



# Lancaster County Weed Control

## December 2011 Monthly Report

[www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds)

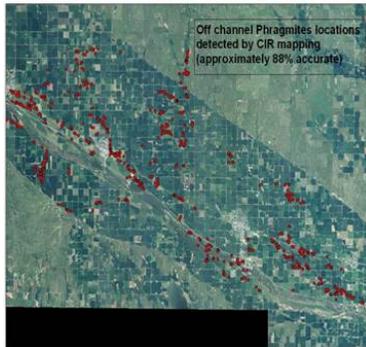
### Remote Sensing technology used to identify Phragmites

Lancaster County Weed Control has received grant money from Ducks Unlimited through the Lower Platte Weed Management Area to fund a Remote Sensing Survey of Lancaster County.

#### How does Remote Sensing Work?

NRCS currently uses infrared imagery to determine irrigated vs. non-irrigated acres. Because of the time of year they gather this information we are able to take that photography and use it to identify likely infestations of Phragmites. They take the imagery along with GIS mapping and enter a number of different factors that helps identify Phragmites such as color, wetlands, etc. and enter that information.

Then its time to scan through and pick out the places that Phragmites is likely. This was done last year in Dawson County and it was around 88% accurate, plus they are able to locate very small patches..



What's the benefit? By detecting these infestations early, the chance of being able to eradicate Phragmites greatly increases. Our inspectors will be able to take the survey information and go out into the field and positively identify if it is indeed non-native Phragmites. This will be very helpful in finding new infestations that we aren't able to see from a road or with the helicopter survey.

#### Other uses?

This same technology has been used in other areas to be able to identify Knotweed. We will have to see if our imagery is done at a time where we are able to identify Knotweed.

#### Management of Weeds

The authority created 1,281 advanced work orders to be carried out in 2012.

- **Musk thistle** consists of 337 work orders with 42 of those being along railroads and 15 at the landfills.
- **Leafy Spurge** consists of 347 work orders with 30 being along railroads, 14 at the landfills and 167 along roadsides.
- **Phragmites** infestations continue to be discovered and are on the rise. We have 332 work orders on known infestations with 45 of those on roadsides. That is 50 new sites in one year and an 18% increase.
- **Purple Loosestrife** continues to decline with 13 work orders
- **Saltcedar** consists of 3 work orders
- **Canada thistle** has 5 work orders.
- **Knotweeds** consist of 22 work orders.

### City Weed Abatement

The Authority created 222 advanced work orders for weed abatement violations to be carried out in 2012. In addition we have 324 work orders for noxious weeds in the city.

#### City Noxious Weed work orders for 2012

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| • Musk thistle       | 180 |
| • Leafy spurge       | 45  |
| • Purple loosestrife | 6   |
| • Phragmites         | 65  |
| • Saltcedar          | 2   |
| • Canada thistle     | 4   |
| • Knotweeds          | 22  |

### January Planned Activities

- |       |                                   |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 2     | Holiday – New Years               |
| 12    | Management Team Meeting           |
| 12    | County Board / Annual Reports     |
| 16    | Holiday – MLK                     |
| 17    | NEBline Insert deadline           |
| 17-18 | Weed Mgmt Area Summit @ Kearney   |
| 20    | Nebraska Invasive Species Council |
| 24    | Lower Platte Weed Mgmt Area Mtg   |
| 26    | Problem Resolution Team           |
| 31    | NDA Annual Reports Due            |
| 31    | Monthly activity report           |