

# Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

## What makes a weed “Noxious”? What are “Invasive” weeds?

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**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

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*“A plant meeting six of the nine criteria will be considered as having met the minimum standard to justify a recommendation to the Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to designate the plant as noxious.”*



*“We never should have waited this long ... Now the weeds have completely taken over.”*

In the plant world we often throw around the terms “noxious” and “invasive” when referring to plants. This often raises the question - What’s the difference?

Confused? Let me explain... only the worst of the worst weeds make it to the [Nebraska’s noxious weed list](#). When a plant becomes noxious, it requires landowners to control the plant on their property to prevent spread to neighboring properties. I would consider all of Nebraska’s noxious weeds to also be invasive.

According to [Nebraska’s Weed Control Act](#): The term Noxious weeds means and includes any weeds designated and listed as noxious in rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Director of Agriculture.

To be listed as “noxious” there is a process used to evaluate the plant before it is considered for the noxious weed list, and before it would go to the Director of Agriculture for consideration. The process begins with a scientific review of the plant called a Weed Risk Assessment (WRA). This assessment is used to determine if the plant poses a threat to

Nebraska. A plant will also need to meet at least six of the following nine criteria to be considered.

1. The plant poses a documented and immediate threat to Nebraska’s economy, environment, social welfare, wildlife, or safety. The plant is either directly or indirectly poisonous or injurious to man, animals, and/or desirable plant species and favors a habitat that results in difficult control and is in direct conflict with human activities.
2. The plant reproduces and disseminates rapidly under normal land management practices.
3. The plant is not native to Nebraska.
4. At least two bordering states have designated the plant as noxious, and the plant has a documented history of causing considerable difficulties in those or other areas.
5. Infestations of the plant within Nebraska have been properly surveyed and documented by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture’s noxious weed program staff, together with and in association with county weed control superintendents.
6. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture has reviewed and researched published literature concerning the plant and has prepared a written objective report on the plant for review and

discussion by the Nebraska Noxious Weed Advisory Committee.

7. At least 5% of Nebraska’s counties favor the designation of the plant as noxious. The Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture will solicit this opinion by contacting each county weed control authority for a response.
8. The Nebraska Weed Control Association has recommended to the Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture that the plant be designated a noxious weed.
9. The Nebraska Noxious Weed Advisory Committee has recommended to the Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture that the plant be designated a noxious weed in Nebraska.

There are invasive plants we recommend controlling, but they do not meet the criteria necessary to be listed as noxious. Being non-native is the one criteria required for any plant to be considered as noxious. Example; Poison ivy is often considered an invasive plant and some think it should be “noxious”, but poison ivy is a native plant to Nebraska, so it will not likely ever make it to Nebraska’s noxious weed list.

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](mailto:weeds@lancaster.ne.gov)

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



Good Neighbors –  
 Control Invasive 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>
<p><b>Lancaster County's Noxious Weeds</b></p>		
<p><b>Cutleaf Teasel</b> Height 4–8 ft</p> <p>White flowers</p>	<p><b>Common Teasel</b> Height 3–6 ft</p> <p>Lavender to white 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.