

# Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

## Winter Is a Great Time to Inspect For Phragmites

### DECEMBER 2015:

Winter Inspections	1
Inspection Activity Report	1
Nebraska's Noxious Weeds	2



Common teasel during the winter



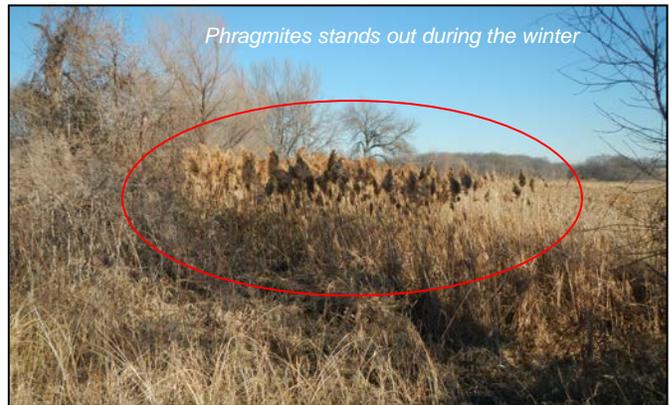
Knotweed during the winter

*“Although easy to spot, you won’t want to treat these plants during the winter months”*

### Winter Inspections

While you might have put your sprayer and chemical away for the winter, don’t pass up a great opportunity to inspect your property for phragmites, knotweed and teasel. Believe it or not, some noxious weeds are actually easier to spot in the winter months than during the growing season.

[Phragmites](#) happens to be one of Nebraska’s noxious weeds that our office inspects all winter long, simply because it’s easier to spot. While a lot of other plants break down and fall over, phragmites will drop its leaves, but keep its seedhead intact and stand tall all winter long – almost begging you to find it. Phragmites typically likes to grow in wetland areas as well as along creeks and



Phragmites stands out during the winter

drainages. This makes it hard to see during the growing season due to competing vegetation and tree canopy. However, during the winter, the trees lose their leaves, and the cattails and other vegetation that tend to grow in the same area breakdown, leaving the phragmites standing all by itself.

[Teasel](#) and [Knotweeds](#) are also easy to identify during the winter. Dead teasel stems will stand for a couple years and with their unique seedhead it makes them easy to spot.

Knotweed stems remain standing for a couple years and turn a deep brownish purple, which really makes them stand out since most plants turn a light brown color once they freeze. Although easy to spot, you won’t want to treat these plants during the winter months. When you find new locations make sure to mark them on a map or GPS the location on your smart phone or tablet. This will make it easier to find and treat during the next growing season.

## Inspection Activity Report

As of November 30, 2015, the Weed Control staff has completed 10,985 inspections on 5,221 properties. Weed abatement within the City of Lincoln accounted for 7,787 inspections on 3,309 properties, while noxious weeds accounted for 3,198

inspections on 1,912 properties. We’ve received 1,902 complaints from the public wanting help getting neighboring properties controlled. In order to gain compliance we’ve sent 2,713 letters and 1,758 legal notices requiring

control. A total of 384 enforcements have been completed by our contractors, totaling \$57,986 in control cost. We had two noxious weed 15-day legal notices that went to court, resulting in a \$1,500 fine in each case.



Click to download

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](mailto:weeds@lancaster.ne.gov)



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)                  Stems/leaves have milky sap</p>	<p><b>Sericea Lespedeza</b>                  Height 1.5–6.5 ft</p> <p>White to 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> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Newly Added</span></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.