



Lancaster County Weed Control

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

September 2011 Monthly Report

UNL Classroom in field

Thomas Powers, professor with the University of Nebraska Plant Pathology department brought his class of 33 students out into the field to learn first hand the effects on the environment of Phragmites and other noxious weeds.



UNL Plant Pathology class

September 13, 2011

The location chosen was the 48th street landfill. This site is unique in that some of the patches are on top of hills. Usually we find phragmites in low lying areas along waterways. We used a front end loader to dig a hole in the patch to show the massive amount of root system below the surface. As big as phragmites gets above ground, it is estimated that around 70% of the plant exists in the root mass below ground. We spent almost an hour with discussion and questions on invasive species in Lancaster County.

Phragmites treatment by helicopter



Spraying Phragmites at SW 29th and Highway 33

With clear skies and minimal winds Skycopters out of Ulysses, KS with pilot Dan Lyle were able to

make treatments to area phragmites infestations in Lancaster County the last week of September.

Our office throughout the season put together a list of landowners that indicated they would be interested in having the helicopter treat their phragmites this year. We were able to coordinate with Skycopters to get them sprayed. In many cases a helicopter is the only way to gain access to the patches either because it is too swampy to use ground application or they are in the middle of a cornfield.



Landing pad and reloading & refueling deck

Skycopters operation is specifically designed for phragmites applications. The product used requires a specially designed microfoil boom on the helicopter that puts out 15 gallon of product per acre with almost no drift. The support truck consists of one person to mix the chemical, the landing deck, chemical storage and mix tanks as well as the fuel for the helicopter. Once Dan lands it takes only a couple minutes to load and get back in the air. They can operate from almost any location as long as there aren't power lines or trees close by.

October Planned Activities

- 13 Management Team
- 14 NE Invasive Species Council
- 18 Lower Platte WMA
- 25 NWCA Fall Training @ Hastings
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- 27 Problem Resolution Team