

# Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

## NOVEMBER 2013

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*“having a decent amount of moisture last fall and throughout 2013, provided a recipe for disaster”*

*“the public is more likely to turn in their neighbors if they don’t have to actually talk to someone in person”*

## Inspection Activity

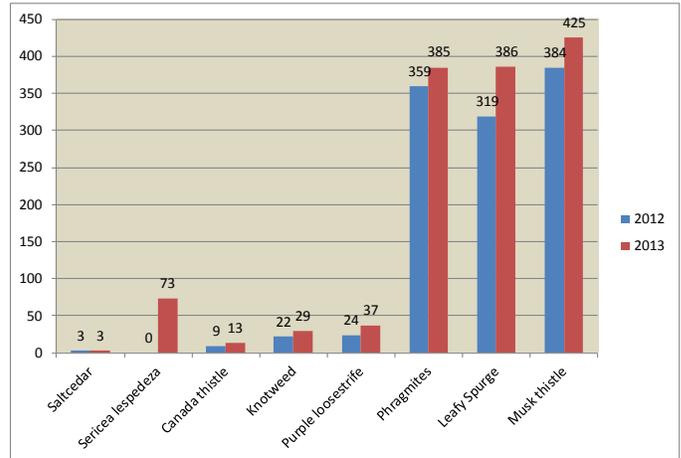
### Inspection Totals

As the 2013 inspection season slows down it no doubt will be a record year. By having very little moisture in 2012 – (which helps provide sufficient ground cover to prevent weeds from germinating), to having a decent amount of moisture last fall and throughout 2013, provided a recipe for disaster as far as weeds were concerned.

### Weed Program Inspection Totals

Our total inspections for noxious weeds and weed abatement combined are up 28.83%. In 2012 we had a total of 7,510 inspections, compared to 9,675 inspections in 2013, resulting in 2,165 more inspections. As far back as I could find records we have never had a one year increase this dramatic.

### Noxious Weeds 2012 vs. 2013 Infestations



### Noxious Weeds – Lancaster County

Let’s first take a look at the numbers on our noxious weed side of our program. Noxious weed inspections in 2013 totaled 2,593, compared to 2,156 in 2012, for an additional 436 inspections, an increase of 20.22%. The number of sites inspected also increased 19.92%, from 1,360 sites in 2012 to 1,631 sites in 2013.

### Weed Abatement – City of Lincoln

On the Weed Abatement side of our program the inspections increased from 5,354 in 2012, to 7,082 in 2013, resulting in an additional 1,728 inspections, an increase of 32.28%. We inspected 3,099 sites in 2013 compared to 2,271 in 2012. Our sites inspected increased 36.46% over the previous year.

## Public Complaints & Responses

The one item that drives our entire program is complaints. The way we decide what properties to inspect each year is by taking our worst offenders from prior years and creating advanced work orders for those during the winter. Then we respond to complaints from the public for the rest of our work load.

This year we received a total of 1,916 public complaints compared to 1,460 in 2012, a large number of these coming via the Mayors Action Center. My belief is the public is more likely to turn in their neighbors if they don’t have to actually talk to someone in person and they can remain anonymous. I also think that because folks

have had a good response from our office controlling the weed infestations, the word is spreading and more folks call in to get problems taken care of. Over the years the public has found out that once our process begins on a property we don’t stop until either the owner takes care of it, or we do.

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](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))

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