

# Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

## Heavy Rains Slow Helicopter Spraying

### NOVEMBER 2014

Helicopter Spraying	1
Weed-guy Vacation?	1
Noxious Weed ID Guide	2

*“Phragmites is by far the most aggressive invasive plant we have on our states noxious weed list. Because of its extensive root system, it will require multiple years of aggressive control before we get it under control”*

Helicopter spraying of phragmites proved to be extremely challenging this fall, due to wind and unusual amounts of heavy rain that fell in Lancaster County in early October.

Fall is typically a great time to make applications for phragmites control for several reasons. First, the timing is right for the plant to take down the chemical while it is trying to store up nutrients to survive the winter, giving us much better control than a spring application. Second, usually the weather is better in the fall than in the spring, with less wind and less rain.... Not this year, the wind kept Skycopters grounded for the first few days, then it rained and the creeks rose so high we couldn't spray. So, they moved out to western Nebraska to spray around Lake McConaughy. When Skycopters came back it rained some more, this time 7 to 9 inches. So, they moved up to the Platte River to do the spraying up there. The good news is we were able to spray most of the areas we had contracts with landowners. Some areas along Oak Creek and Salt Creek were not able to be sprayed because of the flood.

Our staff spends a lot of



time surveying, working with landowners, preparing the maps, getting contracts signed, etc., so it is disappointing when you get all organized to spray and mother nature spoils the plans. I estimate we did get over 90% of what we had contracted sprayed, so, even though disappointing I would have to say it was an overall success. We now wait until next spring to see how effective the control was and begin the process all over again. Phragmites is by far the most aggressive invasive plant we have on Nebraska's noxious weed list. Because of its extensive root system, it will require multiple years of aggressive control before we get it under control.

During the application, the helicopter is mapping every

time he hits the button to spray. We enter the shape file into ArcMap to create a map. This gives our office, and the landowner an accurate GPS record of what was actually sprayed. This helps in planning future applications on each property.

2014 Helicopter phragmites application



P18871  
Dakota Survey MSA  
08-03-2002 01:00:00

## Weed-guy Vacation?

*“we would be losing our valuable resources 1 acre at a time”*

I'm sure, many of you while on vacation notice things along the way that are related to your interest. If your farm, you notice the crops, if you sell buildings, you notice the farmsteads..... Well, for the weed-guy, it's **WEEDS**. I recently went to Illinois to cheer on the Huskers at Northwestern and wow, does Illinois have a problem with phragmites and teasel. It was so out of control, I'm not sure I would even know where to start. Phragmites is in the medians, every waterway and wetland, literally its everywhere. Lancaster County added teasel recently to our noxious list, and this trip confirmed what my research showed, teasel can take over just about anywhere it wants. Nebraska is lucky to have a weed law requiring invasive weeds to be controlled. If not, we would be losing our valuable resources 1 acre at a time.

**Lancaster County  
Weed Control**  
444 Cherrycreek Rd. Bldg B  
Lincoln, NE. 68528

**Phone:**  
402.441.7817

**Fax:**  
402.441.8616

**E-mail:**  
weeds@lancaster.ne.gov

*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)