

Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

2013 Noxious Weed Overview

FEBRUARY 2014

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“Sericea lespedeza was added to the State noxious weed list in April of 2013. This designation requires this very difficult to control perennial to be controlled by the landowner”

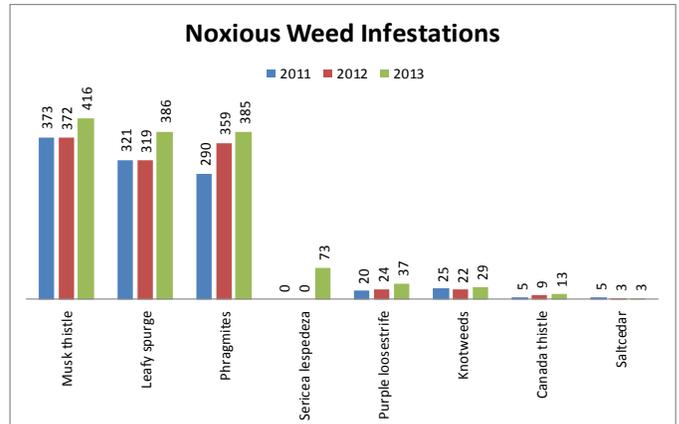
Noxious weeds know no boundaries. They find themselves at home in cities and villages, along creeks, in wetlands and waste areas, as well as in the rural areas.

In 2013, our inspectors documented 1,631 sites infested with noxious weeds, 493 (33.1%) of those were within Lincoln city limits. While the total number of acres infested in the city is small, we continue to find noxious weeds all around the city. Saltcedar, purple loosestrife, and knotweed are found more in the city than in rural areas, because they were first introduced as ornamentals and planted in our landscapes. Without aggressive management, these sites will continue to grow and spread.

Musk Thistle — Musk thistle continues to be a problem on poorly-managed pastures, wastelands, and roadsides throughout the county. A total of 1,028 inspections were made on 494 sites. There were 416 sites found to be in violation amounting to 802 acres infested. The Weed Control office carried out 10 enforcements in 2013.

Phragmites — Phragmites continues to increase in Lancaster County with 385 sites found to have infestations. The number of sites rose 7.2%, up from 359 sites reported in 2012. It's important to be aggressive on phragmites while the average site is still less than 1 acre; we are seeing it spread at alarming rates.

Leafy Spurge — Leafy spurge is a very difficult to control perennial plant and infests 545 acres in the county and city. Once an infestation is identified, it should be controlled and monitored for many years. Its



Sericea lespedeza became a noxious weed in April of 2013

deep rhizome root system will allow it to continue to grow. In 2013, there were 626 inspections made at 446 locations, finding 386 infestations.

Purple Loosestrife — Most of the purple loosestrife found are ornamental plantings. There are a few waterways with wild purple loosestrife, but for the most part this has been a success story in Lancaster County. In 2001, when purple loosestrife was added to the State Noxious Weed list, we reported 490 locations. In 2013, we had 37 sites that had either ornamental or wild purple loosestrife.

Knotweed — In 2013 there were 29 sites of knotweed reported. Almost all of the sites are ornamental plantings with only 2 sites being wild infestations. Most owners have been very receptive to removing the plantings once they realize how much damage it can do. Knotweed is often considered one of the 10 most invasive plants in the world, so early detection and control is important.

Canada thistle — Canada

thistle is a deep rooted perennial thistle; it is the most difficult thistle to control. While we don't have a large number of infestations, what we are finding is that it is showing up in landscaping. Meaning, it is likely it is coming in with some of the trees and shrubs being planted. Always make sure the root stock you are getting is noxious-weed-free. Currently we have 13 locations, totaling just over 6 acres infested.

Saltcedar — Saltcedar is a great example of Early Detection – Rapid Response (EDRR), getting on a problem early and eliminating it before it gets out of control. Lancaster County has only a few locations of saltcedar and those are being eradicated by the owners. No new locations were found in 2013.

Sericea lespedeza — Sericea lespedeza was added to the State noxious weed list in April of 2013. This designation requires this very difficult to control perennial to be controlled by the landowner. Our inspectors found 73 sites infested totaling 129 acres.

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2013 All Weeds

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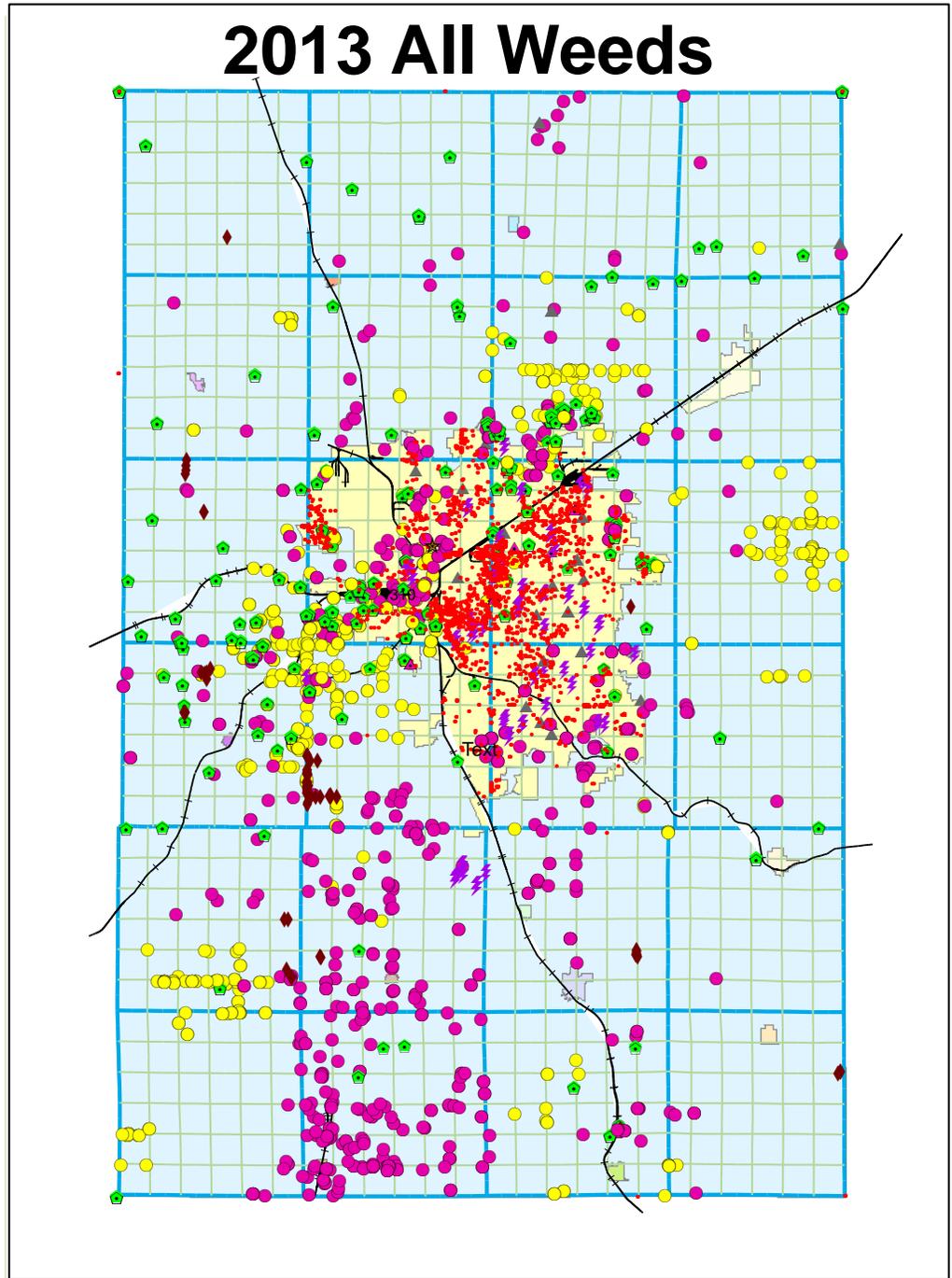
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www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds



- Legend**
- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| WEED_CATEGORY | ■ Musk thistle | — sections |
| ▲ Canada thistle | ★ Saltcedar | — precincts |
| ▲ Knotweed | ⚡ Purple loosestrife | |
| ● Leafy spurge | ● Weed Abatement | |
| ● Phragmites | ◆ Sericea lespedeza | |
| | —+ RailroadLines | |



Date: 1/31/2014

Lancaster County Combined Weed Program
map by: Lancaster County Weed Control