



The Weed Watch



A publication of the Panhandle Research Integration for Discovery Education in conjunction with High Plains Weed Management Association and Sandhills Weed Management Association

Spring 2011 Newsletter

Working Together Works!

WEED SUPERINTENDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

PRIDE

Box Butte County
Jan Bruhn
308-487-3755

Dawes County
Becky Paulsen
308-432-3056

Sheridan County
Kristi Paul
308-327-5629

HIGH PLAINS WMA

Banner County
Dick McGowan
308-436-4460

Cheyenne County
Brian Hielt
308-254-3459

Deuel County
Walt Wolford
308-874-2433

Garden County
Terry Raymer
308-772-4311

Kimball County
Jerry Robbins
308-235-2681

Morrill County
Owen Walker
308-262-0372

Scotts Bluff County
Jeff Schledewitz
308-436-6709

Sioux County
Nick Sanderson
308-668-9453

Kristi Paul – Sheridan County Weed Superintendent
Leslie Stewart-Phelps – US Forest Service

Last fall, the front page story in *The Weed Watch* had a different article with this same title. That article talked about a partnership between the Panhandle Research Integration for Discovery Education (PRIDE) Weed Management Area and the High Plains Weed Management Area. That partnership expanded the distribution of *The Weed Watch* from 3 to 11 counties. Now, the Sandhills Weed Management Area is joining the partnership to expand *The Weed Watch* to 16 more counties in the Nebraska Sandhills.

We would like to welcome those of you in the Sandhills Weed Management Area to your first edition of *The Weed Watch*. This is a publication devoted to identification, prevention, spread, and control of harmful non-native noxious and invasive weeds. Long-term readers of *The Weed Watch* may notice that we are repeating a few articles about basic weed control. We are doing this for the benefit of you new readers.

Of course weeds know no boundaries. By having weed management

areas work together to pool resources and funds, our work will cross boundaries. This will allow us to improve the communication and best management practices shared by county, state, and federal entities as well as weed control professionals and landowners.

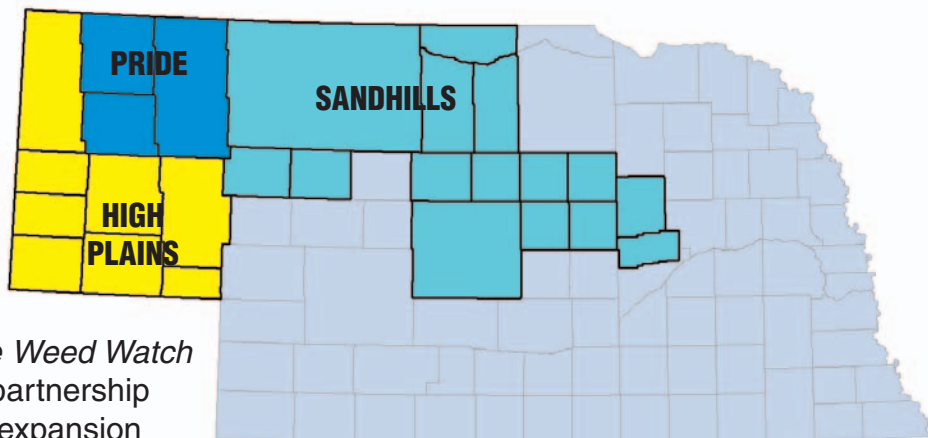
One of the benefits of these partnerships is the ability to apply for and receive grant funds. Federal agencies such as the US Forest Service agree to spend dollars on grant projects, but those funds must be used in areas that have federal acres. The Nebraska National Forest has federal public land in Dawes, Cherry, Blaine, and Thomas Counties. It has joined forces with the Nebraska Forest Service to provide grant funding to local county weed authorities for noxious weed control on private lands. These grant funds have been used not only for herbicide and weed control but also for education and general support of the county weed programs. Weed management areas that work together benefit from the educational opportunities derived from these grant programs.

In the eight years of its existence, *The Weed Watch* has grown from an 8-page tabloid delivered to 16,000 house-

holds in four counties, to a 12-page publication going to 50,000 households in 27 counties. This success would not have been possible without the staff at The Chadron Record, especially George Ledbetter and Ginger Campbell, who lay out, print, and distribute *The Weed Watch*.

The Weed Watch is proof that working together works!

The United States Forest Service in conjunction with the Nebraska Forest Service provide funding for noxious weed control through the State and Private Forestry Cooperative Weed Management Program. These funds are available to counties that contain National Forest System lands. The counties utilize the funds for noxious weed control on private lands adjacent to National Forest System lands. In addition equipment and educational efforts such as the publication of "The Weed Watch" can be part of the overall county project. This year's Weed Watch is being published in part through Dawes County and the State and Private Forestry Grant.



The Weed Watch partnership expansion

WEED SUPERINTENDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

SANDHILLS WMA

Blaine/Thomas County
Carol Conard
308-880-0757

Boone County
Russell Stokes
402-386-5284

Brown County
Doug Mulligan
402-387-2287

Cherry County
Barbara Small
402-322-1067

Custer County
Shawn Owens
402-872-2410

Garfield County
Jay D Tetschner
402-346-5696

Grant/Hooker County
Neal Hayward
308-546-2706

Greeley County
Walter Bjorklund
308-428-5959

Keya Paha County
Travis Mundorf
402-497-3800

Loup County
Lynn Strong
308-942-6218

Nance County
Kevin Koziol
308-536-2523

Rock County
Rod Stolpart
402-760-2103

Valley County
Darrell Kaminski
308-536-2523

Wheeler County
Doug Reiter
308-654-3397



Know Your Weed Management Area

Larry Gibbens – Sandhills Weed Management Area and Custer County Weed Superintendent

The Sandhills Weed Management Area (SWMA) was formed in 2006 as a cooperative effort between counties, state and federal agencies, irrigation districts, chemical applicators, and landowners. SWMA is composed of 16 member counties covering over 18,000 square miles. The focus of the group is protecting the unique and largely intact native region known as the Sandhills from the adverse effects of noxious and invasive plants.

The Sandhills region is of special concern for preservation as a natural habitat for several reasons:

- It contains the largest and most intricate system of wetlands in the United States.
- It is home to over 300 animal species and 700 plant species.
- It supports over 500,000 head of cattle.
- Many of Nebraska's rivers originate here, including the Loup, Cedar, Elkhorn, Dismal, Snake, and Calamus. The Niobrara River traverses the full length of the region.
- It is an important area for over 25 species of migratory birds, which use the wetlands for feeding, resting, and nesting.

Educating landowners about control methods and distributing information concerning noxious weeds are key components to stopping invasive plants before they do harm to the Sandhills environment. As our vision statement reads, "Sandhills Weed Management Area strives to form partnerships not only to control the spread of noxious and invasive plants but also to raise awareness through education."

SWMA's current target plant species are leafy spurge, sulphur cinquefoil, Canada thistle, and phragmites. These are already present in the region and known to be highly invasive.



Sulphur cinquefoil (shown above) was added to the Nebraska Watch List in 2009. It infests approximately 250 acres in Rock County, 300 acres in Loup County, 400 acres in Brown County, 500 acres in Wheeler County, 2,500 acres in Keya Paha County, 10,000 acres in Custer County, 12,000 acres in Garfield County, and 50,000 acres in Holt County. For control methods, follow labels for recommended rates of Grazon® or Milestone® applied in the spring or fall. For help with identification or for recommendations for control, contact your local county weed control superintendent.



Our partners include the following:

County Noxious Weed Control Authorities: Blaine, Boone, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Grant, Greeley, Hooker, Keya Paha, Loup, Nance, Rock, Thomas, Valley, and Wheeler Counties

State Agencies: Nebraska Game and Parks, University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension, Board of Educational Lands and Funds

Federal Agencies: USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Local Landowners

Companies and Utilities: Irrigation Districts

Groups: Sandhills Task Force, Sandhills RC&D, North Central RC&D, Loup Basin RC&D

Sulphur Cinquefoil

JD Tetchner – Garfield County Weed Superintendent

Sulphur cinquefoil is an invasive weed that originally came from Europe. It was often planted in flower beds because of its attractive flower. This member of the rose family is a very drought-resistant, winter-hardy perennial that prefers full sun light. It grows best in well-drained or sandy soil and is found growing in pastures, hay meadows, roadsides, yards, and around building sites.

Sulphur cinquefoil can be identified by the leaves and flowers. The leaves are similar to strawberry leaves and are divided into five or seven leaflets, with triangular teeth on the margins. The flowers are pale sulphur yellow, with five heart-shaped petals and a bright yellow center. The flowering period is from May through July.

Sulphur cinquefoil reproduces mostly by seed. Although the seeds are only viable for approximately two years, one plant can produce up to 1600 seeds. Mature sulphur cinquefoil plants can live up to 20 years as new shoots emerge from the mother plant. Like many other invasive plants, the seeds can also be spread by wildlife, livestock, and machinery. Watch for this invader on your property.

Project Update from the High Plains Weed Management Association

Jered Eskam – Project Coordinator, High Plains Weed Management Association

North Platte River Invasive Species Control Project – The High Plains Weed Management Association has received another grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. With this grant, we will remove and control invasive species in the riparian areas of the North Platte River watershed and its tributaries. The current high water level in the Platte River will put some projects on hold. However, that will certainly not restrict Western Nebraska landowners from taking advantage of this control project. The High Plains Weed Management Association (consisting of eight Panhandle counties) has assumed responsibility for addressing landowner property concerns caused by the expansive growth of invasive species. Three main invasive species (Russian olive, saltcedar and phragmites) are targets for control.

Nine Mile Creek Rehabilitation Project – Nine Mile Creek, which is located in the eastern half of Scotts Bluff County, is classified as a class A cold-water stream. A large portion of the stream (approximately 13 miles) is considered trout habitat with natural reproduction of both rainbow and brown trout occurring. A new Environmental Trust grant has been awarded to High Plains Weed Management Association for habitat restoration of Nine Mile Creek. Many landowners participated in an earlier invasive species eradication project along Nine Mile Creek. This project involved removing Russian olive and saltcedar trees and spraying noxious weeds. The same landowners will be notified of the new grant so that they can



Invasion of Russian olive trees on Nine-Mile Creek

schedule an on-site inspection of their restoration needs.

It is the goal of this new grant to inspect as much of the Nine Mile Creek as possible. The next step is to control or possibly eradicate the noxious weed infestation within the riparian corridor. This control is intended to increase the diversity of native grasses and shrubs. The grant will provide cost-share funds to landowners to control

the noxious weeds found on their land. Riparian areas and pastures bordering the stream will be considered for this project.

The initial success of the earlier Nine Mile Creek project has exceeded all expectations. Surrounding states have expressed interest. Many areas have used this project as an example for their own endeavors. Evaluation of the earlier phase of the Nine Mile project has proven that follow-up

control is needed. For example, regrowth from Russian olive stumps is a continuing problem. Follow-up spraying of Russian olive sprouts has proven to be effective at eliminating re-growth.

It is important to the overall success of the Nine Mile Creek project that we continue with the control phase of the project. Not completing this phase could mean that the same efforts would have to be done again later. The successful completion of this project will result in achieving the desired outcome for many years to come.

Partners – The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. This year, the Nebraska Environmental Trust and the Nebraska Lottery have been in partnership for 19 years to make Nebraska a better place. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided grants to thousands of projects across the state to businesses and individuals that want to protect Nebraska's natural habitat and improve water quality or quantity. The Nebraska Environmental Trust works to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources for future generations. You may visit the Trust website at www.environmentaltrust.org for more information.

Looking for more landowners – High Plains Weed Management Association is looking for more landowners to partner with in their efforts to remove and eradicate the targeted invasive species. To assist in the educational process, we are using articles in *The Weed Watch*, local expos, and our web page. You may visit the High Plains website at www.hpwwa.org for information and updates.

PRIDE Moves Forward with Strategic Planning Effort

**Lora O'Rourke – US Forest Service
Kristi Paul – Sheridan County Weed Superintendent**

Simply put, strategic planning determines where an organization is going over the next year or several years and how it is going to get there. This involves reviewing the vision, mission statement, objectives, and finally writing an action plan. Action planning includes specifying responsibilities and timelines for each objective. It also includes methods to monitor and evaluate the plans of upcoming projects.

PRIDE has demonstrated success since its inception in 1997. But as with any organization, it is routinely common to review the organization's purpose. PRIDE, along with the 12 other Weed Management Areas (WMAs) in the state, is undergoing strategic planning. We will combine efforts with other WMAs to create a statewide strategic plan and become part of one complete statewide weed management team.

The strategic planning effort was started by Charles Brooks, chairman of the Nebraska Governor's Riparian Task Force. Its goal is to plan for the future of riparian

weed management along Nebraska's river systems. Once the strategic plan is complete, the Nebraska legislature and Nebraska Environmental Trust could determine the future funding that would ensure that Nebraska's rivers and streams are free of invasive plants. This would result in more efficient water flows throughout the state.

For our part in this effort, PRIDE is submitting a 5-year strategic plan of projects in our three counties. Our plan will include grant writing, project implementation, and project monitoring for each of

these projects.

PRIDE's mission statement reads, "PRIDE serves as a cornerstone to build and maintain partnerships between the many cooperators in invasive weed management and education." With this collaborative strategic planning effort, a more efficient and successful approach to invasive weed management and awareness is achieved. PRIDE's efforts to pool funds and resources from contributors will result in a compounding of investments and rewards.

Top Seven Reasons Why Weed Control Programs Don't Work

Eddie Funderburg - The Nobel Foundation

Number 7 – Spraying too early (You hit 'em where they ain't.)

Many times, landowners spray for weeds at a specific date on the calendar, May 1 for example. This works most of the time. However, what happens if the weather is not exactly average that year? If it's colder than average, the weeds may not have emerged when you spray. You can miss them all together by spraying too early. The solution to this is obvious – scout the fields and spray the weeds at the proper time based on stage of weed growth.

Number 6 – Misidentification of the weed (What was that sucker, anyway?)

All weeds are not created equal in their willingness to die from our herbicide programs. Try as you might, you're not going

to kill a grass or sedge with 2,4-D unless you set the container on top of it and leave it. Some tougher weeds are more susceptible to different products. Scout your fields and learn to identify the weeds. If you don't know what they are, ask your local weed superintendent for help with identification or control recommendations.

Number 5 – Bad environmental conditions (It's never too dry to spray.)

Nearly all weeds that are stressed by drought are simply trying to survive. They are not actively growing. Therefore, the herbicide may not be taken up by the plants, resulting in poor control. You must pay attention to soil moisture. But also pay attention to wind speed and direction to control off-target drift. Life is much simpler when you kill weeds on your property and avoid killing the neighbor's garden!

Number 4 – Sprayed at the wrong growth stage (I got to it when I could.)

Most weeds are best controlled when they are young and actively growing. When they get larger, it takes more herbicide to kill them and control is much more erratic. Read the herbicide label carefully to determine timings for specific weeds.

Number 3 – Used the wrong product (What's the cheapest thing you've got?)

Often the cheapest herbicide will do as well as anything else. This is true when the weeds fall into the easy-to-control category and when conditions are ideal for control. Some perennial plants require more specific (and of course expensive) products to get good control.

Number 2 – Didn't calibrate sprayer (I think a tankful covers somewhere between 10 and 50 acres.)

I don't think it's an exaggeration to say

the majority of landowners don't calibrate their sprayers. This is a practice that should be done every season. When you calibrate, you also inspect nozzles, screens, lines, pump, etc., to make sure everything is OK. Under-application or over-application are both costly and can be against the law according to the label.

Number 1 – Didn't read the label (There's a lot of really small type on that thing.)

Reading the label covers all the other points mentioned. The label contains safety considerations, product use, container disposal, and any other information about the product you need to know. Failure to follow label directions can not only lead to poor weed control but also be a violation of federal law. Following the directions is the best guarantee to get great weed control results.



About 180 area students attended the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resource District Conservation Festival in Chadron in April. Students were able to learn about using goats to control noxious weeds. Gretel the goat was popular with the students.



Alliance students learned about noxious weed prevention, spread, and control measures and had fun playing a musical "weed invasion" game.



PRIDE serves as a cornerstone to build and maintain partnerships between the many cooperators in invasive weed management and education. With this collaborative effort, a more efficient and successful approach to invasive weed management and awareness is achieved. PRIDE's efforts in pooling of funds and resources from contributors will result in a compounding of investments and rewards.

For more information or to get additional copies of *The Weed Watch*, contact Kristi Paul, Sheridan County Weed Superintendent, PO Box 449, Rushville, NE 69360. Phone 308-327-5629

An Ounce Is Greater Than a Pound

**Stephanie King – NRCS,
Rushville Field Office**

We all know the quote, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. These words are as true today as they were when Benjamin Franklin first stated them. They certainly apply when it comes to controlling noxious weeds.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been wildly successful and popular. CRP was authorized under the 1985 Food Security Act and reauthorized with each successive Farm Bill. The program retired over 35 million acres of highly erodible and environmentally sensitive farmland. At the same time, it created and enhanced wildlife habitat, reduced erosion, enhanced water quality, and reduced the damaging effects of flooding. However, one CRP issue has been debated for years – how to control both noxious and invasive weed infestations in both CRP grass stands and in shelterbelts.

CRP contracts are written with maintenance provisions. These specify that “Noxious weeds must be controlled according to State Noxious Weed Laws”. Under Nebraska law, it is the duty of each person who owns or controls land to effectively control noxious weeds on their land. County boards or control authorities are responsible for the administration of noxious weed laws at the county level. So how do we best deal with the problem if it occurs? This is the “ounce of prevention” factor.

When considering enrolling land into a contract for general CRP (grass seedings) or Continuous CRP (shelterbelts and so forth), it is important to review what the weed issues were when the area was cropland. If there are currently noxious/invasive weeds in the field, they need to be taken care of before the grass is seeded or the trees are planted. Purchase seed that is not only free of noxious weeds but free of all weeds. You may not know where the seed originated from, and weeds that are identified as noxious can differ from place to place. What is noxious in one county/state may not be considered noxious in another county/state.

In the case of CRP shelterbelts, good land preparation and site selection can help a great deal. The success of a shelterbelt can be dependent upon many variables, some of which can be controlled or influenced. Weed competition is one such vari-



A severe infestation of Canada thistle invades this CRP shelterbelt, making control measures difficult.

able. Good weed control begins with good site preparation. Eliminating weeds is much easier to accomplish before planting. Take the time to investigate the area where you need a shelterbelt. If it has noxious weeds, either relocate the shelterbelt or treat the area before you plant. Once trees are planted you are left with fewer alternatives to combat weed infestations.

In CRP shelterbelts and grass seedings, there are several methods of control available if you find yourself with a weed problem.

Mowing: This is a viable option depending on the weed species. CRP limits mowing to certain times of the year to avoid bird nesting and brood rearing. Perennial weeds reproduce by both seed and plant parts. Perennials should be mowed while in the early bud stage. This is the point in their lifecycle when carbohydrate movement from roots is at the highest level. Mowing at that time can reduce the viability of the plant and prevent seed production. However, relying on mowing alone rarely completely controls perennial weeds, especially with the timing restrictions specified by CRP.

Chemical Control: Herbicides can effectively control many weeds in CRP

acres and may be less expensive than mowing. The primary disadvantage to chemical application is that most herbicides used to control broadleaf weeds in CRP acres will also injure or kill trees in the shelterbelt and the desirable legumes in the seeding cover. If spot spraying is all that is needed, this will not be an issue. Herbicide selection should take into account the weed species, CRP cover species, application method, and presence of water. Herbicide effectiveness is maximized if it is applied mid-September through October. This is when carbohydrate movement to the roots is at its highest level.

Mowing and herbicide treatment can be used very effectively in combination – mowing in mid-summer followed with a fall herbicide application.

Biological Control: There are biological agents available for several of the noxious weed species. Although environmentally sound, these creepy crawlers can be expensive and may not have a sufficient population established to control weeds immediately. When using biological control agents, you should also incorporate chemical control around the perimeter of

the infestation area to help contain it. Once the agents are established, they will work 24/7. But you will need to have patience.

Noxious weed infestations in CRP acres come at a cost. Not only is this cost in the form of a monetary expense (fines for ignoring noxious weed infestations), but headaches as well (expense of ongoing weed control). This will affect the bottom line. In addition, the CRP plantings will not provide the benefits that the individual is trying to achieve.

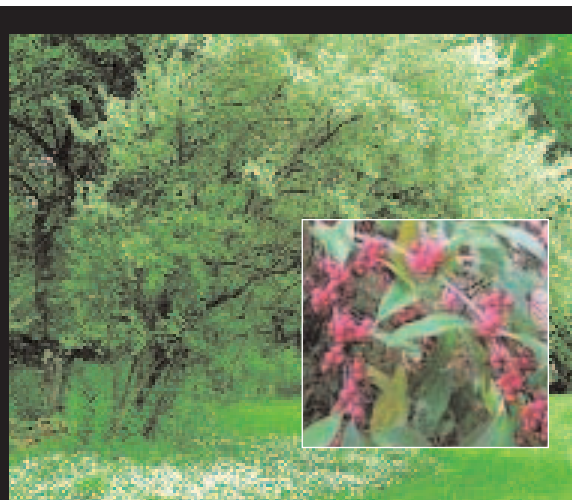
All weeds are not created equal. Many weeds are beneficial plants for our pollinator species. They also help the soil, provide diversity, and enhance wildlife habitat. A field with a variety of plant populations usually fulfills our wildlife's year-round needs. However, there is no room for noxious and invasive weeds in CRP ground or anywhere.

CRP can provide many opportunities today, but it does not come without its responsibilities. These responsibilities are easier to shoulder if we remember to implement the simple quote, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”.

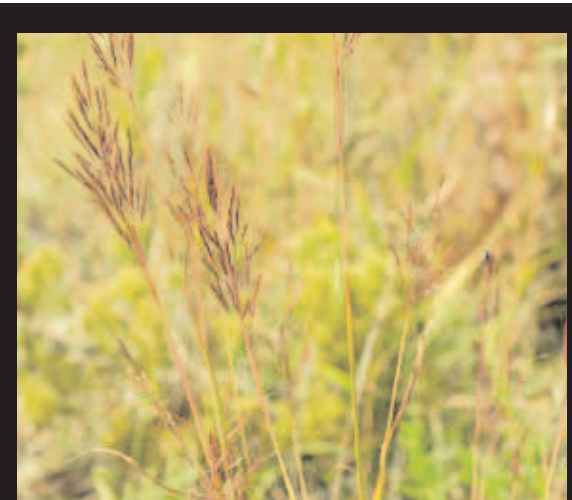
Weeds to Watch for on Your Property in Nebraska



Amur Honeysuckle



Autumn Olive



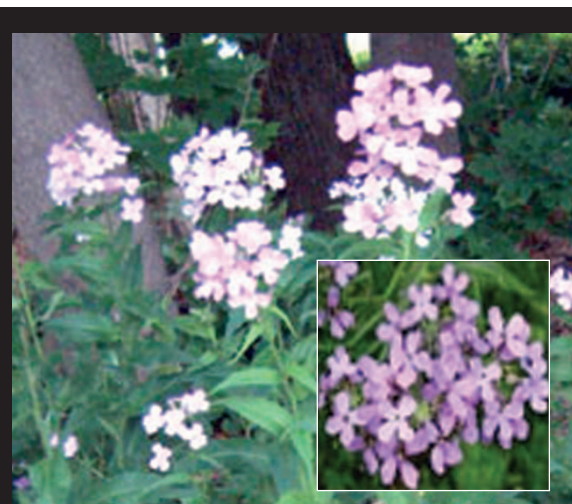
Caucasian Bluestem



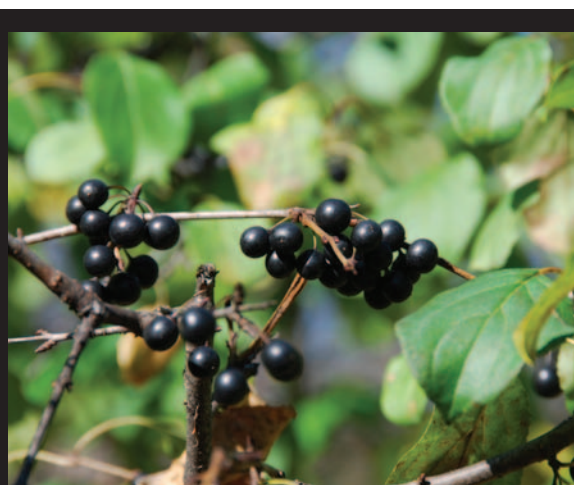
Crown Vetch



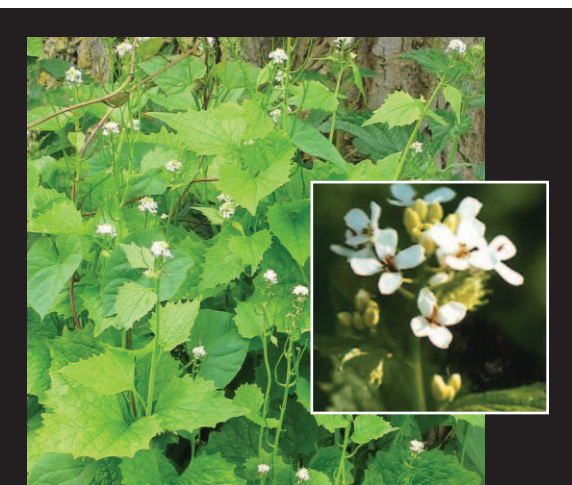
Dalmatian Toadflax



Damesrocket



European Buckthorn



Garlic Mustard



Hoary Cress



Hoary Allysum

Hairy Whitetop



Houndstongue



Multiflora Rose



Perennial Pepperweed



Russian Olive



Serecia lespedeza



St. Johnswort



Sulphur Cinquefoil

Nebraska's Watch List Weeds

The watch list includes weeds that are invasive or noxious in surrounding states. The goal of the watch list is to make landowners aware of possible invading weeds and encourage them to control the weeds when first found. The old adage “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” definitely applies to these plants. Control of these weeds is not required but recommended.

If you have any concerns or know of any infestations of watch list weeds, please contact your local weed control superintendent.

The Nebraska Noxious Weed Advisory Committee and the Nebraska Invasive Species Council are currently working to categorize priority plant lists for new invasive plants. The fall issue of *The Weed Watch* will address this new approach.

Knotweeds Added to Nebraska's Noxious Weed List

Jan Bruhn – Box Butte County Weed Superintendent

A weed may be designated as noxious when it is determined that it threatens the welfare of residents of Nebraska so much that a concentrated and sustained effort is needed to prevent serious economic loss. The Director of the Department of Agriculture in Nebraska has the responsibility to consider the impact and determine if and when a new weed should be added to the state's noxious weed list.

A plant has the potential to invade and spread rapidly when it (1) forms a large dense thicket 4 to 12 feet tall and possibly clogs small waterways, (2) spreads primarily by rhizomes that can be 30 feet long or more, (3) displaces native plants by its aggressive growth, and (4) grows in partial shade or sunny sites. Giant knotweed and Japanese knotweed both fit this description. In addition, knotweed cultivars and other hybrids, developed primarily for the ornamental market, are also considered noxious weeds.

All these knotweeds have been spreading across the continent. Recently, they have

been located in 42 states – including Nebraska. Only a few sites have been found in eastern Nebraska. However, with a rapid response to these smaller infestations, officials hope to prevent major infestations in Nebraska's riparian areas and streambeds.

Effective February 1, 2011, all potentially invasive giant knotweed, Japanese knotweed, and any knotweed cultivars and hybrids are considered noxious weeds in Nebraska. The order allows weed control professionals an opportunity to eradicate small infestations and stop the sale of the knotweed plants on the ornamental market. This action will help reduce the threat of major infestations across the state.

The addition of these knotweeds makes a total of 10 noxious weeds in our state. According to the Nebraska Noxious Weed Act, it is the duty of each person who owns or controls land to effectively control noxious weeds on such land.

For more information concerning Nebraska's noxious weeds, please call your local county noxious weed control superintendent.



Brent Meyer, Lancaster County Weed Superintendent, stands in an infestation of Japanese knotweed in Lancaster County.



Photo courtesy of Ron Moehring, South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Japanese knotweed and giant knotweed, including any cultivars and hybrids, were designated as noxious weeds in Nebraska on February 1, 2011, by Nebraska Director of Agriculture Greg Ibach.

Missouri River Watershed Coalition

Kristi Paul – Sheridan County Weed Superintendent

The Missouri River Watershed Coalition (MRWC) was formed in 2005. Its purpose is to maintain productive, diverse riparian ecosystems that provide quality water, habitat, recreation, and power to meet the economic and ecological needs of the Missouri River Watershed region. The coalition includes members from Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Wyoming. The Center for Invasive Plant Management at Montana State University operates the program. More information about MRWC can be found on website www.weedcenter.org. The website also has curriculum materials and information about noxious and invasive weeds, prevention, and control methods.



Noxious and invasive weeds affect everyone. So defend your favorite hunting area or fishing hole by taking time to learn about these weeds. Your kids and grandkids will thank you for preventing the spread of noxious and invasive weeds.

The education and outreach workgroup recently completed a Hunter Safety booklet. This will inform young hunters to be aware of surroundings and avoid spreading noxious weeds and seeds. Over 60,000 booklets will be given to all Hunter Safety students in the six-state region in the near future.

Another education and outreach project of the MRWC is a program on weed awareness and education to be shown on the Outdoor Sports channels. Wild Dakota has completed the first of eight segments. The first segment is available at www.facebook.com/#!/video/video.php?v=1747200727844&oid=110662892325522&comments. This program will air on Fox stations in parts of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Minnesota.



This Hunter Safety booklet for young hunters talks about the problems of spreading noxious weeds and seeds.

Weed-Free Forage

Jan Bruhn – Box Butte County Weed Superintendent

From longtime residents to folks just passing through, we all are affected by noxious and invasive weeds. We all benefit from stopping their spread. They invade roadsides, take over waterways, reduce pasture and field-carrying capacities, and erode the attractiveness of our landscapes.

Demand is growing for certified weed-free forage and mulch in neighboring states like Wyoming, South Dakota, and other western states (as well as Nebraska). National Parks and other federal and state properties are requiring certified products for restoration projects and for animals used for recreational trail riding. Many states have enacted laws concerning transporting and using forage products.

In Nebraska, the Weed-Free Forage Certification Program is voluntary. No one is forced to take part, but it is a win/win program for those who do. Nebraska's Weed Control Authorities offer an inspection program to producers of hay, forage, and mulching materials. This program has been in place for several years under standards established by the Nebraska Weed Control Association. Standards for the Weed-Free Forage Certification program in Nebraska adhere closely to standards set forth by the North American Weed Management Association.

Producers who take advantage of this program can be sure that their fields are clean of the fifty-four weeds listed by the North American Weed Management Association.



State and federal agencies require the use of weed-free forage for recreational and other activities.

In addition, users of certified weed-free forage from Nebraska can be assured the products are free of noxious weeds. Other states recognize certified weed-free forage from Nebraska only if it is done under the authority of the Nebraska Weed Control Association and carries its official marking or designation.

To qualify for certification as “weed-free forage” in Nebraska, a field must be inspected by a qualified county weed superintendent before it is cut or harvested. Producers should make plans now to have their fields and

hay fields included in inspections. Forage producers and users can check with local weed superintendents for information concerning certified weed-free forage.



When baling your hay, be careful not to bale any noxious or invasive weeds or seeds. Otherwise, when the hay is hauled away, farmers and ranchers risk spreading the weeds from field to field, landowner to landowner, county to county, or state to state. Learn more about Nebraska's Weed-Free Forage program at neweedfree.org. Choose to use weed-free forage and be part of a win-win program.

Frequently Asked Questions about Noxious Weed Control

Kristi Paul - Sheridan County Weed Superintendent

Where did all the noxious weeds come from in the first place?

Most of our noxious weeds came from Europe. Many were brought over in the ballast of ships. Some were brought on purpose as ornamentals. The problem is that the natural enemies were not brought along, and this gives the invaders the opportunity to crowd out native plants.

Why do I need to control my noxious weeds?

First of all, it's the law. It is the duty of every landowner to effectively control noxious weeds on his or her property. As a landowner, you will find out quickly that if you do not

control noxious weeds, they will reduce cropland yields, reduce livestock forage, and crowd out native vegetation.

Where can I find more information on weeds?

You can spend hours on the internet, looking for information about noxious and invasive weeds. Your local county weed superintendent can help with identification and control recommendations. The Google search site has information and photographs of all noxious weeds. So do other sites, such as www.neweed.org.

How should I control weeds along my creek?

Some herbicides, called aquatic herbicides, are meant for

use in areas like this. Learn to identify the weeds, control them at the proper time, and always read and follow the herbicide label.

I spray and spray...will I ever get rid of these weeds?

Timing and persistence are the two keys to winning the battle against noxious weeds. Be sure that the herbicide you choose is labeled for the weed or weeds you are trying to control. Use the proper amount of water, herbicide, and adjuvant to get the best results. Read and follow the herbicide label for the best application times, any personal protective equipment that may be necessary, and any other important information.

Weed Terminology

Annual: Annual plants complete their life cycles in one growing season (within one year).

Biennial: A biennial requires two growing seasons to complete its life cycle. In the first year it usually forms a rosette, and during the second year it produces a flower stalk, sets viable seed, and then dies.

Perennial: Perennial plants live for three or more years. Generally, perennials spread by seeds, as well as by roots or rhizomes. Because of the underground growth, perennial weeds are much more difficult to control.

Rosette: Cluster of leaves growing in a circle near the soil surface.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): involves the use of two or more control measures, such as prevention, biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical control.

Noxious weeds: Non-native weeds that compete with crops, rangeland, and pastures, reducing yields substantially. Some noxious weeds are directly poisonous or injurious to man, livestock, and wildlife. It is the duty of each person who owns or controls land in Nebraska to effectively control noxious weeds on such land.

Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP's): Herbicides with a Restricted Use label can be purchased only by a person with a Certified Applicator's License. They should be applied only by a certified applicator or under the close supervision of a certified applicator.

Watch List Weeds: These weeds have been found in Nebraska or are noxious and/or troublesome in bordering states. Control of these weeds is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged as they will only increase if not controlled.

KIDS OF ALL AGES PAGE

K N O T W E E D T S D E E W R
 S E B H A Z V B E L F S U O R U
 U L I I T B I E G E R T R R S
 M T O S E E S F R A Y R O D S
 P S C T R C A I A F R A P S I
 R I O L S K V R T Y A T E E A
 I H N E L N N T I S G E T T N
 D T T L L A I S S P R G U I O L
 E H R B I P I E T U E I C M L
 E C O A H W L S O R S C A G I
 L T L C D E H O O G S G R A V
 B O K R N E D O R E I R B R E
 A C P E A D C L L A V A E H J
 R S P E S T S T A E E Z D P S
 I N S E C T S E L R Y I E E N
 S H O V E L S N W A E N E R I
 E G A L L I T E S M S G W E A
 D L A U N N A T I Z A D D N L
 N A M R O N O I S O R E N N P
 U M O W O R G R A S S B I I H
 B I E N N I A L D E E S B A G
 E L T S I H T A D A N A C L I
 W E E D F R E E F O R A G E H

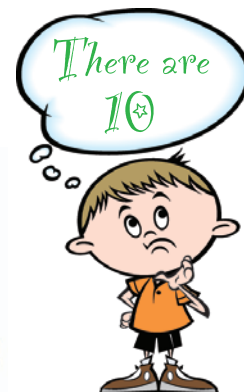
HIDDEN WORD FIND – Responsible landowners take pride in their management efforts to control weeds on private lands in order to protect our environment. Sometimes the greatest challenge is to identify noxious weeds before they spread and apply the best tools for each situation. Find the weeds hidden in the environment below, and use the proper tools and resources to prevent the spread of weeds to adjacent private and public lands.

Words are arranged horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards (left to right), backwards (right to left) and top to bottom or bottom to top.

Word List for Word Find

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| acre | invasive | Sandhills |
| annual | knapweed | Scotch thistle |
| biennial | knotweed | seed |
| bindweed | leafy spurge | shovels |
| biocontrol | loosestrife | strategic |
| Canada thistle | mow | target |
| erosion | musk | ten |
| Europe | perennial | thistle |
| goats | pests | tillage |
| grass | phragmites | undesirable |
| grazing | PRIDE | water |
| grow | roots | weed free forage |
| High Plains | Russian olive | weeds |
| insects | saltcedar | WMA |

Can you find the differences?



ANSWERS to differences:

1. Glasses are missing
2. Sideburns are missing
3. Boy's jacket is different
4. Trees are missing
5. Red bird is missing
6. Cloud instead of sun
7. Pink flower is missing
8. Lunch is missing
9. Blue bird
10. Bumble bee

County-Added Noxious Weeds

Kristi Paul, Sheridan County Weed Superintendent, and PRIDE board member

In addition to the ten weeds that have been declared noxious in Nebraska, every county has the option to petition the Director of the Department of Agriculture to place additional weeds on the “county added noxious weed” list. Many counties in Nebraska have county-added noxious weeds which landowners are required to control:



FIELD BINDWEED

Banner	Garden
Box Butte	Morrill
Cheyenne	ScottsBluff
Dawes	Sheridan
Deuel	



HOUNDSTONGUE

Dawes
Sheridan



SCOTCH THISTLE

Banner
Dawes
Morrill
Sheridan
Sioux



**GOOD
NEIGHBORS
CONTROL
NOXIOUS
WEEDS!**



WOOLLYLEAF BURSAGE

Banner

BULL THISTLE

Rock



PERENNIAL YELLOW BEDSTRAW

Cherry



Nebraska's Noxious Weeds



Canada Thistle



Diffuse and Spotted Knapweeds



Musk Thistle



Leafy Spurge



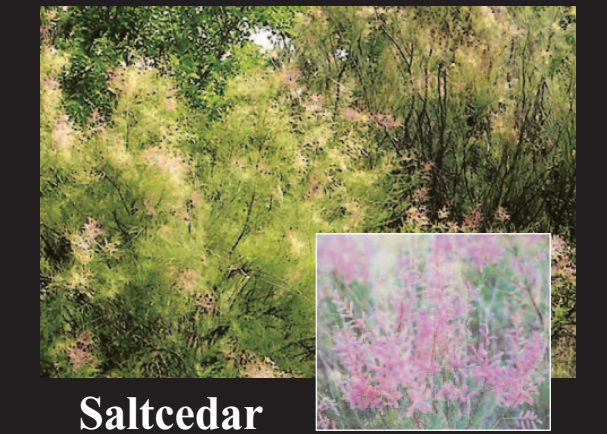
Phragmites



Plumeless Thistle



Purple Loosestrife



Saltcedar



Japanese and Giant Knotweed

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