

The Weed Watch

A Publication of Nebraska Weed Management Coalition (NEWMAC) which includes the Weed Management Areas of Lower Platte, Middle Niobrara Weed Awareness Group (MNWAG), Northeast, Platte Valley, Panhandle, Sandhills, Southwest and Twin Valley.

FALL 2026

Emergency Hay of Unknown Origin

By Trevor Johnson

The best practice to prevent the introduction of noxious and invasive weeds through hay is to purchase and feed certified weed-free hay. Certified weed-free hay is forage that has been inspected and certified to be free from noxious weed seeds and plant parts. You can find more information about certified weed-free hay in Nebraska

at www.neweedfree.org. However, in times of emergency or when hay is in short supply, certified weed-free hay is not always available. In those situations, hay could be shipped in from distant locations and may harbor invasive or noxious weed seeds. If you purchase, receive, or feed hay of unknown origin, it is important to follow a few best management practices:

■ *When possible, try to determine the origin of the hay and investigate which invasive species are found in that area. That may indicate which potential invaders to lookout for.*

■ *Try to secure in-state hay when possible. It is less likely to introduce new invasive species to an area, but it is not always available in an emergency.*

■ *Monitor hay donation sites and storage locations in subsequent years to look for plants that may be out of place.*

■ *Feed in limited areas. This makes it easier to monitor the locations in subsequent years for potential invasive plant introductions.*

■ *Keep in mind that equipment can harbor invasive species as well. Inspect equipment for seeds and plant parts. Monitor transportation routes for hay and nonlocal equipment, including parking locations.*

■ *If monitoring turns up unfamiliar plant species, including grass species, reach out to UNL Extension (epd.unl.edu) or your county weed superintendent (neweed.org) for identification and control information. Wildfires and other emergencies create innumerable challenges for producers and residents in Nebraska. In the short term, invasive plant species introductions are understandably not top of mind. However, a little attention now could avoid serious headaches in the future.*

Photo by Tim Conover, Custer County Weed Supt.

Wildfires and Invasive Plants

By Gary Stone

Nebraska Extension Water and Cropping Systems Educator
Panhandle Research, Extension, and Education Center
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Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) is a concept to identify potentially invasive species prior to or just as the establishment of the invasive is taking place. An Integrated Pest Management plan (IPM) can be developed to manage, contain and potentially eradicate the invasive species before it can spread further. This will help to avoid costly, long-term control efforts.

The devastation the wildfires across Nebraska has caused this past year is unimaginable. Communities and people's lives have changed forever. The estimated total acres burned to date in Nebraska by the wildfires in 2026 is 981,502, with the Morrill fire (Fig. 1) in the Sandhills estimated at 642,029 acres. Though not the highest priority, one item that should be addressed in the near future is the chance that invasive plants may show up in areas that have never had them before.

Landowners and managers should be aware of this potential problem and be ready to act should the situation arise. Invasive plants move in the environment by several ways, including equipment, wind, water, wildlife, livestock, and forage stocks. With the extensive wildfires that have taken place, it is very possible that seed and plant parts from these plants have moved considerable distances to new areas in the pastures, farm ground and riparian sites. The forages generously shared by producers from other states could also contain other invasive plants not seen in these areas. Producers utilizing these forages should monitor the areas where they were fed for new plant species.

In addition to the Nebraska Noxious Weed list and the county-added noxious weeds, of particular concern for the Sandhills and grasslands are two devastating invasive winter annual grasses, Medusahead (Fig. 3) [*Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (L.) Nevski] and Ventenata (Fig. 2 and 4) [*Ventenata dubia* (Leers) Coss.]. Both non-native invasive grasses pose significant ecological and fire threats. These invasive grasses contain a high silica content making them less desirable as a forage. Heavy infestations reduce native forage production, form monocultures, can potentially decrease land value, and decrease biodiversity. Control of these two species is similar

to that of Cheatgrass. Other invasive plants to watch for are Bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*), Dalmatian toadflax [*Linaria dalmatica* (L.)], Sulphur Cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta* L.), and Viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare* L.).

MANAGEMENT

Prevention is the best and cheapest management option. Scout and monitor your land for any new plants. If you cannot identify the plants, contact your local Nebraska Extension Educator or local Nebraska Weed Control Authority for assistance.

It is best to detect and control these plants during the early stages of infestation. Do not let them become established long-term, as control and maintenance of these plants will become more costly and time-consuming. Managing these plants early and preventing seed production is the key to keeping these plants from spreading. Several management options (IPM) may be required.

MOWING

Mowing can be done but will need to be repeated for the regrowth as it does not kill the plants. Mowing plants with visible seed heads will not prevent seed production.

CHEMICAL TREATMENT OPTIONS

Chemical treatment options are available to manage these invasive plants. Products containing aminopyralid, clopyralid, chlorsulfuron, dicamba, metsulfuron methyl, picloram (Restricted Use), triclopyr, glyphosate (non-selective), and 2,4-D have been shown to work for broadleaf invasives. Indaziflam, imazapic, and rimsulfuron work well on annual grass species but become less effective as you move later in the season, with fall treatments offering the best control. Application timing is critical for efficient efficacy. Use of these products may have adverse effect on native plant species. Be sure to read and understand the product label about these concerns. Consult the product manufacturing representatives if you have questions. Tank mixes of several of these compounds may provide better control. Adding a non-ionic surfactant to the herbicide mix will aid in control; however, retreatment may be necessary. Continue monitoring the sites for any missed plants or regrowth.

Be sure to select a product labeled for the site and the plant you want to manage. Read, understand and follow all label instructions when using any pesticide.



Morrill fire in the Sandhills of Nebraska
by Gary Stone/Nebraska Extension.



Medusahead
[*Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (L.) Nevski]



Ventenata [*Ventenata dubia* (Leers) Coss.]
Gary Stone / Nebraska Extension



Ventenata [*Ventenata dubia* (Leers) Coss.]
Gary Stone / Nebraska Extension

LOWER PLATTE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

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Keya Paha - Kurtis Mizner - 402-382-8173
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U.S. Supreme Court Rules for Monsanto in Glyphosate Case

By Greg Puckett and Josh Villazana,
Nebraska Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that federal pesticide labeling requirements under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) preempt certain state-law failure-to-warn claims. This article summarizes the court's decision and explains its relationship to federal pesticide labeling requirements.

On June 25, the Supreme Court ruled, 7-2, that FIFRA expressly preempts a Missouri man's claim in state court that Monsanto failed to warn him that his use of the company's Roundup® products could cause him to develop cancer. The case is *Monsanto v. Durnell*.

John Durnell sued Monsanto (now owned by Bayer) in Missouri state court in 2019. He claimed:

- He used Roundup® products containing the active ingredient glyphosate for two decades and that this caused him to develop non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of blood cancer.
- Monsanto failed to warn him that the use of Roundup® products could cause cancer because the company did not put a cancer warning on its product labels.

Based on a state failure-to-warn law, a Missouri jury found in Mr. Durnell's favor, ordering Monsanto to pay him \$1.25 million. Monsanto appealed the verdict, which was affirmed by the Missouri Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court then agreed to hear the case.

The issue presented to the high court was not whether glyphosate caused Mr. Durnell's cancer. Rather, the court examined whether FIFRA allows states to require pesticide label language that exceeds or is different than that required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the federal level, and whether state juries can therefore hold pesticide registrants liable for a failure to warn users about health risks that the EPA has assessed do not exist.

The court's majority concluded that, under FIFRA, states may **not** require pesticide labels to include language that exceeds or is different than the label language required by EPA.

Pesticide label language is highly regulated by the EPA under FIFRA. Product registrants must include every word on their product labels that EPA requires of them. Likewise, they cannot **add** any language to their product labels that has not been approved by EPA. Effectively, the court ruled, the Missouri jury faulted Monsanto for not adding a cancer warning statement to its product labels which the company was forbidden to add under federal law.

Thousands of plaintiffs have filed lawsuits against Monsanto/Bayer with claims similar to Mr. Durnell's. The Supreme Court's ruling in *Monsanto v. Durnell* is likely to end those lawsuits.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

The EPA is the federal agency responsible for administering FIFRA. Before registering a pesticide active ingredient—and products containing it—for the marketplace, EPA conducts rigorous reviews of its risks to humans and the environment. By law, EPA must reevaluate pesticide active ingredients every 15 years after initial registration.

The EPA has repeatedly found that glyphosate is not likely to be a human carcinogen. Other international pesticide regulators, such as the European Food Safety Authority, the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency, and the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority, have reached the same conclusion as EPA.

EPA's risk assessments directly inform the directions for use and safety requirements that registrants must place on their pesticide product labels. For example, most pesticide labels require users to wear protective clothing and equipment to minimize their exposure to the product. By law, users of a pesticide product must follow its label directions. In this way, society can reap the benefits pesticides provide while mitigating the risks they pose.

For additional legal background, including the court's reasoning, dissenting opinions, and the decision's potential future implications, read the National Agricultural Law Center's summary of the decision:

<https://nationalaglawcenter.org/supreme-court-rules-fifra-preempts-failure-to-warn/>.

If you would like to learn more about pesticide labels, please visit <https://extensionpubs.unl.edu> and search for NebGuide G1955, Understanding the Pesticide Label, or contact Nebraska Extension's Pesticide Safety Education Program.

RESOURCES

Monsanto v. Durnell, 609 U.S. ____ (2026). Retrieved July 2, 2026, from <https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/slipopinion/25>.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2026, May 5). Glyphosate. Retrieved July 2, 2026, from]

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Rollins, B. (2026, May 20). Failure to warn? A look at recent state and federal action on pesticide labeling [webinar]. The National Agricultural Law Center.

<https://nationalaglawcenter.org/webinars/pesticide-labeling/>.

Disclaimer: This article is provided for general informational purposes only, and the information it contains does not reflect the opinions of Nebraska Extension or its employees. If you need legal advice, you should consult a licensed attorney.

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Dixon - Mike Elton - 402-635-2129

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Pierce - Steve Gathman - 402-992-8956
Wayne - Doug Deck - 402-565-4458

PHOTO CREDITS

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Bedstraw Kristi Paul, Common Mullein, K George Beck & James Sebastian, CSU; Page 12. Canada Thistle, Rob Routhedge, Sault College, Bugwood.org; Musk Thistle, L.L. Berry, Bugwood.org; Leafy Spurge, Chris

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Photos provided by Corteva Agriscience

SPECIES SPECIFICS: Palmer amaranth

By Abe Smith, Corteva Agriscience

FAST FACTS

An extraordinary seed producing, summer annual, in the pigweed family that typically produces more than 500,000 seeds per plant – up to double that under ideal conditions

Over 30 U.S. states face Palmer amaranth populations that are resistant to certain types of herbicides. Palmer amaranth is high in nitrates and can be toxic to cattle when consumed in high doses.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) is a fast-growing warm-season annual in the pigweed family that is an extraordinary seed producer capable of developing populations that are herbicide resistant. A common foe for row crop farmers, Palmer amaranth can be a bane to cattle producers managing grazing or haying systems, too.

An easy identifier of Palmer amaranth is its poinsettia-like rosette leaf arrangement when viewed from above. A central stem grows with lateral toothed leaves alternating up the stalk. The stem will grow 2 to 3 inches a day during peak growing season until reaching 3 feet tall; however, in populations that are herbicide-resistant, plants can exceed 6 feet in height and double their seed production.

An easy identifier of young Palmer amaranth plants is by a poinsettia-like leaf arrangement when viewed from above.

Female plants can be identified by green, spiny, thorn-like bracts, which are normally located at the base of the petiole and measure up to one-fourth inch in length. Comparatively, males are distinguished by their long, drooping flowering structures. White or whitish-green flowers on male and female plants usually cluster in cylindrical spikes that can reach up to up to 3 feet in length off the plant's central stem. As a dioecious plant that has male and female flowers growing on

different plants, Palmer amaranth can rapidly diversify its genetics and develop traits to help populations thrive, including herbicide resistance after repeated treatments of the same chemical.

The plant produces fruit from the flowers which separates at the top – typically in late summer through the first killing frost – exposing 500,000 or more black to dark purple one-half-inch diameter seeds. Germination from seeds typically occurs in warmer seasons when temperatures near the soil surface reach at least 60°F – generally in May or June – however, some parts of the country have seen germination occur as cold as 41°F.

The seeds spread in many ways and, with their hard coating, can remain viable through a variety of environments. Common sources of spread via farm activities include farm equipment and vehicles, contaminated seed and contaminated livestock feed such as cottonseed meal or hay, with up to 30% of the seeds surviving ruminant digestion.

Palmer amaranth is high in nitrates and can be toxic to cattle when consumed in high doses; however, cattle will generally avoid the plant for other favorable forages when available.

WHERE IT IS FOUND

Native to southwestern regions of the United States, Palmer amaranth has migrated throughout much of the contiguous United States and most recently has begun to establish populations into northern non-native climates, including Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Save for some isolated cases, Palmer amaranth has not yet established in the Pacific Northwest or the upper Northeast.

Due to its aggressive nature, resistance to some herbicides and toxicity to livestock, Palmer amaranth appears on numerous state and county noxious weed lists throughout the Midwest, with more than 30 states facing populations of herbicide-resistant Palmer amaranth.

HOW TO TREAT IT

Because Palmer amaranth seed can remain viable for up to five years, maintaining a robust population of native grasses and legumes, in addition to a rotation of chemical treatments, is an effective tactic in controlling infestations and slowing the establishment of new populations.

The best time to treat Palmer amaranth with an herbicide is in the early vegetative stages, typically occurring in May to early June. Treat with DuraCor® herbicide at 16 to 20 fluid ounces per acre with MSO at 1% volume/volume, GrazonPD3™ herbicide at 20 fluid ounces per acre or Chaparral™ herbicide at 2.25 fluid ounces per acre with MSO at 1% volume/volume.

GrazonPD3™ is a Restricted Use Pesticide. GrazonPD3 is not registered for sale or use in all states. Contact your state pesticide regulatory agency to determine if a product is registered for sale or use in your state. GrazonPD3 is not for sale, distribution or use in Nassau and Suffolk Counties in New York State. Under normal field conditions DuraCor® is non-volatile. DuraCor has no grazing or haying restrictions for any class of livestock, including lactating dairy cows, horses (including lactating mares) and meat animals prior to slaughter. Label precautions apply to forage treated with DuraCor to manure and urine from animals that have consumed treated forage. DuraCor is not registered for sale or use in all states. Chaparral™ has no grazing or haying restrictions for any class of livestock, including lactating dairy cows, horses (including lactating mares) and meat animals prior to slaughter. Label precautions apply to forage treated with Chaparral and to manure and urine from animals that have consumed treated. Consult the label for full details. Chaparral is not registered for sale or use in all states. Contact your state pesticide regulatory agency to determine if a product is registered for sale or use in your state. Always read and follow label directions.

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Hamilton County • Jeremy Brandt – 402-694-6184
Howard County • Rob Schultz – 308-380-2099
Keith County • Jamie Moore – 308-464-0092
Lincoln County • Todd Herndon – 308-532-4939

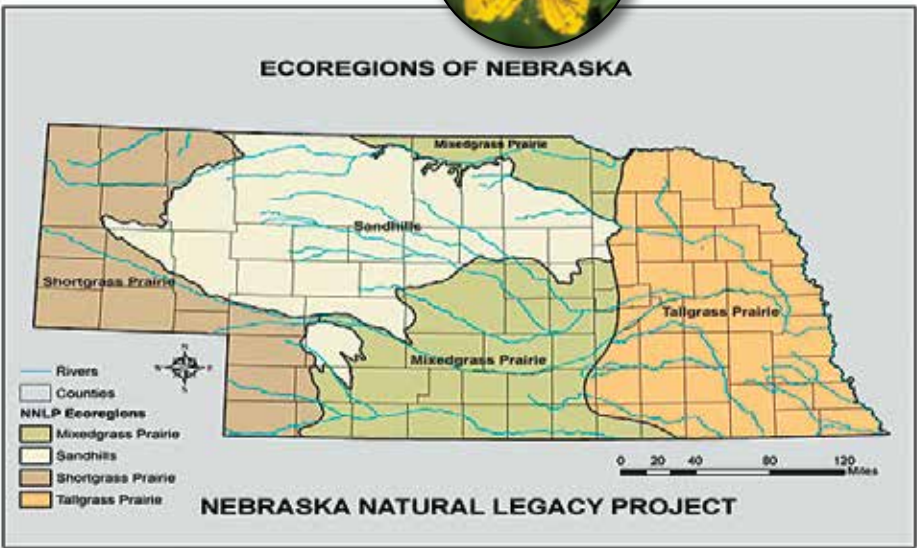
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Polk County • Jim Carlson – 402-747-2921
Sherman County • Mitch Dzingle – 308-745-1513 Ext 111

Invasive Plants Watch List: 2026



Please visit neinvasives.com to see all invasive species - plant species, aquatic species, insects, and others.

These lists were developed to provide a region-based list of invasive plants to be “on the watch for” in Nebraska. Each ecoregion’s species were categorized based on early detection and rapid response potential.



CATEGORY 1: Future Invasive Species

These 4 plants are the same for all ecoregions in Nebraska, as they pose a significant risk if introduced. The aquatic weeds are just one boat ride away from invading any Nebraska lake.



Giant Reed



Oriental Bittersweet



Medusahead



Flowering Rush

- FLOWERING RUSH
- GIANT REED
- MEDUSAHEAD
- ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET
- PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE
- RIPGUT BROME
- VENTENATA
- YELLOW BEDSTRAW

CATEGORY 2: Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregion

- ABSINTH WORMWOOD
- COMMON AND
- EUROPEAN BUCKTHORN
- DALMATION TOADFLAX
- HENBANE
- HOUNDSTONGUE
- RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
- ST. JOHNSWORT
- YELLOW FLAG IRIS



Absinth Wormwood



Dalmation Toadflax



Houndstongue



Yellow Flag Iris

CATEGORY 2: Sandhills Ecoregion



St. Johnswort



Absinth Wormwood



Sulfur Cinquefoil



Camphorweed

ABSINTH WORMWOOD
BLACK KNAPWEED
CAMPHORWEED
COMMON AND EUROPEAN BUCKTHORN
COMMON TANSY
HOUNDSTONGUE
PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE
ST. JOHNSWORT
SULPHUR CINQUEFOIL
YELLOW BEDSTRAW
YELLOW FLAG IRIS

CATEGORY 2: Mixed grass Prairie Ecoregion

ABSINTH WORMWOOD
AMUR HONEYSUCKLE
AUSTRALIAN BEARDGRASS
CAMPHORWEED
COMMON AND EUROPEAN BUCKTHORN
COMMON TEASEL
COMMON TANSY
CUTLEAF TEASEL
GARLIC MUSTARD
PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE
QUEEN ANNE'S LACE
RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
ST. JOHNSWORT
SULPHUR CINQUEFOIL
WILD PARSNIP
YELLOW FLAG IRIS



Perennial Sow Thistle



Common and European Buckthorn



Caucasian Bluestem



Common Teasel

CATEGORY 2: Tallgrass Prairie Ecoregion



Cutleaf Teasel



Queen Anne's Lace



Japanese Honeysuckle

ABSINTH WORMWOOD
AMUR HONEYSUCKLE
AUSTRALIAN BEARDGRASS
BLACK KNAPWEED
COMMON AND EUROPEAN BUCKTHORN
COMMON TEASEL
CUTLEAF TEASEL
FLOWERING RUSH
GIANT REED
HOUNDSTONGUE

ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET
PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE
QUEEN ANNE'S LACE
RUSSIAN KNAPWEED
SICKLEWEED
ST. JOHNSWORT
WILD PARSNIP
WINTER CREEPER
YELLOW BLUESTEM
YELLOW FLAG IRIS

The Invasive Plants Watch List also lists which counties in Nebraska have "County Added" noxious weeds. This list is described on page 11 of The Weed Watch.

The complete list of Invasive Plants in Nebraska along with species photos can be found at the Nebraska Invasive Species Project website: neinvasives.com

the THISTLES of Nebraska

Thistles have long been a concern to agriculture and to the public in general. Canada thistle has been on the Noxious Weed List since 1873. Landowners and homeowners realize this plant was a serious problem and needed to be controlled. It wasn't until 1959 that the rapid infestation rate of musk thistle brought out the public concern of thistles in Nebraska.

Thistles, in general, get a bad rap whenever the word "thistle" is mentioned. However, all thistles are not bad for the environment or agriculture. There are 10 species identified in the state – 5 of these occurred in North America before settlement by Europeans. The other five are considered "nonnative or introduced" thistles. Humans have been a primary cause for the introduction of these nonnative species. They were brought to this country sometimes on purpose, or in contaminated seed and grain. When this happened, the plant's natural enemies were not introduced at the same time. This allowed the nonnative plants the opportunity to produce large seed banks before action was taken to control these unwanted plants. It will continue to take mankind many years to bring nonnative thistles under control in Nebraska. This will only happen if everyone works together.

Control methods vary from one thistle to another. Some may be controlled by mechanical methods and others may require herbicide applications. Several control measures should be used at the same time to improve results. Proper pasture management is the most cost effective and productive of all control measures. This method can be time consuming and may take several years before results are noticed. This involves improved grass stands and rotational grazing to ensure healthy forage for livestock. Proper pasture management also improves water quality and wildlife habitat. Biological control is another tool, but it should never be the only control measure utilized. It needs to be incorporated with other control measures to ensure success. Herbicides have been used for many years. They can be effective, but application timing is critical to receive optimum control.

Most thistles can be found almost anywhere throughout the state. This guide has been developed in association with the Nebraska Weed Control Association and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to aid in the identification of the 10 thistles in Nebraska. It is divided into two sections: The first being "Native Thistles" and the second being "Nonnative Thistles". Only by proper identification can one effectively control thistles in Nebraska. References Weeds of the Great Plains, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

This edition of Weed Watch features Native thistles. Nonnative thistles will be added to the Spring 2027 edition of Weed Watch

Tall thistle

ASTERACEAE – Sunflower Family
***Cirsium altissimum* (L.) Spreng.**
[= *Carduus altissimus* L.;
***Cirsium iowense* (Pammel) Fernal**
***Cirsium altissimum* (L.) Spreng.**



Common Name: Tall thistle (roadside thistle)
Growth Form: Forb
Life Span: Biennial
Origin: Native
Flowering Dates: July–October
Reproduction: Seeds
Height: 1–2.5 m (3.3–8.2 ft, usually 4–5 ft)
Inflorescences: Heads solitary (2–4 cm in diameter), terminal on branches; involucre with several series of bracts; outer bracts ovate to lanceolate ovate (3–7 mm long, 1.8–3 mm wide), tipped with a spine (0.5–2 mm long); inner bracts lanceolate (to 1.5 cm long), tip without a spine
Flowers: Purple (infrequently white) disk florets (2.2–3.2 cm long); corolla lobes 6–9 mm long
Fruits: Achenes (4.5–6 mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide), pale to dark brown with a yellow apical ring; pappus of numerous bristles (1.7–2.7 cm long), falling as a unit; seeds 1
Seeds: Small
Leaves: Alternate; blades simple; blades of the rosette not lobed to variably lobed, oblanceolate to elliptic (10–30 cm long, 4–11 cm wide), margins spinose serrulate, bases gradually tapering, petioles winged; stem blades similar to those of the rosette to pinnatifid, margins irregularly spinose serrate to serrulate, decreasing in size upwards; upper surfaces green, without hair or nearly so; lower surfaces densely white tomentose; petioles short or leaves sessile
Stems: Erect, solitary, freely branching above, surfaces lightly woolly, often mixed with larger multicellular hairs.
Underground: Taproot, fleshy
Where Found: Eastern and central Great Plains in open lowlands, ditch banks, roadsides, and waste areas. (NE, SD, ND, KS, OK, TX, MN, IA & MO)
Uses and Values: Tall thistle is an important butterfly plant, and its seeds are eaten by songbirds.
Poisoning: None
Other: Tall thistle is a native plant and not classified as a weed. It is sometimes confused with field thistle [*Cirsium discolor* (Muhl. ex Willd) Spreng.] which grows in the extreme Eastern Great Plains. Field thistle has more deeply pinnatifid stem leaves with linear-lanceolate lobes. Tall thistle may be confused with the earlier flowering musk thistle (*Carduus nutans* L.

PANHANDLE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA

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Platte thistle

ASTERACEAE – Sunflower Family
***Cirsium canescens* Nutt.**
[= *Cirsium nebraskense* (Britton)
Lunell; *Cirsium nelsonii* (Pammel)
Petr.; *Cirsium plattense* (Rydb.)
Cockerell] *Cirsium canescens* Nutt.

Common Name: Platte thistle (prairie thistle)
Growth Form: Forb
Life Span: Perennial (occasionally biennial)
Origin: Native
Flowering Dates: May–July
Reproduction: Seeds
Height: 0.4–0.8 m (1.3–2.6 ft)
Inflorescences: Heads few, terminal and axillary; involucre 3–4 cm tall and 2.5–4.5 cm in diameter or occasionally down to 1.5 cm tall and wide, with 6–8 series of bracts; outer bracts (7–17 mm long, 1.5–2.5 mm wide), tips with yellow spines (2–6 mm long); inner bracts without spines
Flowers: Yellowish white to rarely pale lavender disk florets (2.4–2.8 cm long)
Fruits: Achenes, curved (5–7 mm long, 2.3–2.7 mm wide), smooth, straw colored with brown streaks; pappus a ring of



numerous white bristles (1.8–3 cm long), falling as a unit; seeds 1
Stems: Small
Leaves: Alternate; blades simple; blades of first basal leaves narrowly elliptic, margins entire to wavy; later blades larger (12–30 cm long, 3–5 cm wide) and more deeply lobed, lobes spiny; stem blades reduced upwards (3–7 cm long, 5–25 mm wide), uppermost blades only shallowly lobed to subentire, margins spiny; upper surfaces green with cobweblike tangles of slender and loose hairs; lower surfaces densely tomentose, white; long-decurrent on the stems
Stems: Erect, simple or branching above, surfaces tomentose; decurrent leaf bases forming spiny wings on the stems
Underground: Taproot, deep, slender to stout
Where Found: Central and western Great Plains. Platte thistle is most common on sandy and gravelly soils of pastures, prairies, waste areas, roadsides, and disturbed sites. (NE, SD, ND, KS, OK, TX, MN, IA, MO, MT, WY, CO, NM, AB, SK & MB)

Uses and Values: Platte thistle is a butterfly plant, and its seeds are eaten by songbirds. Its foliage is not eaten by livestock, deer, or pronghorn.
Poisoning: None
Other: Platte thistle is a native plant and not considered to be a weed. It is included here because sometimes it is mistaken for one or more of the more weedy species of thistles.

Yellowspine thistle

ASTERACEAE – Sunflower Family
***Cirsium ochrocentrum* A. Gray**

Common Name: Yellowspine thistle
Growth Form: Forb
Life Span: Biennial (or short lived perennial)
Origin: Native
Flowering Dates: June–August
Reproduction: Seeds and tuberous rootstocks
Height: 0.4–1.5 m (1.3–4.9 ft)
Inflorescence: Heads, large, terminal, and solitary on the branches; involucre (2.3–4 cm tall, 2–3.5 cm wide) with 5–7 series of bracts; outer bracts narrowly ovate (6–21 mm long, 2–3 mm wide), spine tipped; spines yellow (4–10 mm long), stiff; inner bracts lanceolate (to 3 cm long), without spines; disk florets numerous
Flower: Pink to purplish or rose (rarely white) disk florets (3–3.8 cm long)
Fruit: Achenes (6–7 mm long, 2.5–3 mm wide), smooth, tan to brown; pappus a ring of white or tawny bristles (1.7–4 cm long, usually 1.8–2.6 cm long), falling as a unit; seeds 1
Seeds: Small



Leaves: Alternate; blades simple; juvenile basal blades obovate to elliptic, margins spiny; later basal blades oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic (8–22 cm long, 3–6 cm wide), pinnatifid; margins toothed and spine tipped; spines 5–12 mm long; stem blades reduced and less deeply lobed upwards, greenish to grayish tufts of soft woolly hairs on the upper surfaces, short woolly below; sessile and clasping; spiny-decurrent at the base
Stems: Erect, simple or sparingly branched above, densely white tomentose
Underground: Taproot, occasionally with tuberous rootstocks forming colonies
Where Found: Central and southern Great Plains, scattered northward, in dry sandy or gravelly soils in pastures, prairies, roadsides, and open disturbed areas. (NE, SD, KS, OK, TX, WY, CO & NM)

Uses and Values: The spines make yellowspine thistle unpalatable to livestock. It is a butterfly plant, and its seeds are eaten by songbirds.
Poisoning: None
Historical: Some Native Americans boiled the flowers of yellowspine thistle in water and applied the liquid to burns and skin sores.
Other: Yellowspine thistle is a native plant and not considered to be a weed. It is included here because sometimes it is mistaken for one or more of the more weedy species of thistles.

Flodman thistle

ASTERACEAE – Sunflower Family
***Cirsium flodmanii* (Rydb.) Arthur [= *Carduus flodmanii* Rydb.; *Cirsium ob lanceolatum* (Rydb.) K. Schum.] *Cirsium flodmanii* (Rydb.) Arthur**

Common Name: Flodman thistle
Growth Form: Forb
Life Span: Biennial or short lived perennial
Origin: Native
Flowering Dates: July–September
Reproduction: Rhizomes and seeds
Height: 0.3–1 m (1–3.3 ft)
Inflorescences: Heads few, solitary, terminal on the branches; involucre (2–3 cm tall) with 6–7 series of bracts; bracts oval (5–9 mm long, 2–3 mm wide), without hair, with a divergent spine (2–4 mm long)
Flowers: Deep purple to sometimes pink (rarely white) disk florets, corollas 2–3.5 cm long
Fruits: Achenes (3–4 mm long and 1.5–2 mm wide), smooth, brown to tan with a whitish yellow apical ring; pappus of white or tawny bristles (2–3 cm long); seeds 1
Seeds: Small



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Leaves: Alternate; blades simple, highly variable; rosette or juvenile blades narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, nearly entire or shallowly lobed, gray tomentose on both surfaces (more on the lower surface); petioles winged; stem blades similar (12–25 cm long, 3–9 cm wide), entire or remotely lobed, lobes sometimes bifid, segments tipped by a spine (3–6 mm long), surfaces green and woolly above, gray tomentose below; clasping at the base; petiole winged, not decurrent
Stems: Erect, usually branched above; surfaces white tomentose
Underground: Rhizomes, with numerous buds forming colonies
Where Found: Central and northern Great Plains on moist to dry open sites on pastures, prairies, and disturbed sites. (NE, SD, ND, KS, MN, IA, MT, WY, CO, AB, SK & MB)
Uses and Values: Flodman thistle has no forage value for cattle or wildlife. Horses occasionally eat the heads. Butterflies visit the flowers, and the seeds are eaten by several species of songbirds.
Poisoning: None
Historical: Lakota Native Americans peeled and ate the stems. Roots of the rosettes were eaten raw or cooked.
Other: Flodman thistle is a native plant and not considered to be a weed. It is included here because sometimes it is mistaken for one or more of the more weedy species of thistles. It is not aggressive and does not withstand cultivation.

Wavyleaf thistle

ASTERACEAE – Sunflower Family
***Cirsium undulatum* (Nutt.) Spreng. [= *Carduus undulatus* Nutt.; *Cirsium megacephalum* (A. Gray) Cockerell] *Cirsium undulatum* (Nutt.) Spreng.**

Common Name: Wavyleaf thistle (gray thistle)
Growth Form: Forb
Life Span: Perennial
Origin: Native
Flowering Dates: June–August
Reproduction: Seeds and root buds
Height: 0.4–1.8 m (1.3–5.9 ft)
Inflorescences: Heads few, solitary, terminal; involucre (2–4 cm tall, 2–3.5 cm wide), with 6–8 series of bracts; bracts 6–17 mm long and 2–4.5 mm wide, with a prominent glandular dorsal ridge; margins entire and hairy, tipped with a spine (2–5 mm long); disk florets numerous
Flowers: Purple to pinkish purple or white disk florets (3–4 cm long)
Fruits: Achenes (5–7 mm long, 2–3 mm wide), tan to brown, conspicuous yellow collar, smooth, flattened,



slightly curved; pappus of white bristles (2–4 cm long); seeds 1
Seeds: Small
Leaves: Alternate; blades simple; rosette blades elliptic (10–30 cm long, 2–7 cm wide), lobed; lobes tipped with a yellow spine (2–5 mm long); margins strongly undulate, sinuses between major lobes rounded, surfaces densely tomentose, upper surface less so and greenish; petiole winged and clasping; stem blades similar only ovate to lanceolate, shallowly lobed, sessile, clasping
Stems: Erect, sparingly branched above, nearly round, surfaces densely tomentose
Underground: Taproot, simple, deep
Where found: Throughout the Great Plains on abused pastures, prairies, meadows, and disturbed sites. Wavyleaf thistle grows in a broad range of soil textures. (NE, SD, ND, KS, OK, TX, MN, IA, MO, MT, WY, CO, NM, AB, SK & MB)
Uses and Values: Wavyleaf thistle has little or no forage value. Horses may eat the heads, and songbirds eat the seeds. It is visited by butterflies. Wavyleaf thistle is sometimes grown as an ornamental. The heads are used in fresh and dry flower arrangements.
Poisoning: None
Historical: Some Native Americans made a tea from the roots and drank it to treat diabetes and stomachache.
Other: Wavyleaf thistle is a native plant and not considered to be a weed. It is included here because sometimes it is mistaken for one or more of the more weedy species of thistles.

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Weed Watch
**WORD
FIND**

BIOLOGICAL
BRACKTS
CONTROL
DURACOR
EPA
FIFRA
GLYPHOSATE
GRASSLAND
HAY
HERBICIDE
INTRODUCED
INVADERS
INVASIVE
MEDUSAHEAD
NITRATES
NONNATIVE
ORIGIN
PALMERAMARANTH
PASTURE
PETIOLE
PLANT
POISONHEMLOCK
RESISTANCE
SEEDS
SPECIES
THISTLE
TOXICITY
VENTENATA
WILDFIRE
WILDPARSNIP

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

*If you have comments about
this puzzle send your name
and address to:
Sandhills WMA, 431 S. 10th
Ave., Broken Bow, NE 68822*

COUNTY-ADDED NOXIOUS WEEDS

Kristi Paul, Panhandle WMA Board Member.

In addition to the twelve 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
Box Butte
Cheyenne
Deuel

Garden
Morrill
Scotts Bluff
Sheridan

5 to 6 feet long.
Perennial - spreads
by
seeds and
rhizomes.



COMMON TEASEL

2-8 ft tall
Lancaster
Pawnee
Saline
Biennial
- spreads
by seed.



CUTLEAF TEASEL

2-6 ft tall
Lancaster
Pawnee
Saline
Biennial -
spreads by
seed.



SCOTCH THISTLE

Banner
Cheyenne
Dawes
Morrill
Kimball
Scotts Bluff
Sheridan
Sioux

1 to 10 feet tall.
Biennial - spreads
only by seeds.



BULL THISTLE

Rock
Brown

1.5 to 6.5 feet tall.
Biennial - spreads
only by seeds.



COMMON MULLEIN

Cheyenne
County

1 to 7 feet tall
Biennial-spreads
only by seeds.



WOOLYLEAF BURSAGE

Banner

1 to 2.5 feet tall.
Perennial -
spreads by
seeds and
rhizomes.



HOUNDSTONGUE

Dawes
Sheridan

1 to 4 feet tall. Biennial -
spreads only by seeds.

YELLOW FLAG IRIS

Lincoln County
3-5 feet tall.
Perennial- Forms
dense stands.
Reproduces
by seed and
rhizomes.



PERENNIAL YELLOW BEDSTRAW

Cherry
2 to 4 feet tall.
Perennial -
spreads by
seeds and
rhizomes.



NEBRASKA'S NOXIOUS WEEDS

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

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 and is detrimental to the production of crops and livestock, and to the welfare of residents of this state. Noxious weeds may also devalue and reduce tax revenue.



HEIGHT 1-3.9 FT.

Canada Thistle



HEIGHT 1.6-9.8 FT.

Musk Thistle



HEIGHT 3-2.6 FT.

Leafy Spurge



HEIGHT 1-3.9 FT.

Spotted Knapweed



HEIGHT 1-4.9 FT.

Plumeless Thistle



HEIGHT 3.3-20 FT.

Saltcedar



HEIGHT 3.2-20 FT.

Phragmites



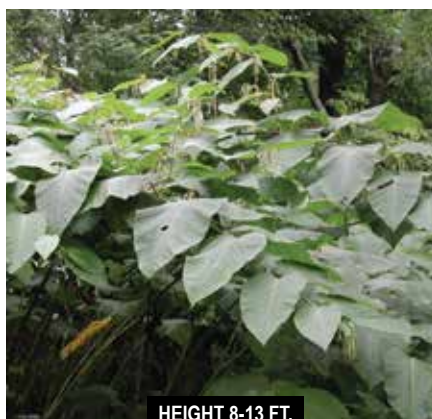
HEIGHT 1-3.9 FT.

Diffuse Knapweed



HEIGHT 3-10 FT.

Japanese Knotweed



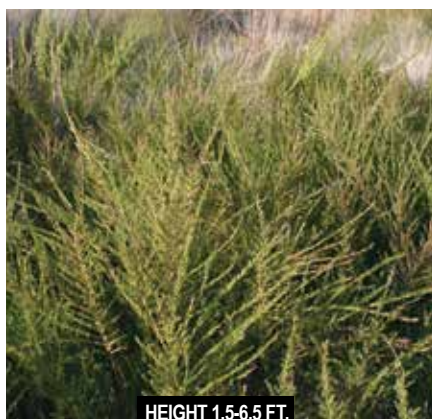
HEIGHT 8-13 FT.

Giant Knotweed



HEIGHT 1.3-8 FT.

Purple Loosestrife



HEIGHT 1.5-6.5 FT.

Sericea Lespedeza