

# Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

## What is that? Weed? Flower?

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*“With today’s technology it is easier than ever to just snap a couple pictures and email them to us”*

Have you ever been out in your garden, yard, pasture, crop field, or on a hike and wondered what all that “stuff” growing over there is? Lancaster County Weed Department is willing to help you identify it. Even if we don’t know what it is, we have many resources that we use to help get it identified and find out if it’s good, bad, or just part of nature.

We train our inspectors to always be on the lookout for “something out of place”, or, seem to be taking over and crowding out all other native vegetation. Sometimes it turns out to be nothing and sometimes the results are very interesting. This past summer our Chief Weed Inspector brought in a plant that had many unique characteristics and resembled a pea, but we weren’t able to ID it in any of our manuals. I turned to Bob Kaul, Professor at UNL’s herbarium for help.

This is Bob’s response;



everlasting sweet-pea

*“It’s Lathyrus latifolius, everlasting sweet-pea, native to Europe and known from a few eastern Nebraska counties, where it doesn’t seem to be a troublesome weed. Note the broad wings on the stems and the two leaflets on each leaf. If these photos were taken in Lancaster County, it’s a new county record. We have a specimen cultivated in an Omaha garden in 1895, our first record for the state, but our first records from outside cultivation are from roadsides in Otoe and Richardson counties in the 1980s.”*

I always appreciate Bob’s knowledge on plants. In

this case it was a new specimen for Lancaster County, so we collected a plant and put in our plant press. It will be taken down to the herbarium; where it will be mounted, cataloged and become a permanent record. With today’s technology it is easier than ever to just snap a couple pictures and email them to us at [weeds@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:weeds@lancaster.ne.gov) and we will do the rest.

**We need everyone’s help in identifying new, as well as existing locations of invasives. If you would like to join our [Weed Watcher](#) program go to our web site to learn more.** <http://lancaster.ne.gov/weeds/>

## 2014 Inspection Activity

Weed abatement inside Lincoln City limits: Our inspectors made 7,557 inspections on 3,436 properties. This is 810 (12%) more inspections than in the same period in 2013, on an additional 449 (15%) properties.

Noxious weeds in Lancaster County: We made 2,689 inspections on 1,888 properties. That is 300 (12.6%) more inspections than a year ago, on 346 (22.4%) more properties. This was due mainly to the addition of sericea lespedeza, common teasel and cutleaf teasel being added as noxious weeds.

*“Good neighbors control their weeds”*

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*Good Neighbors Control Their Weeds!*



**We're on the Web!**  
[www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds)

# Nebraska's Noxious Weeds

*It is the duty of each person who owns or controls land to effectively control noxious weeds on such land.*

Noxious weed is a legal term used to denote a destructive or harmful weed for the purpose of regulation. The Director of Agriculture establishes which plants are noxious. These non-native plants compete aggressively with desirable plants and vegetation. Failure to control noxious weeds in this state is a serious problem which is detrimental to the production of crops and livestock, and to the welfare of residents of this state. Noxious weeds may also devalue land and reduce tax revenue.

<p><b>Musk Thistle</b> Height 1.6–9.8 ft</p> <p>Pink to purple flowers Mature seedhead</p>	<p><b>Canada Thistle</b> Height 1–3.9 ft</p> <p>Pink to purple flowers</p>	<p><b>Plumeless Thistle</b> Height 1–4.9 ft</p> <p>Purple flowers</p>
<p><b>Phragmites</b> Height 3.2–20 ft</p> <p>Young seedhead Mature seedhead</p>	<p><b>Leafy Spurge</b> Height .3–2.6 ft</p> <p>Large yellow leaves (bracts) Stems/leaves have milky sap</p>	<p><b>Sericea Lespedeza</b> Height 1.5–6.5 ft</p> <p>White or cream to yellowish white flowers</p>
<p><b>Japanese Knotweed</b> Height 3–10 ft</p> <p>Creamy white to greenish white flowers</p>	<p><b>Giant Knotweed</b> Height 8–13 ft</p> <p>Creamy white to greenish white flowers</p>	<p><b>Purple Loosestrife</b> Height 1.3–8 ft</p> <p>Purple to magenta flowers</p>
<p><b>Saltcedar</b> Height 3.3–20 ft</p> <p>Pink to white flowers</p>	<p><b>Spotted Knapweed</b> Height 1–3.9 ft</p> <p>Lavender to purple flowers</p>	<p><b>Diffuse Knapweed</b> Height 1–3.9 ft</p> <p>White/purplish flowers</p>

**GOOD NEIGHBORS CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS**

If you have questions or concerns about noxious weeds, please contact your local county noxious weed control authority, Nebraska Weed Control Association ([www.neweed.org](http://www.neweed.org)), or Nebraska Department of Agriculture ([www.agr.ne.gov/noxious\\_weed](http://www.agr.ne.gov/noxious_weed))

Download to print from our website: [weeds.lancaster.ne.gov](http://weeds.lancaster.ne.gov)