

Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

LB 711 Senator Hughes (44), Natural Resources Hearing

INSIDE THIS REPORT:

LB 711 Testimony	1
Nebraska Real Estate Seller Disclosure Statement	1
Nebraska's Noxious Weeds	2



Before treatment - 2008

Platte River - near Cozad

After treatment - 2011



Testimony

The Nebraska Legislature Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on February 18th for testimony on LB 711, introduced by Senator Hughes (44). I testified in support of the bill on behalf of the Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA) and the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO). Eight groups testified in support of the bill along with three letters of support. Two testified as Neutral, but supportive with some minor changes suggested, and no one testified in opposition to LB 711.

The legislation would provide 2 million dollars per year to re-establish the Invasive Species Task Force and control invasive species on Nebraska's waterways. This is similar to legislation passed in 2007 which provided 4 million dollars over 2 years to open water flow in the Republican and Platte rivers. The new legislation would continue that work on those rivers and expand the scope of the project to include all natural rivers, creeks and streams in Nebraska. The original legislation had a two year time frame; this bill would continue the work into the future.

The success of the original legislation is why the NWCA supports LB 711. The original 4 million investment was matched with funds from partners, now reaching close to 26 million dollars spent on clearing the waterways of the state. Preventing flooding and fire as well as re-establishing wildlife habitat and opening up water conveyance.

The NWCA brought the idea of this legislation to NACO. With help from Beth Bazyn Ferrell and Larry Dix, the bill was drafted and presented to Senator Hughes who introduced it. We are waiting to see if the bill will make it to the floor.

Nebraska Real Estate Commission - Seller Disclosure Statement

At the February monthly meeting of the Nebraska Real Estate Commission, I presented information on behalf of the Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA), regarding the addition of a noxious weed disclosure to the Seller Property Condition Disclosure Statement. The NWCA supports that buyers in this State are made aware of the presence of noxious weeds on property they're buying.

While working with property owners to manage the infestation of noxious

weeds on their newly purchased property. Many landowners have expressed they would have liked to have known about the infestations during the purchase process.

Let me give an example: A person buying a parcel of land infested with leafy spurge or phragmites can expect to treat the infestations for many years. The cost can easily be \$30 per acre for leafy spurge, and up to \$300 per acre for phragmites. I doubt it will ever prevent a sale from happening, but at least the

buyer would be aware.

Several neighboring State's already have the question on their form. Some States are very detailed and some have a simple question. Nebraska is considering the simpler approach.

The disclosure would only happen on properties being sold with a house on them.

The Commission voted to continue working on adding a noxious weed question to the form, wanting to make sure the wording is clear for the seller and buyer to understand.



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

PlayCleanGo.org

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STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
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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) Stem/leaves have milky sap</p>	<p>Sericea Lespedeza Height 1.5–6.5 ft</p> <p>White or 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.