

Combined Weed Program

City of Lincoln

October 2011 Monthly Report

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

Noxious Weeds in Urban areas

Noxious weeds know no boundaries... Noxious weeds don't seem to have any sense on where they belong and are making themselves at home in many areas within the Lincoln City Limits.



Phragmites looking east off of South 27th Street, Lincoln, NE.

Musk thistle and Leafy spurge have made their presence known in Lincoln for many years. Now our wetland areas are being invaded by Phragmites, Purple loosestrife and Japanese Knotweed at alarming rates. It seems our inspectors are finding new infestations almost daily. Education is a key component in getting the public informed and helping to locate and control these aggressive plants.



Purple loosestrife in a flower bed at a local church in Lincoln

I've heard many homeowners comment that they had seen the Phragmites growing in their wetland, but weren't aware of what it was, or that it could be a problem. Some of them have even picked the

flower heads to put in dried flower arrangements. This only adds to the spread of the weeds.

Phragmites is difficult enough to control in rural areas because of where it likes to grow.... *in wetlands and drainages, in between row crops.* Now you put it in an urban setting with housing on one side, a major street on another and a city park right next door. Control using chemical gets very tricky. Being able to detect these new infestations while they are still small and being aggressive with treatment will continue to be the key in protecting our wetlands and drainages within city.

Inspection Activity

A total of 5,468 inspections on 2,580 sites have been made this year in the City of Lincoln.

Noxious Weeds within city limits

- Made 708 inspections on 425 sites.
 - 208 Musk thistle
 - 50 Phragmites
 - 39 Leafy spurge
 - 21 Knotweed
 - 11 Purple loosestrife
 - 4 Canada thistle
 - 3 Saltcedar

Weed Abatement

- Made 4,760 inspections on 2,155 sites.
- Found 1,724 violations.
- Sent 1,127 notices, 924 letters, made 15 personal contacts.
- Received 1,849 complaints on 1,567 sites.

November Planned Activities

- 1 Nebraska Dept of Agriculture evaluation
- 8 Van Diest Supply Training
- 10 Management Team
- 11 Veterans Day
- 15 Lower Platte WMA @ Wahoo
- 17 Problem Resolution Team
- 18 NE Invasive Species Council
- 24/25 Thanksgiving Holiday