

Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

WHAT ARE ALL THE THISTLES I'M SEEING?

SEPTEMBER 2015:

Tall Thistle	1
Inspection Activity Report	1
Nebraska's Noxious Weeds	2



"Tall thistle is beneficial for a number of insects including; bumblebees, long-horned bees as well as a variety of butterflies and birds that are in the area this time of year"



Click on photo for more information on all the Thistles of Nebraska

Tall Thistle

Cirsium altissimum (L.)

Our office has been busy fielding complaints and educating the public about the thistle that is flowering this time of year. Most, think it is musk thistle and wonder why aren't you doing something about it???

The thistle you see flowering in August and September is called tall thistle, it is one of five native thistles that grow in Nebraska and is actually a beneficial plant in our landscape, let's explore this.... a good thistle? Tall thistle is beneficial for a number of insects including; bumblebees, long-horned bees as well as a variety of butterflies and birds that are in the area this time of year, it also has its own natural enemies that help keep it from



spreading like our noxious thistles. Typically you won't find large infestations of tall thistle except for extremely wet years and it's rare to see outbreaks for more than one season. This year happens to be one of those years that it's more abundant and growing taller than normal. One of the ways to easily distinguish between tall thistle and our noxious thistles is the silver color on the underside of the leaves. Most native thistles are either silver or

light greenish-gray in color, or have some silver on parts of the plant.

Tall thistle is most commonly confused with musk thistle in the eastern part of the state. Musk thistle will flower in May and June and typically is done flowering when tall thistle arrives on the scene in August.

All of our "noxious" thistles; [musk thistle](#), [plumeless thistle](#) and [Canada thistle](#) are non-native to Nebraska and the United States.

Inspection Activity Report

As of August 31, 2015, the Weed Control staff has completed 9,238 inspections on 4,685 properties. Weed abatement within the City of Lincoln accounted for 6,408 inspections on 2,903 properties while noxious weeds accounted for 2,830

inspections on 1,782 properties. We've received 1,534 complaints from the public wanting help getting neighboring properties controlled. In order to gain compliance we've sent 2,401 letters and 1,435 legal notices requiring

control. A total of 267 enforcements have been completed by our contractors, totaling \$38,810 in control cost. We have two noxious weed 15-day notices scheduled for a bench trial. Possible fines totaling \$1,500 each.

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



We're on the Web!
www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
 IN YOUR TRACKS.
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>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 to 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>
<p>Lancaster County's Noxious Weeds Newly Added</p>		
<p>Cutleaf Teasel Height 4–8 ft</p> <p>White flowers</p>	<p>Common Teasel 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), or Nebraska Department of Agriculture.