

Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

Phragmites – Aggressive Invader

INSIDE THIS REPORT:

Phragmites – Aggressive Invader 1

Nebraska's Noxious Weeds 2



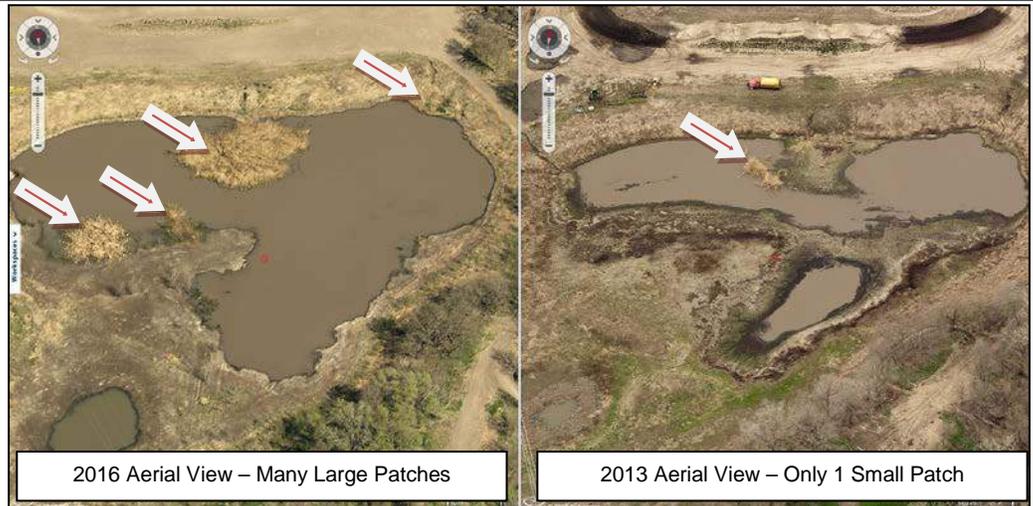
**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

PlayCleanGo.org



"Spider Island"

Notice the stolons running out in all directions allowing this patch of phragmites to rapidly increase.



If you ever thought you could take a year or two off and your phragmites wouldn't spread; think again!

During our recent survey of Salt Creek we spotted a patch of phragmites just over the tree line in a wetland that we now refer to as "Spider Island".

One of the things that makes Common reed (*phragmites australis*) so hard to manage is its ability to spread in a variety of ways. One the first ways we think of a plant spreading is by seed. This is true and our seed test at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture seed lab shows that most the seed heads we tested

had at least 70% viable seed. Phragmites is a perennial plant which means it comes back year after year from its root zone or rhizomes, this allows the patch to continue to grow even if it didn't produce viable seed. The third way it will attack is by sending out stolons. These are like above ground roots that run across anything in its path and pop up a new plant about every 10 inches. The stolons will grow up to 30 feet in just one season. This allows the patch to grow above ground or water, even if it isn't producing seed or spreading by rhizomes. OK, if that wasn't enough, here is one more method that allows it to quickly spread downstream.

All three of the previous mentioned methods come into play when in a moving water system such as a creek, stream or river. Moving water can carry the seed downstream, the roots/rhizomes when broken off can wash up to shore and begin a new patch, the stolons will also break off and find a new home downstream. Oh yeah, I haven't mentioned that when the plant itself falls over or washes away it can also start up new plants at every leaf node.

The many ways this plant can spread makes it by far one of the most difficult invasives plants we have to control.

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 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</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.