

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Where is the Weed Control Authority located?**

The Superintendent's office is located at the Courthouse at 1111 13<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 7 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
The weed shop is at 310 A Street, Aurora, Nebraska.

### **What is a noxious weed?**

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.

### **Are there noxious weeds in Nebraska?**

Yes. The following 12 weeds have been officially designated as noxious in Nebraska:

|  |                       |                           |                          |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Musk Thistle</i>                    | <i>Canada Thistle</i> | <i>Leafy Spurge</i>       | <i>Plumeless Thistle</i> |
| <i>Spotted &amp; Diffuse Knapweeds</i> |                       | <i>Purple Loosestrife</i> | <i>Saltcedar</i>         |
| <i>Giant &amp; Japanese Knotweed</i>   |                       | <i>Sericea Lespedeza</i>  | <i>Phragmites</i>        |

### **Who is responsible for controlling noxious weeds?**

The Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act states that it is the duty of each person who owns or controls land to effectively control noxious weeds on such land.

### **Why do we need a noxious weed law?**

By declaring a weed noxious, various regulatory procedures may be implemented to control the weed and its spread. This is done when it is determined that a particular weed so seriously threatens the welfare of the residents of the state that a concentrated and sustained effort is needed to prevent serious economic loss.

### **Who pays for noxious weed control?**

The persons owning or controlling the land are responsible for the weed control work done on such land.

### **Can someone be forced to control noxious weeds?**

Failure to control noxious weeds on a piece of property is subject to a fine of up to \$1,500 or being billed for the weed control work done.

**Are there noxious weeds in Hamilton County?**

Yes, Musk Thistle, Canada Thistle, Plumeless Thistle, Leafy Spurge, Purple Loosestrife, Phragmites and Saltcedar all have been found in Hamilton County.

**What does the Hamilton County Weed Control office do?**

Employ a qualified person as its weed control superintendent.

Administer the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act at the county level.

Establish a coordinated program for control of noxious weeds within the county.

Have the superintendent examine all land in the county for the purpose of determining whether the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act and rules have been complied with.

Causing proper control methods to be used on noxious weed infested land when the landowner fails to control such noxious weeds.

**May employees of the Hamilton County Weed Control Authority enter upon private land without first getting permission from the landowner?**

Yes. Section 2-961 of the Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act authorizes entry onto private land for the purposes of inspecting or performing their duty, if reasonable care is exercised.

Hamilton County Weed Control realizes the success of noxious weed control is dependent upon the participation of all landowners, therefore desires to assist and work with the landowners in carrying out individual noxious weed control plans.

**Who do I call about noxious weeds or non-noxious weeds (tall weeds) in the county road ditches?**

Calls on noxious weeds or non-noxious weeds (tall weeds) in the county road ditches should be directed to Jeremy at the Hamilton County Weed Control at 402-604-0226.

**What are the control recommendations for the different noxious weeds?**

There are many acceptable control recommendations for the noxious weeds based upon where the weeds are growing and the stage of growth of the weeds. You may obtain recommendations for your particular situation by contacting Jeremy at the Hamilton County Weed Control.

**Are there acceptable biological controls for the noxious weeds?**

There are no known biological controls for noxious weeds that will provide complete control.

But they can be used as part of a long range noxious weed control program.

Hamilton County Weed Control is working extensively with natural enemies (insects) to help control purple loosestrife. Approved insects are released on purple loosestrife infestations and monitored for their successes. These insects will only forage on purple loosestrife. While the use of insects isn't the total answer, they are another tool to help in the battle.

**How can I tell if I have noxious weeds on my property, and what can I do about it?**

Contact your county weed control office, and the superintendent can identify each noxious weed. This office will assist you in any needed control measures that may be required.

**Are non-noxious weeds as detrimental to a pasture as noxious weeds?**

Even though there are not noxious weeds in the pasture, there are many other weeds that can spread and take over a pasture (**Vervain, bull thistle, common mullein, ironweed, field bindweed, ragweed, dock, and horseweed** to list a few), depriving the grass of much needed moisture. As landowners, our objective is to manage our pastures to raise as much grass as possible and in turn be able to run more animal units on that grass.