

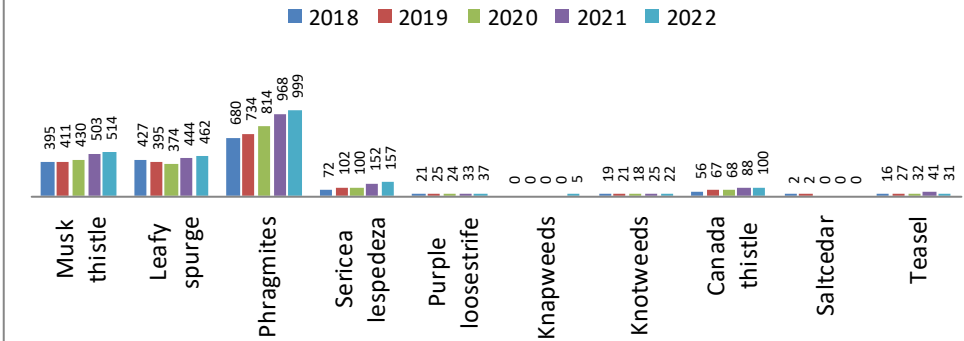
Lancaster County Weed Control – City of Lincoln Weed Abatement

2022 Annual Report

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Noxious Weed Infestations



Weed Control Authority

Almost every parcel outside of developed residential lots has or had one or more kinds of noxious weeds present. The key to noxious weed control is **not** allowing the plants to seed. This requires persistence and follow-up. Most of the public and private landowners understand this and are keeping their noxious weeds under control. It is the job of the noxious weed control

authority staff to assist landowners in the job of controlling noxious weeds. Many landowners are accomplishing control without any assistance or contact from the authority. The authority carries out a strong information and awareness program along with an extensive inspection program to encourage voluntary compliance of the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act.

The authority has also

provided the inspection and administration of the City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement program since entering an Interlocal agreement with the City in 1996. The County Commissioners serve as the Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority. Brent Meyer serves as the Superintendent and supervises a seasonal staff of six weed inspectors with the assistance of Chief Inspector Pat Dugan and Account Clerk Danni McGown.



Biological control release site of the poison hemlock moth in Lancaster County

Poison hemlock moth released in Lancaster County

In cooperation with the Nebraska Weed Control Association (NWCA) Lancaster County Weed Authority released a biological control moth in Lancaster County to help defoliate poison hemlock. Biocontrol species are natural enemies of nonnative pest used to

reduce the vigor or population of the species. The moth is host specific, only known to feed on poison hemlock and not harm any other plants. The larvae will feed on the plant and then turn into a moth. The moth will lay its eggs and begin the process all over. The

biological control effort is an attempt to help reduce the amount of poison hemlock in the city and county. Poison hemlock is NOT a State designated noxious weed in Nebraska, so its control is NOT required by property owners.

Noxious Weeds in County Roadsides

“Lancaster County works closely with landowners with specialty crops and offers free of charge NO SPRAY ZONE signs”

Landowners are encouraged to control noxious weeds along property they own. If not controlled by the adjacent owner, Lancaster County Weed Control will control the perennial noxious weeds such as phragmites, sericea lespedeza, and leafy

spurge in the county roadsides. A GPS point is recorded for each noxious weed location, making it very easy to find when the time is right to do the application. Lancaster County works closely with landowners with specialty crops and offers NO SPRAY ZONE signs, free of charge,

when an agreement is signed. The agreement requires the landowner to control all the noxious weeds in their adjacent right of way.



Combined Program - Inspections & Notices

Parcels Inspected	5,034
Total Inspections	9,734
Complaints received	2,507
Yard Signs Posted	1,498
Letters Sent	2,354
Legal Notices Sent	1,038
Enforcement Warnings	474
Enforcements	251
Sum of Invoices	\$72,172

The Lancaster County Noxious Weed Control Authority provides a coordinated program for the control of noxious weeds County wide, as well as providing weed abatement within Lincoln’s City limits.

The Weed Control Authority serves the citizens of Lancaster County to protect effectively against designated noxious weeds which constitute a present threat to the

continued economic and environmental value of lands in Lancaster County.

Prevention, Education and Management make up the three - phase program. This is achieved by setting forth management objectives and plans, methods or practices which utilize a variety of techniques for the integrated management of noxious weeds. In establishing a

coordinated program for the integrated management of noxious weeds, it is the Weed Control Authority’s intent to encourage and require all appropriate and available management methods, while promoting those methods which are the most environmentally benign and which are practical and economically feasible.

Drone Technology Continues To Evolve!

“As technology continues to improve, the use of drones will play a huge roll in getting ahead of invasive phragmites”

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, UAV’s (drones) technology continues to evolve, and we are seeing more and more acres of invasives being treated aerially by drones. Just a few years ago the drones were carrying a payload of just over 2 gallons. Today, we’re seeing up to 18-gallon payloads covering up to 50 acres per hour, at a 2-gallon per acre rate,

and covering a 40-foot-wide swath.

This is an ideal tool for landowners when treating phragmites in the creeks and drainages on their property. Typically, phragmites likes to infest areas that are difficult, if not impossible to reach with your standard ground sprayer. There are currently three applicators operating in the area, with a few more

looking at start operations in the coming year.



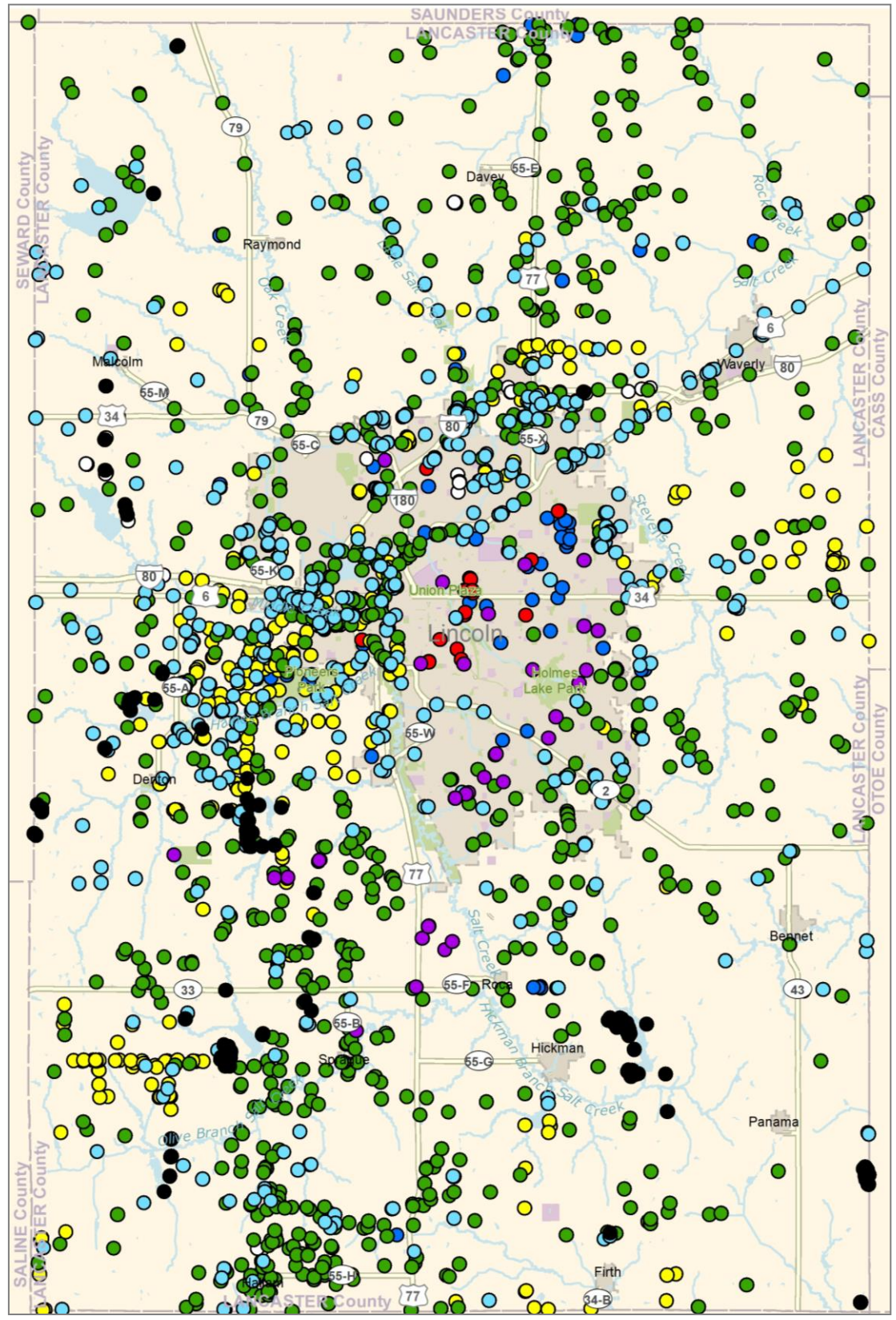
Noxious Weed Locations



Lancaster County, NE

Map Key

- Phragmites
- Saltcedar
- Leafy spurge
- Purple loosestrife
- Canada thistle
- Teasel
- Knotweed
- Sericea lespedeza
- Musk thistle
- Knapweed





WEED CONTROL

444 Cherrycreek Rd. Bldg B
 Lincoln, NE. 68528
 402.441.7817
 weeds@lanaster.ne.gov

Asplund Cemetery
in northeast Lancaster County was placed under the care of Lancaster County Weed Authority after an eligibility determination hearing. The Lancaster County Board determined that Asplund cemetery met the criteria set by State Statute.

Good Neighbors – Control Invasive Weeds !!!

Lancaster County Abandoned Cemeteries

Mowing and general maintenance on seven abandoned cemeteries throughout the county falls under the supervision of the Weed Control Authority. Cemeteries included are the County Poor Farm, Asplund, Dietz, Evangelical, Highland Precinct, Jordan, and Uphoff.

Special recognition goes to the following volunteers:

- Lincoln Tree Service for tree trimming and removal
- David Almerly for mowing Asplund – *added in 2022*
- Dave Miller for mowing Jordan
- Terry Briley for mowing Evangelical
- Clark Liesveld and Boy Scouts of America Troop 64 for mowing Dietz
- Troy Henning for mowing Highland Precinct & Uphoff
- Larry England for mowing the County Poor Farm

Eligibility Determination Of An Abandoned Cemetery

Abandoned Cemetery Eligibility Determination

Nebraska State Statute:

12-805 Abandoned and neglected cemeteries; Indian burial grounds; care and maintenance.

The county board may expend money from the general fund of the county for the care and maintenance of each abandoned and neglected cemetery and Indian burial ground.

12-808 Abandoned and neglected pioneer cemeteries, defined.

(1) Such cemetery was founded, or the land upon which such cemetery is situated was given, granted, donated, sold, or deeded to the founders of the cemetery prior to January 1, 1900.

(2) Such cemetery contains the grave or graves of a person or persons who were homesteaders, immigrants from a foreign nation, prairie farmers, pioneers, sodbusters, first generation Nebraskans, or Civil War veterans; and

(3) Such cemetery has been generally abandoned or neglected for a period of at least twenty years.

12-809 Abandoned and neglected pioneer cemeteries; maintenance.

Care given to such cemetery by a county under sections 12-807 to 12-810 may include the removal of shrubbery, trees, or brush, the erection of adequate fences, the planting of grass, flowers, trees, and shrubbery, repair and uprighting of tombstones

and gravemarkers, and any other care normally accorded to cemeteries.

12-810 Abandoned and neglected pioneer cemeteries; mowing; historical and directional markers.

Any county affected by sections of State statute that determine the eligibility of an abandoned cemetery shall provide for one mowing annually of such cemetery within a period of two weeks prior to Memorial Day. Within five years after maintenance and preservation of such cemetery is commenced by such county, a historical marker giving the date of the establishment of the cemetery and a short history of the cemetery shall be placed at the site of such cemetery.