



NEBRASKA



INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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What Are Invasive Species?

Invasive species are plants, animals, or other organisms **found in an area where they do not naturally exist.**

Their introduction to that area does, or is likely to, **cause harm to the economy, environment, and/or human wellbeing.**

Humans introduce them, either accidentally or on purpose.



Common pathways of introduction are **trade, travel, recreation, land/resource use change, unwanted/accidental pet release, or e-commerce**, like this treefrog that arrived in a shipment of decorative grasses in Ralston, Douglas County. (Photo: Ben Fox)



What Makes A Species Invasive?

- Fast growth
- Rapid reproduction + repopulation
- Aggressive spread into new areas
- Difficult to control or eliminate
- High tolerance of changing environmental conditions



Narrowleaf Cattail
Photo: Chris Helzer

Nebraska's Landscape Provides...



23 million acres
of rangeland and pastureland



1.3 million acres
of publicly accessible lands



79 thousand miles
of rivers, including 197
designated as wild and scenic



Over 6 million
migratory birds visit annually

Status + Impacts from Invasive Species



36 water-based
invasive and noxious
species threats



57 waterbodies
infested with aquatic
invasive species



\$2+ million
annual forage loss



810 at-risk
species of
becoming
endangered or
extinct



108 land-based
invasive and noxious
species threats



Costs
over \$26
million
annually in
damages



Threatens
biodiversity as
the 2nd leading
cause of
habitat loss



Reduces
human health
and recreation
opportunities

Who We Are

The **Nebraska Invasive Species Council (NISC)** was established in 2012 through Legislative Bill 391. The NISC consists of **28 members from 19 different organizations**. We hold **10 public meetings a year** throughout the state about invasive species issues, education, and research.

Our Mission

Coordinating statewide efforts to **detect, manage, and minimize the impacts of invasive species** on Nebraska's environment and economy

Our Objectives



Recommend action to minimize harmful effects



Develop a statewide adaptive management plan



Provide a forum for discussion and knowledge sharing



Facilitate cooperation at all levels for invasive species issues



Assist with public outreach, education, and awareness



Provide information to the Legislature for decision making



NISC Meeting at Schramm Park State Recreation Area

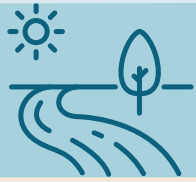


Tree-of-Heaven removal event at Rudge Memorial Park with Irvingdale Neighborhood Association

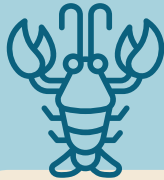
Our Year In Review



PROJECTS
COMPLETED
110



ACRES/MILES
TREATED
114,000



SPECIES
TARGETED
48



OUTREACH
EVENTS
109

TOTAL COST ON INVASIVE SPECIES
CONTROL + PREVENTION + MANAGEMENT

\$3,640,740

Round Goby



NISC Meeting at
the Bemis Center

European Starling



Guests on KZUM FM
89.3's How's It
Growin' in Lincoln



NISC and NWCA
tabling and
presenting at
NAISMA
Conference



PARTICIPANTS
REACHED
9,300



PARTNERING
ORGANIZATIONS
40



WATERCRAFT
INSPECTED
6,937



SURVEYS
CONDUCTED
51



LOCATIONS
TREATED
610

Invasive Species in Nebraska

ASIAN JUMPING WORM was reported 12 times, more than any other species. (Photo: Kandelyn Scott)



43 sightings
23 invasive species

reported on neinvasives.com, including the first confirmed cogongrass sighting, a federally-designated noxious weed. (Photo: David Kusserow)

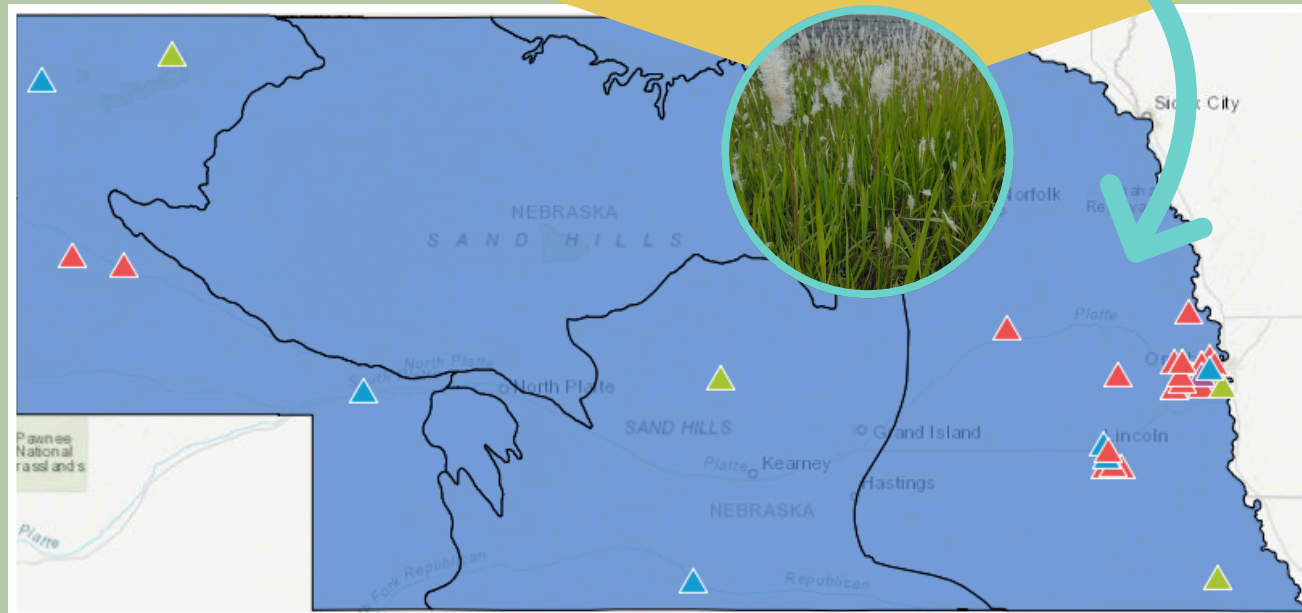
7,656 sightings
712 invasive species

reported by the public on iNaturalist.org, like this Asian clam found in the Big Blue River. (Photo: Owen Reeves, iNaturalist.org)



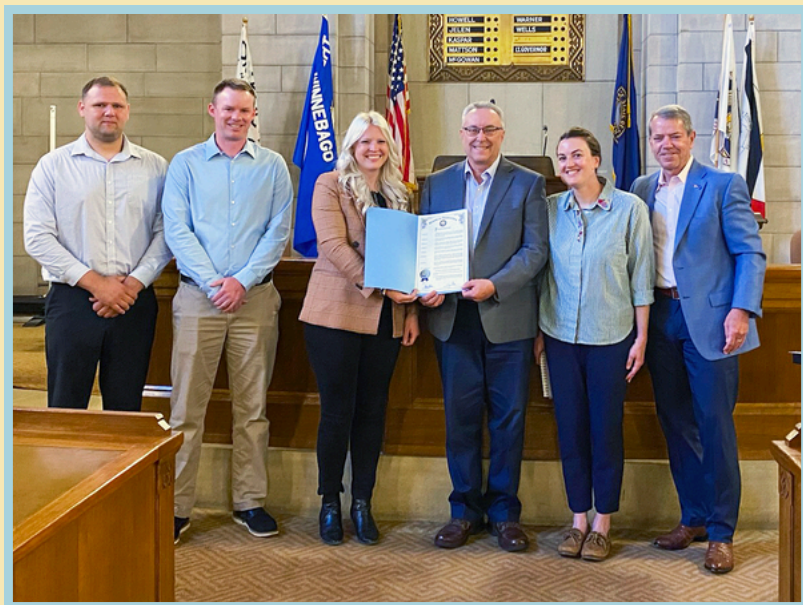
Elodea

Japanese
Mystery Snail



NE-ISAW + Know Your NE Invasives Day

On May 13, Governor Jim Pillen signed a proclamation declaring **May 26-30, 2025 Nebraska Invasive Species Awareness Week (NE-ISAW)**. The proclamation, submitted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in partnership with NISC, kicked off a weeklong celebration of education, prevention, and community action. The week concluded on **May 31 with "Know Your Nebraska Invasives Day"** at Pawnee State Recreation Area.



Common
Mullein

Yellow
Bass



9
**PARTNERING
ORGANIZATIONS**

70+
PARTICIPANTS



13
ACTIVITIES

Land-Based Invasive Plants Updates

While Nebraska has a state-designated aquatic (water-based) invasive species list, we do not have the same for terrestrial (land-based) invasive species. To help fill this information gap, **the NISC created and updated a list of 90 terrestrial invasive plant species under 5 different categories.** This included the addition of a **problematic natives category, which are native plants that can exhibit invasive characteristics that affect the health of other plants.**

Photos Below, Left to Right: Saltcedar, Dalmatian Toadflax, Eastern Redcedar, Ventenata, Sulphur Cinquefoil

Common
Reed

View
our
list



Wild
Plum

Noxious



THREAT:
High
LOCATION:
Statewide
LIST TOTAL:
12 state, 8
county

Priority



THREAT:
High
LOCATION:
Statewide
LIST TOTAL:
18 species

Problematic Native



THREAT:
Low-High
LOCATION:
Statewide
LIST TOTAL:
6 species

Potential



THREAT:
High
LOCATION:
Not Found in
State
LIST TOTAL:
3 species

Established



THREAT:
Low
LOCATION:
Statewide
LIST TOTAL:
43 species

Nebraska Invasives to Know

Be on the lookout for these highly aggressive invaders in our state. By reporting them, you can help protect Nebraska's vital resources, like water, land, and wildlife from the damage they can cause.



Zebra Mussels

Form dense colonies on solid surfaces, ruining public infrastructure and clogging intake pipes. Chemical management is costly and mussel introduction into agricultural areas could be economically catastrophic. (Photo: Nebraskaland Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission)



Common Reed

also known as phragmites, grows in tall, dense thickets along waterways. It displaces native wetland plants, blocks waterflow, and limits sunlight for aquatic ecosystem communities. Continued control is essential to protect our state's water supply. (Photo: Chris Helzer)



Old World Bluestems

are warm-season perennial grasses that invade pastures and rangelands. They outcompete native grasses, reducing biodiversity and forage quality, and decrease livestock carrying capacity. (Photo: Michelle Villafranca, Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Bugwood.org)

Report A Sighting



Eurasian
Watermilfoil



Stop The Spread

Together, we can reduce the impact of invasive species in Nebraska.



By expanding funding for programs, raising awareness, and reporting invasive species, we can protect Nebraska's resources and native wildlife from future harm.



Left: Black-Tailed Prairie Dog, a native Nebraska species

DID YOU KNOW?

Prevention efforts costs *25 times less* than eradication efforts, which can save millions of dollars long-term. The effort is worth it!

WHAT CAN WE DO?



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Visit our website, neinvasives.com, to learn more about how to report aquatic invasive species, terrestrial invasive species, and noxious weeds.



FUND + SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Prevention is less expensive and more effective than eradicating established invasive species. Funding education, control, and management is vital to keep invasives at bay.



LEARN HOW TO HELP

Be part of the solution to help make Nebraska invasive-free. Visit playcleango.org, cleandraindry.org, dontletitloose.com, and dontmovefirewood.org to get started.

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References + More Information

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