



# Lancaster County Weed Control - City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

November 2012

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

## Sericea Lespedeza Update

Lancaster County Weed Control supports the addition of Sericea Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) as a statewide noxious weed. Currently it exists mainly in southeastern Nebraska with approximately 60 acres infested in Lancaster County. Sericea lespedeza has been a noxious weed in Kansas since 2000. Our Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) plan is to find new invaders early and eradicate them before they spread across our county and state and end up costing property owners millions to control.



Severe infestation of sericea lespedeza in Lancaster County

The process for sericea lespedeza to become a statewide noxious weed is working its way through the system. In the January 2012 newsletter I reported that a Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) had been completed and that sericea lespedeza scored very high. The final WRA report showed it had an extremely high potential to spread and impact almost 98% of Nebraska.

This past summer surveys were completed around the state to get a better idea of how many acres were infested. Recently the Nebraska Weed Control Association's Board of Directors recommended that sericea lespedeza be brought before the Nebraska Noxious Weed Advisory Committee (NNWAC) for approval. The NNWAC

members are appointed by the Governor and consist of many groups and agencies; both public and private across the state who's interest are mainly in agriculture and natural resources. If approved by the NNWAC it will be sent to Nebraska's Director of Agriculture. Following a hearing process to get public input a decision would be made by the Director to either approve or disapprove sericea lespedeza as a statewide noxious weed.

## 2012 Inspection Activity

### Noxious Weeds – City & County

A total of 2,114 initial and follow-up inspections were made this year for noxious weeds on 1,319 parcels of land. Our inspectors found 1,079 to be infested. Our department issued 171 legal notices and force controlled 15 properties.

Musk thistle	384
Leafy spurge	318
Phragmites	318
Purple loosestrife	24
Knotweed complex	22
Canada thistle	9
Saltcedar	3
Plumeless thistle	1
<b>Total sites infested</b>	<b>1,079</b>

### Weed Abatement – City of Lincoln

A total of 5,349 inspections on 2,269 sites were made this year in the City of Lincoln. Our department issued 821 legal notices and force cut 168 properties.

## December Planned Activities

- 10 City Council Weed Assessment Hearing
- 12 5-Rivers Weed Mgmt Area
- 12-14 NACO Conference at Kearney
- 18 Lower Platte Weed Mgmt Area
- 20 Problem Resolution Team
- 25 Christmas Day – Holiday
- 28 Monthly Activity Report
- 31 Prepare NDA Annual Reports

**Good Neighbors – Control Noxious Weeds!**