

# Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

## Lincoln’s Weed Abatement Program

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### Weed Abatement 101

Lancaster County Weed Department through an interlocal agreement with the City of Lincoln manages the Weed Abatement program inside Lincoln’s city limits. The two agencies combined in 1996 and have proven to be a very successful City/County agency. One benefit of a combined agency is it allows any citizen, one contact for noxious weeds or weed abatement within Lancaster County’s borders.

We often get questions on what is Weed Abatement? and, why can’t I do whatever I want on my property? What is required to be controlled is sometimes complicated; this is the policy we follow. When plants are overgrown they become a nuisance and unacceptable to the general public and need



Overgrown grass violation

to be controlled. The City of Lincoln Municipal Code states “It shall be the duty of every owner of real estate in the city to cut and clear, or clear, such real estate, together with one-half of the streets and alleys abutting thereon, of all weeds or worthless vegetation whenever such weeds or worthless vegetation shall extend more than six inches above the ground.” The Code considers “Uncontrolled or uncultivated growth of weeds, brush, vines, grasses, or other vegetation which offers

vector or rodent harborage, contribute to noxious pollens to the atmosphere, or unreasonably interfere with the use and enjoyment of abutting public or private property,” a safety and health hazard. Some areas that are allowed inside the city may be beneficial and include:  
 \*Erosion control  
 \*Control of pollutant runoff  
 \*Educational purposes  
 \*Cultivation of vegetation for consumption, pleasure or business reasons  
 \*Natural areas including wetlands  
 \*Wooded areas



Overgrown weeds & volunteer trees

## What are Weeds & Worthless Vegetation?

**Definition of a weed;** A plant considered undesirable, unattractive, or troublesome, especially one that grows where it is not wanted and often grows or spreads fast or takes the place of desired plants. So, by definition - a corn plant in a bean field is a

weed. Our Operational Weed Abatement Policy states; “Weeds” are **undesirable vegetation** that includes grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, succulents, and woody plants. These are plants that are commonly considered to be weeds, or

invading volunteer plants from desirable plants that become weedy in nature i.e. tree seedlings. “Worthless vegetation” is vegetation that is overgrown, that is mature, or vegetative material on the ground.

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



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
 IN YOUR TRACKS.  
[PlayCleanGo.org](http://PlayCleanGo.org)

Good Neighbors –  
 Control Invasive 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)                  Stem/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>
<p><b>Lancaster County's Noxious Weeds</b>                  Newly Added</p>	<p><b>Cutleaf Teasel</b>                  Height 4–8 ft</p> <p>White flowers</p>	<p><b>Common Teasel</b>                  Height 3–6 ft</p> <p>Lavender to white 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.