

will cost more. If a notice is issued on a property with an inaccessible (equipment) area and the contractor doesn't address it, DCNWC will do them by hand at a higher cost. So reduce the future cost by keeping these areas accessible.

- **What is the plan to manage and/or control present and future Noxious Weed Infestations?(minimum 5 year plan)**

Keeping Noxious Weed Infestations under control and at a reduced size has to be done through preventative measures rather than waiting for a notice from DCNWC. A good annual plan can reduce the amount you spend on weed control. Your plan should include who, what, and when for control.

Who would be the contractor that will be taking care of the land throughout the year? Set this up before the season starts.

What is the noxious weed(s) you're dealing with? Each plant needs to be dealt with differently according to their life cycle. The perennials, like Canada Thistle and Leafy Spurge, require more rigid control methods and timing. Purple Loosestrife and Saltcedar are wetland plants that require specialized control.

When is the proper time for spray applications and mowing applications? This may depend on the type of weed you are dealing with. The annual program for Musk thistles is a chemical application of a broadleaf herbicide in the mid to late spring (May to June), mowing any missed or annual plants throughout the summer, and another

herbicide application in the fall around the first frost (October).

Remember though – Douglas County Zoning Regulations require subdivided properties to maintain weed heights to under 24 inches tall. DCNWC administers this program in all subdivisions outside of the corporate city and village limits of Douglas County (including inside of the City of Omaha's 3 mile limit).

- **Contacts - Landowner, Maintenance, SID**

Please list all people or places of business that will be the initial contacts for the development and those in charge of maintenance.

NEBRASKA'S NOXIOUS WEEDS

Musk Thistle Plumeless Thistle
Canada Thistle Leafy Spurge
Purple Loosestrife Saltcedar
Spotted and Diffuse Knapweeds

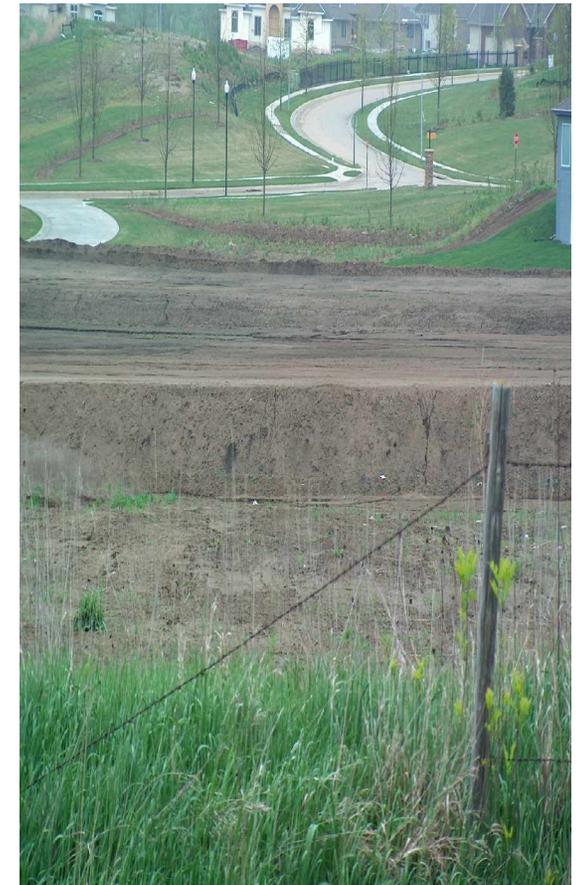
For more information on Noxious Weeds:

www.co.douglas.ne.us
www.neweed.org

If you have any questions about forming your plan, please contact the Douglas County Noxious Weed Control Authority at (402) 444-4583 or by email bellis@co.douglas.ne.us

**DOUGLAS COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED
CONTROL AUTHORITY**
3015 MENKE CIRCLE * OMAHA, NE 68134

Noxious Weed Control Plans for New Subdivisions



WHY DO WE NEED A PLAN FOR NOXIOUS WEEDS?

Nebraska Statute (2-945) states that *“it is the duty of each person who owns or controls land to effectively control noxious weeds on such land.”* This means that property owners are responsible for the control, suppression, propagation, or the development of Noxious Weeds and to prevent Noxious Weed from spreading onto adjoining or other properties.

Many new subdivisions begin by clearing land of viable vegetation or are left unattended for long periods of time. If land is left unmanaged and without a good cover crop, weeds can flourish due to the lack of competition and seeds can germinate easier. When noxious weeds are allowed to establish, they cause bigger problems in the future years. One season of unmanaged noxious weeds can cause problems for owners for many years (Ex. Musk Thistle seeds remain viable for up to 6 years).

A good, managed cover crop can prevent establishment of Noxious and other types of weeds, preventing future weed problems for the owner and future owner(s). Some of the cover crops on large parcels can be harvested into hay or other forage for animals.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR A NOXIOUS WEED PLAN

These are items that you will want to include in your plan. If you have any other information you would like to include, please do so.

- **Noxious Weed Infestations (Present or Past)**

DCNWC can let you know if there are any past infestations of one of the eight noxious weeds on the property to be develop.



Note: If Leafy Spurge and/or Canada Thistle are present all dirt and soil contaminated must stay on property.

If these plants exist, it is imperative that contaminated soils do not leave the site. These plants will grow by plant parts and are very difficult to control. Possibility of the work being stopped through a quarantine process can happen.

- **Has the Land been disturbed or will it be graded?**

Disturbing the land is the best way to create areas for noxious weeds to infest. Many of

them quickly spread into these areas and establish themselves.

- **If so, what is the plan to plant a cover crop (grass, alfalfa, etc.)? What is the plan to manage it?**

Once the land is graded, it is wise to plant a competitive cover crop on the property to keep noxious and other weeds from becoming established. This approach would be an excellent means of preventing future problems. Once the cover crop is planted, it will need maintenance to remain competitive and attractive to neighbors. Noxious weeds, once established, can out compete some cover crops because of void areas and crops spread too thin from lack of maintenance. You may also be able to realize revenue from the harvest of your cover crop (as long as its clean of certain weeds). The NRCS is an excellent source to find out what cover crop will work best for your development.

- **What are the plans for managing areas difficult for equipment? (ie. Steep hills, ditches, mounds)**

Many of the new developments that we are seeing have problem areas that can be avoided by making areas accessible to equipment. Mounds, ditches, steep hills, drainage ways, etc. make it difficult for contractors to maintain these areas because they are inaccessible to their equipment. Because of lack of maintenance, these areas are perfect for noxious weed infestations. These areas still must be maintained, but it