



Lancaster County Weed Control

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

August 2011 Monthly Report

Helicopter Survey on Salt Creek

With grant funds provided by the Lower Platte Weed Management Area we were able to survey Salt Creek for Phragmites in Lancaster County during August. The grant allowed for a survey of the Platte River and tributaries that flow into the Platte. In the past we have done work on Phragmites on Salt Creek, so we knew it was there and wanted to conduct a more thorough survey. We were able to locate 7 new infestations from the 56th Street bridge going Northeast. We also flew from Van Dorn Street going south to Hickman and didn't find any new infestations in that area.



The survey was conducted by Skycopters out of Ulysses, KS with pilot Dan Lyle. (*this is the same company that did the spraying in Lancaster County in 2009*) During the survey, when a new patch was spotted Dan would map the spot using GPS, he will then download this and we will receive a map with exact locations and size of the infestations. The Lower Platte South NRD will then be responsible for controlling the infestations.

We are encouraging landowners in Lancaster County with Phragmites to contact Skycopters directly to line up control of their infestations. Earlier we sent out letters to landowners that had indicated they may be interested in having helicopter work done and I was pleased when Dan said he had already been contacted by at least 5 landowners. Skycopters will be back in September to spray along the Platte River as well as the private locations in Lancaster County.

Our inspectors have completed the initial inspections for Phragmites and the results have shown that we are starting to see considerable re-growth from the spraying that was done in 2009.

Kudzu in Nebraska?

The Nebraska Weed Control's Region 1 meeting was held in Nebraska City in August. Otoe County Superintendent, John Bebout took us out to see



Kudzu growing along Steamboat trail by the OPPD power plant. Kudzu is known as "the vine that ate the south" because of its ability to grow over the top of everything that

comes in its path. It is thought that this patch was planted along this old railroad right of way as a method of controlling erosion along a steep embankment. Kudzu has a hard time in Nebraska spreading rapidly because our shorter growing season doesn't allow it to produce seed. This patch was sprayed some years back and has totally re-grown and is spreading by rhizomes. It is now growing over top of trees and has spread to both sides of the trail.



September Planned Activities

- 2 NWCA booth at State Fair
- 5 Labor Day
- 8 Management Team
- 9 NE Invasive Species Council
- 13 UNL invasive species class
- 20 Lower Platte WMA
- 22 SE NACO at Mahoney
- 29 Problem Resolution Team