

Combined Weed Program

City of Lincoln

April 2011 Monthly Report

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

Japanese Knotweed

The good news is that we have **NOT** found any new infestations this year. The Lower Platte South NRD has agreed to spray on Dead Mans Run. And one private landowner is controlling theirs by herbicide. The infestations on East Campus, Sunken Gardens and Antelope Park are continuing to cut off new growth at this point while we work on control methods acceptable. I'm sure when it blooms later this fall and is easier to identify we will find more.

Weed Abatement

Two of our three City Inspectors will begin on May 9th with the third beginning on the 23rd. Early season weed abatement is challenging due to the fact that a lot of owners just haven't gotten the mower out of the garage yet.

Typically we don't start on weed complaints until mid May, because by the time we make the inspection, the property gets mowed over the weekend and we spend a lot of time wasted making unnecessary inspections. After the May 15th time frame we can usually tell who is going to take care of the weeds and mow and who isn't.



New logo: We are replacing the old worn out, faded door logos on our cars with this new logo. We also put our web address on the back of all our vehicles to try and increase public awareness.

Mayor's Action Center

We have been receiving a number of complaints via the new smart phone complaint system. This has introduced us to some new

challenges on trying to figure out the exact location. When the picture is attached it helps a lot, but even with that it depends on the location they sent the complaint from. One complaint had 3 different addresses on the same complaint and one was actually a location in Norfolk. (*we didn't inspect that one!*) In time it will be a useful tool for the public and it is nice on our end to have a picture.

Noxious Weed Control Act Q & A

Q: Whenever special weed control problems exist in a county involving weeds not included in the rules and regulations, what option(s) are available to the control authority?

A: The control authority may petition the director to bring such weeds under the county control program.

Inspection Activity

Our Noxious Weed Inspectors began on April 18th and along with doing the rural noxious weed inspections have completed 86 inspections within the Lincoln city limits.

Musk thistle:

82 sites inspected – 502.5 acres

62 sites infested – 115.19 acres

Leafy spurge:

04 sites inspected – 3.3 acres

04 sites infested – 1.15 acres

May Planned Activities in Lincoln

- 2 Leafy spurge inspections
- 9 Inspector training
- 9 Begin City Weed Abatement inspections
- 16 Maps to ROW applicators for BNSF Railroad
- 16 Maps to Chem-Trol for UP Railroad
- 16 Maps to MUD for Nebraska City Line
- 16 Contracts for landfills