The best time to get control is when the patch is new and there are just a few scattered plants. Once it gets established it will form a dense circular patch that is very easy to spot, but control will become much more difficult and expensive.

Multiple year applications will be required and it will need to be continually monitored for re-growth. Many landowners had applications in 2009 that are now showing re-growth. Spot treatment and follow up will be required by you next year to treat any areas missed. Research and field data results show that herbicide control with *imazapyr* (Arsenal or Habitat) has proven to be the most effective. **Glyphosate** (Rodeo or Roundup) will be effective, but does not have the residual that the *imazapyr* has. (**Read and follow the label directions**)

How to Identify

During the summer when everything is green and growing it is difficult to spot phragmites until it heads out. Wetland areas typically



occupied by cattails are great places to look for phragmites. Phragmites is a deep rooted perennial grass that will grow 6 – 15 feet tall and likes to grow in wetlands, around lagoons, near streams, creeks or in any area that may be wet for a period of time.

How does phragmites spread?

Phragmites will spread by seeds blown by the wind or moved by water. By underground rhizomes that if broken or cut and moved will start a new plant and also by stolons that run across the top of the ground and root down and send up new plants every few inches. Stolons can grow as much as 30 feet in one year.



Why should I be concerned?

Phragmites left untreated will create a monoculture and crowd out all other vegetation. It will eliminate natural refuge and feeding grounds for invertebrates, fish, waterfowl and limit recreation values for birdwatchers, walkers, naturalists, boaters and hunters. The tender-dry vegetation left in the fall creates the potential for fast-spreading fire that can threaten surrounding areas including homes and buildings. More information can be found on our web site in the [Landowners Guide for Phragmites Control](#).

Contact Information

We need everyone's help, so if you would like more information on purple loosestrife or would like to report an infestation contact the [Lancaster County Weed Control](#) Office. Email: weeds@lancaster.ne.gov or phone 402-441-7817.

August Planned Activities

- 1-2 LSTF Conference – *Cancelled due to fires at Niobrara*
- 9 Management Team Meeting
- 9 County Board @ 9:45
- 10 Invasive Species Council
- 14 5 Rivers WMA
- 16 Management Team Retreat
- 21 LPWMA Meeting
- 30 Problem Resolution Team
- 31 Inventory Due
- 31 Barb Frazier's Last Day

Good Neighbors - Control Noxious Weeds!