



Lancaster County Weed Control - City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

September 2012

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

UNL Plant Pathology Class

Thomas Powers, professor with the University of Nebraska Plant Pathology department brought his class out to see phragmites at the Lancaster Event Center. They learned how to identify phragmites and see the effect it has on the environment. This



is the second year we have teamed up with UNL to teach students the problems we face with noxious weeds.

This year we were able to make a trail through a patch of phragmites so the students could experience how thick phragmites gets and why wildlife avoids even trying to make their way through a patch.

We discussed how phragmites spreads, why it was made a noxious weed and some of the control options. We explained how difficult it is to control given it likes to grow in riparian areas that are sometimes not accessible by your normal ground application spray equipment. Also, how phragmites will cause flooding by choking off river channels that normally are free flowing, but will not carry water because of the phragmites, and how it changes what wildlife you see in areas because they can't access water.



The great thing about the next generation is they are always thinking of alternatives and we talked about the possibility of what uses there could be for the plant such as potential energy uses.

Weed Watchers at work!

Our new Weed Watcher program has been showing positive results this season with a number of weed watchers turning in new infestations.

One example: A couple weeks ago one of our weed watchers spotted a single purple loosestrife plant growing in Antelope Creek near a walking trail and called it in. Our records had not previously shown an infestation in this part of the creek so we made an onsite inspection and found that the report was correct. We found one additional plant down stream as well. We contacted the responsible agency and the plants were removed.

We will never be able to put a dollar figure on how much money was saved by eliminating this potential infestation before it took over the entire creek and watershed, but I know if left untreated for even a few years it could have cost thousands of dollars to treat the area until the problem was eliminated.

More Weed Watchers are always welcome, so if you are someone who cares about the environment, loves the outdoors and would like to get involved please contact the Weed Control Office.

October Planned Activities

- 1-5 Interviews for Chief Inspector position
- 8-12 Skycopters – phragmites spraying
- 9 5 Rivers WMA
- 11 Management Team Meeting
- 12 Invasive Species Council
- 16-17 Fall Training @ Hastings
- 18 LPWMA Meeting
- 25 Problem Resolution Team
- 31 Monthly activity report

Good Neighbors – Control Noxious Weeds!