



Nebraska Invasive Species Council
Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species List* – Updated 10/28/2025

***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 reasons may 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 government authority in a nearby state
- The plant species is spreading rapidly, causing environmental and/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 are found in an area where they do not naturally exist, and their introduction to that area does or is likely to harm the environment, economy, or human health. They may 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, through trade, travel, recreation, e-commerce, land/resource use change, or unwanted/accidental pet release. Once introduced to a new environment, they spread quickly and aggressively, harming 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 often don't have natural predators, which allows their population to expand at alarming rates.

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

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

Common characteristics of invasive species include fast growth, rapid reproduction, aggressive spread, difficult to control and/or eliminate, and high tolerance of varying environmental conditions, such as changing weather patterns.

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, causing or presenting the risk of 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>
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 are 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>

Common Name	Species Name
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>
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 gigantean</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:

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, causing or presenting the risk of causing harm to the environment, economy, or human well-being.

These species may or may not exhibit aggressive, invasive-like characteristics depending on the habitat they are found in; each situation varies and is dependent on living and/or once-living components of an ecosystem, such as plants, fungi, animals, and bacteria, and non-living, physical, and chemical components of an ecosystem, such as sunlight,

temperature, water, air, and soil. Removal and control of these species may be needed. Additional research and education are encouraged to determine appropriate next steps for each individual situation. Those species include:

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

COMPLETE TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES LIST

#	Common Name	Species Name	Category
1	Absinth Wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Priority
2	Amur Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Established
3	Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Established
4	Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Established
5	Bull Thistle (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Noxious
6	Callery Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Established
7	Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Noxious
8	Caucasian Bluestem	<i>Bothriochloa bladhii</i>	Priority
9	Cogongrass (Federal Noxious Weed)	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Priority
10	Common Mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Noxious
11	Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Noxious
12	Common Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Priority
13	Common Teasel (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Noxious
14	Creeping Foxtail	<i>Alopecurus arundinaceus</i>	Established
15	Crested Wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum and hybrids</i>	Established
16	Crownvetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>	Established
17	Cutleaf Teasel (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Noxious
18	Dalmatian Toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Priority
19	Diffuse Knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Noxious
20	Downy Brome	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Established
21	Eastern Redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Problematic Native
22	European Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Established
23	Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Established
24	Field Garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>	Established
25	Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Established

#	Common Name	Species Name	Category
26	Giant Knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Noxious
27	Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Potential
28	Goatsrue (Federal Noxious Weed)	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Established
29	Hairy Vetch	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Established
30	Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Priority
31	Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Established
32	Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Problematic Native
33	Houndstongue (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Noxious
34	Intermediate Wheatgrass	<i>Thinopyrum intermedium</i>	Established
35	Japanese Brome	<i>Bromus japonicus</i>	Established
36	Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Established
37	Japanese Hops	<i>Humulus japonicas</i>	Established
38	Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Noxious
39	Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Priority
40	Kentucky Bluegrass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Established
41	Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i>	Priority
42	Leafy Spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Noxious
43	Meadow Knapweed	<i>Centaurea X moncktonii</i>	Priority
44	Medusahead	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	Potential
45	Morrow's Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Established
46	Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Established
47	Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Noxious
48	Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Priority
49	Osage Orange	<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	Established
50	Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Established
51	Palmer Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>	Established
52	Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Established
53	Perennial Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Priority
54	Plumeless Thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Noxious
55	Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Established
56	Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Noxious
57	Quackgrass	<i>Elymus repens</i>	Established
58	Queen Anne's Lace/Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Established
59	Redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantean</i>	Established
60	Ripgut Brome	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Priority
61	Roughleaf dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Problematic Native
62	Russian Knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Priority
63	Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Established
64	Saint John'swort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Established
65	Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Noxious

NISC Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species List

#	Common Name	Species Name	Category
66	Saltlover	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>	Established
67	Scotch Thistle (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Noxious
68	Scouring Rush	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Problematic Native
69	Sericea Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Noxious
70	Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Established
71	Sickleweed	<i>Falcaria vulgaris</i>	Priority
72	Smooth Brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Established
73	Smooth Sumac	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Problematic Native
74	Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe/ maculosa</i>	Noxious
75	Sulphur Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Established
76	Sweet Autumn Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis terniflora</i>	Established
77	Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Established
78	Tall Wheatgrass	<i>Thinopyrum ponticum</i>	Established
79	Tatarian Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Established
80	Tree-of-Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Established
81	Ventenata	<i>Ventenata dubia</i>	Potential
82	White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	Established
83	Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Priority
84	Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	Problematic Native
85	Woodyleaf Bursage (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Ambrosia grayi</i>	Noxious
86	Yellow Bedstraw (County Noxious Weed)	<i>Galium verum</i>	Noxious
87	Yellow Bluestem	<i>Bothriochloa ischaemum</i>	Priority
88	Yellow Flag Iris (Lincoln County Noxious Weed)	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Priority
89	Yellow Starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Established
90	Yellow Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Priority

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