

Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

Weed Abatement Yard Signs Prove Successful

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"We reduced the number of letters sent by 34.5% and legal notices by 31.9% saving approximately \$3,265 in postal cost"



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

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As with any business the Weed Control Authority is always looking at ways to be more efficient, as well as making our operation more effective. While reviewing the 2015 season, one of the things that stood out was the fact that we received a lot of complaints from property owners saying they had just received the letter and we were already back doing a follow up inspection. This was a result of the mail being routed through Omaha instead of Lincoln which made the delivery time 3 – 4 days to reach most residents. With the Weed Abatement ordinance requiring control in 5 days this created a timing issue. Several factors led to the decision to use yard signs with the postal issue being only one. Others were; **Rental properties** – many of the problems are on rentals, by the time we sent the letter to the landowner and the landowner notified the tenant, we more than likely had already done a follow up



inspection and sent the legal notice. **In 2016 we closed 469 files by only posting the property without sending a letter. An additional 427 files were closed on known rentals where we posted the property as well as sent a letter to the owner. 31% of our files were closed this way.**

Complaints – by posting the property the person complaining is able to see something is being done. This cuts down on additional complaints while we work the case. **In 2015 our office received 1,469 initial complaints compared to 1,521 in 2016. While receiving 52 more complaints our additional complaints were down from 383 in 2015 to only 236 in 2016.** Posting the

property reduced additional complaints by 38.4%. I feel this was due to quicker compliance by the person living at the property as well as the person complaining seeing the sign and knowing something is being done.

Returned letters & notices – Our ordinance requires us to send to the last known address according to the Register of Deeds. If the landowner hasn't updated their new address the letter gets returned and no one receives notice. Posting makes sure someone is notified.

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



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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) 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.