

# Lancaster County Weed Control - City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

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*“not all thistles are bad for the environment or agriculture.”*

## Thistles of Nebraska ID Guide

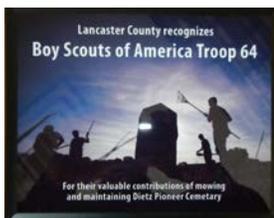
Lancaster County Weed Control recently updated the [Thistles of Nebraska identification guide](#). The new version is now available on our website. You can also download and print from there. We developed this online version to help people learn how to identify all thistles. Identification is the key in knowing if you have a “bad” or “good” thistle. Yes, native thistles are actually good and provide many benefits to our natural environment. Did you know that there are 10 different species of thistles in Nebraska? Thistles, in general, get a bad rap whenever the word “thistle” is mentioned. However, not all thistles are bad for the environment or agriculture. Out of the 10 species identified in the state – 5 of these occurred in North America before settlement by Europeans.



The other five are considered “nonnative” or “introduced” thistles. Out of the 5 nonnative thistles, only three are considered “noxious”; [musk thistle](#), [plumeless thistle](#) and [Canada thistle](#), and are required by state law to be controlled by the landowner. Canada thistle has been on the Noxious Weed List since 1873. Landowners and homeowners realized this plant was a serious problem and needed to be controlled. It wasn’t until 1959 that the rapid

infestation rate of musk thistle brought out the public concern of thistles in Nebraska. Thistles found in Lancaster County that are **not** considered noxious are [wavyleaf thistle](#), [bull thistle](#) and [tall thistle](#). Thistles not commonly found in Lancaster County that can be found in Nebraska and are **not** Nebraska noxious thistles include: [Platte thistle](#), [flodman thistle](#), [yellowspine thistle](#) and [Scotch thistle](#).

(Scotch, flodman & tall thistle are listed on some individual county noxious list.)



Plaque awarded to Boy Scouts

## Boy Scout Troop 64 recognized



Michael Walsh, Owen Nutter, Connor Johnson, Dylan Strain, Jacob Walsh, and not pictured Cameron Johnson

Recognition for their efforts in maintaining abandon Dietz cemetery was awarded on March 11<sup>th</sup> to Boy Scouts of America Troop 64. Jay Nutter, troop leader and each troop member received a certificate for

their work. A plaque was presented to the entire group. Special thank you goes out to these young men for taking a property that was badly neglected and volunteering to clean it up.

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Good Neighbors Control Their Weeds!



We're on the Web!  
[www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds)

# Nebraska's Noxious Weeds

*It is the duty of each person who owns or controls land to effectively control noxious weeds on such land.*

Noxious weed is a legal term used to denote a destructive or harmful weed for the purpose of regulation. The Director of Agriculture establishes which plants are noxious. These non-native plants compete aggressively with desirable plants and vegetation. Failure to control noxious weeds in this state is a serious problem which is detrimental to the production of crops and livestock, and to the welfare of residents of this state. Noxious weeds may also devalue land and reduce tax revenue.

<p><b>Musk Thistle</b> Height 1.6–9.8 ft</p> <p>Pink to purple flowers Mature seedhead</p>	<p><b>Canada Thistle</b> Height 1–3.9 ft</p> <p>Pink to purple flowers</p>	<p><b>Plumeless Thistle</b> Height 1–4.9 ft</p> <p>Purple flowers</p>
<p><b>Phragmites</b> Height 3.2–20 ft</p> <p>Young seedhead Mature seedhead</p>	<p><b>Leafy Spurge</b> Height .3–2.6 ft</p> <p>Large yellow leaves (bracts) Stems/leaves have milky sap</p>	<p><b>Sericea Lespedeza</b> Height 1.5–6.5 ft</p> <p>White or cream to yellowish white flowers</p>
<p><b>Japanese Knotweed</b> Height 3–10 ft</p> <p>Creamy white to greenish white flowers</p>	<p><b>Giant Knotweed</b> Height 8–13 ft</p> <p>Creamy white to greenish white flowers</p>	<p><b>Purple Loosestrife</b> Height 1.3–8 ft</p> <p>Purple to magenta flowers</p>
<p><b>Saltcedar</b> Height 3.3–20 ft</p> <p>Pink to white flowers</p>	<p><b>Spotted Knapweed</b> Height 1–3.9 ft</p> <p>Lavender to purple flowers</p>	<p><b>Diffuse Knapweed</b> Height 1–3.9 ft</p> <p>White/purplish flowers</p>

**GOOD NEIGHBORS CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS**

If you have questions or concerns about noxious weeds, please contact your local county noxious weed control authority, Nebraska Weed Control Association ([www.neweed.org](http://www.neweed.org)), or Nebraska Department of Agriculture ([www.agr.ne.gov/noxious\\_weed](http://www.agr.ne.gov/noxious_weed))

Download to print from our website: [weeds.lancaster.ne.gov](http://weeds.lancaster.ne.gov)