



Nebraska Invasive Species Council
Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species List* – Updated 10/20/2025

***DISCLAIMER:**

As opposed to aquatic invasive species and noxious weeds, **there is no official list of Nebraska's invasive terrestrial (land-dwelling) plant species created by a regulatory agency in the state. This list is unofficial; it is not for regulatory purposes.**

Instead, this list is intended to serve three purposes:

1. To evaluate a plant species for horticultural, agricultural, or ecological projects. A species on this list may warrant further research before being planted or used.
2. To be used as a resource for landowners and land managers who find one of these plant species on their land and want more information.
3. To encourage the public to report sightings of some of these plant species, which can be shared with regulatory agencies and other organizations to help prevent the plant's spread and/or establishment in Nebraska and/or to help determine possible management strategies.

Species on this list may be included for a variety of reasons. Those include:

- The plant species shows common characteristics identified as invasive in published scientific literature.
- The plant species is designated as invasive by a regulatory agency and/or authority in a nearby state.
- The plant species is spreading rapidly, causing environmental or agricultural damage, and/or acting problematically as determined through credible reports from land managers, landowners, researchers, and/or scientists in Nebraska.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are plants, animals, or other organisms that live in water or on land that are found in an area that they are not from. They can be from an area very far away (non-native), such as another continent, country, or state, or from an area close by (native), such as another county, city, or neighboring habitat.

Invasive species are usually brought to the new area by someone or something, either accidentally or on purpose. Once introduced to a new environment, they spread so quickly that they harm other wildlife by using up their resources, such as food, water, and habitat, that they need to survive. Since they are new to the area, they don't often have natural predators, which allows them to spread at alarming rates.

There are two types of invasive species in Nebraska: terrestrial (land-dwelling) and aquatic (water-dwelling).

TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE PLANTS

Terrestrial invasive plants include exotic, non-native, or new to the area plants that are land-dwelling, meaning they grow in non-aquatic habitats, including agricultural fields, rangelands, forests, urban landscapes, wildlands, and along waterways.

Terrestrial invasive plants include trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and herbaceous plants. They pose a significant threat to Nebraska's land-focused resources, supplies, or infrastructure.

With no natural enemies to keep their population in check and their ability to outcompete Nebraska's native species for food and other resources, terrestrial invasive plants can become widespread across a landscape quickly.

SPECIES CATEGORIES

For non-noxious weeds, the Nebraska Invasive Species Council created four categories for terrestrial invasive plants that are found in Nebraska. Those categories are as follows:

1. **Potential:** invasive species that have not yet been sampled in Nebraska and are considered a high threat.
2. **Priority:** invasive species that are currently present in Nebraska but with limited distribution. They are considered highly unwanted species and all efforts should be made to prevent the expansion of their populations.
3. **Established:** invasive species that are well established in Nebraska and total elimination is impossible. Local removal and control is the best that can be expected.
4. **Noxious:** invasive species that are listed as noxious at the federal, state, or county level. Species listed at the federal level are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service via the [Federal Noxious Weed Act](#). Species listed at the state and county level are regulated by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture via the [Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act](#).
5. **Problematic Native:** native species that can exhibit negative invasive characteristics due to environmental changes or human activity, potentially causing harm to the environment, economy, or human well-being.

POTENTIAL TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES

Potential terrestrial invasive species are invasive species that have not yet been sampled in Nebraska and are considered a high threat. Those species include:

Common Name	Species Name
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
Ventenata	<i>Ventenata dubia</i>

PRIORITY TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES

Priority terrestrial invasive species are invasive species that are currently present in Nebraska but with limited distribution. They are considered highly unwanted species and all efforts should be made to prevent the expansion of their populations. Those species include:

Common Name	Species Name
Absinth Wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>
Caucasian Bluestem	<i>Bothriochloa bladhii</i>
Cogongrass (Federal Noxious Weed)	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>
Common Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
Dalmatian Toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>
Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i>
Meadow Knapweed	<i>Centaurea X moncktonii</i>
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Perennial Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>

PRIORITY TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES – *Continued*

Common Name	Species Name
Ripgut Brome	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>
Russian Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>
Sickleweed	<i>Falcaria vulgaris</i>
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
Yellow Bluestem	<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i>
Yellow Flag Iris (Lincoln County Noxious Weed)	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Yellow Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>

ESTABLISHED TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES

Established terrestrial invasive species are invasive species that are well established in Nebraska and total elimination is impossible. Local removal and control is the best that can be expected. Those species include:

Common Name	Species Name
Amur Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>
Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>
Creeping Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus arundinaceus</i>
Crested Wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum and hybrids</i>
Crownvetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>
Downy Brome	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>
European Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>

Field Garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Goatsrue (Federal Noxious Weed)	<i>Galega officinalis</i>
Hairy Vetch	<i>Vicia villosa</i>
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>
Intermediate Wheatgrass	<i>Thinopyrum intermedium</i>
Japanese Brome	<i>Bromus japonicus</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Japanese Hops	<i>Humulus japonicas</i>

ESTABLISHED TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES – *Continued*

Common Name	Species Name
Kentucky Bluegrass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Morrow's Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Osage Orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Palmer Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>
Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Quackgrass	<i>Elymus repens</i>
Queen Anne's Lace/Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Saint John'swort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Saltlover	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>
Smooth Brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>
Sulphur Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
Sweet Autumn Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis terniflora</i>
Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>
Tall Wheatgrass	<i>Thinopyrum ponticum</i>
Tatarian Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>
Tree-of-Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>
Yellow Starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>

NOXIOUS TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES

Noxious terrestrial invasive species are invasive species that are listed as noxious at the federal, state, or county level. Species listed at the federal level are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service via the [Federal Noxious Weed Act](#). Species listed at the state and county level are regulated by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture via the [Nebraska Noxious Weed Control Act](#). Those species include:

NOXIOUS TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES – Continued

Common Name	Species Name
Bull Thistle (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Common Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Common Teasel (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Cutleaf Teasel (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>
Diffuse Knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>
Giant Knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>
Houndstongue (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>
Leafy Spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>
Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Plumeless Thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>
Scotch Thistle (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
Sericea Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>
Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe/ maculosa</i>
Woolyleaf Bursage (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Ambrosia grayi</i>
Yellow Bedstraw (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Galium verum</i>

PROBLEMATIC NATIVE TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

Problematic native terrestrial species are native species that can exhibit negative invasive characteristics due to environmental changes or human activity, potentially causing harm to the environment, economy, or human well-being.

These species may or may not exhibit aggressive, invasive-like characteristics; each situation varies based on living and non-living environmental conditions. Removal and control may be needed if the species is causing negative effects on the environment.

Additional research and education is encouraged to determine appropriate next steps for each individual situation.

PROBLEMATIC NATIVE TERRESTRIAL SPECIES - *Continued*

Common Name	Species Name
Eastern Redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Roughleaf dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>
Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>