

Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

AUG / SEPT 2013

Helicopter Activities	1
UNL Plant Pathology Class	1
Noxious Weed ID Guide	2

“The helicopter gives you a great view of the infestations making them easy to spot”

Helicopter Activities

Salt Creek Survey

Salt Creek was recently surveyed for phragmites, purple loosestrife and saltcedar, from Lincoln to where it joins with the Platte River near Mahoney State Park. All three are noxious weeds in Nebraska and prefer to grow around water. The survey was paid for from grant funds received from the Nebraska Environmental Trust by the Lower Platte Weed Management Area. A GPS camera and the GPS unit in the helicopter were both used to mark the locations. From the information gathered we are able to produce maps and begin working with the property owners to control the infestations while they are small, preventing major problems like we've seen in western Nebraska.



The entire survey was completed in about 1 hour and around 18 locations were spotted. The helicopter gives you a great view of the infestations making them easy to spot. This would take days to weeks on the ground, and even then it would be difficult to see through all the other vegetation.

Phragmites Spraying

The reason Skycopters was in the area was to spray phragmites. Around 40

landowners took advantage of this opportunity and had their infestations treated. Phragmites likes to grow in areas that are hard to get to with ground equipment, so the helicopter is a great way to get them sprayed. The aquatic herbicide used has an active ingredient *imazapyr* that requires specialized equipment on the helicopter to be able to legally apply. The cost of the applications is paid by each landowner directly to Skycopters, so no money has to come out of our budget to get this done.

“to witness how destructive a patch of phragmites is”

UNL Plant Pathology Class Gets Hands-on Training

Thomas Powers, Professor of UNL Plant Pathology department once again brought his class out to witness firsthand how destructive a patch of phragmites is. We were able to show the students the environmental impacts and how to properly identify the

invasive phragmites from the native phragmites. We discussed how it can choke off the rivers and how much worse the flooding on the Platte River would be right now if the Weed Management Area groups, to the west, wouldn't have been controlling the phragmites over the years.



UNL Students phragmites tour

Lancaster County
Weed Control
444 Cherrycreek Rd. Bldg B
Lincoln, NE. 68528

Phone:
402.441.7817

Fax:
402.441.8616

E-mail:
weeds@lancaster.ne.gov

Good Neighbors Control Their Weeds!



We're on the Web!
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>Musk Thistle Height 1.6–9.8 ft</p> <p>Pink to purple flowers Mature seedhead</p>	<p>Canada Thistle Height 1–3.9 ft</p> <p>Pink to purple flowers</p>	<p>Plumeless Thistle Height 1–4.9 ft</p> <p>Purple flowers</p>
<p>Phragmites Height 3.2–20 ft</p> <p>Young seedhead Mature seedhead</p>	<p>Leafy Spurge Height .3–2.6 ft</p> <p>Large yellow leaves (bracts) Stems/leaves have milky sap</p>	<p>Sericea Lespedeza Height 1.5–6.5 ft</p> <p>White or cream to yellowish white flowers</p>
<p>Japanese Knotweed Height 3–10 ft</p> <p>Creamy white to greenish white flowers</p>	<p>Giant Knotweed Height 8–13 ft</p> <p>Creamy white to greenish white flowers</p>	<p>Purple Loosestrife Height 1.3–8 ft</p> <p>Purple to magenta flowers</p>
<p>Saltcedar Height 3.3–20 ft</p> <p>Pink to white flowers</p>	<p>Spotted Knapweed Height 1–3.9 ft</p> <p>Lavender to purple flowers</p>	<p>Diffuse Knapweed 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), or Nebraska Department of Agriculture (www.agr.ne.gov/noxious_weed)

Download to print from our website: weeds.lancaster.ne.gov