



ANNUAL REPORT 2025





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Photo: Gary Stone

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.

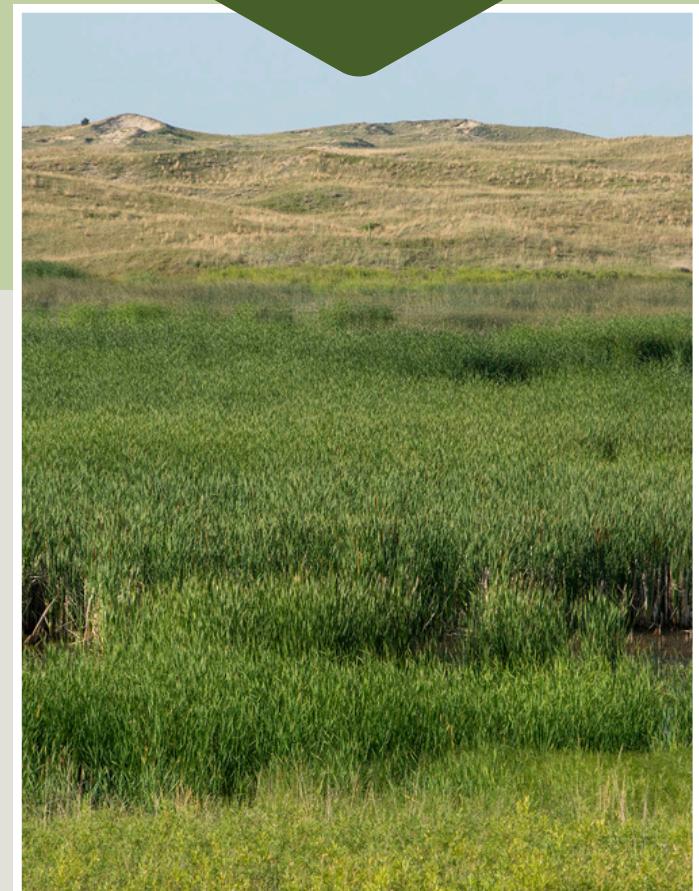


Common pathways of introduction are **trade, travel, recreation, land/resource use change, unwanted/accidental pet release, or e-commerce**, like this treefrog that arrived in a shipment of decorative grasses in Ralston, Douglas County. (Photo: Ben Fox)



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



\$2+ million
annual forage loss



63 waterbodies
infested with aquatic
invasive species



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

Cheatgrass

Photo: Chris Helzer

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.



NISC Meeting at Schramm Park State Recreation Area

Our Mission

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



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

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

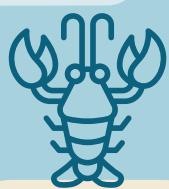
Our Year In Review



PROJECTS
COMPLETED
110



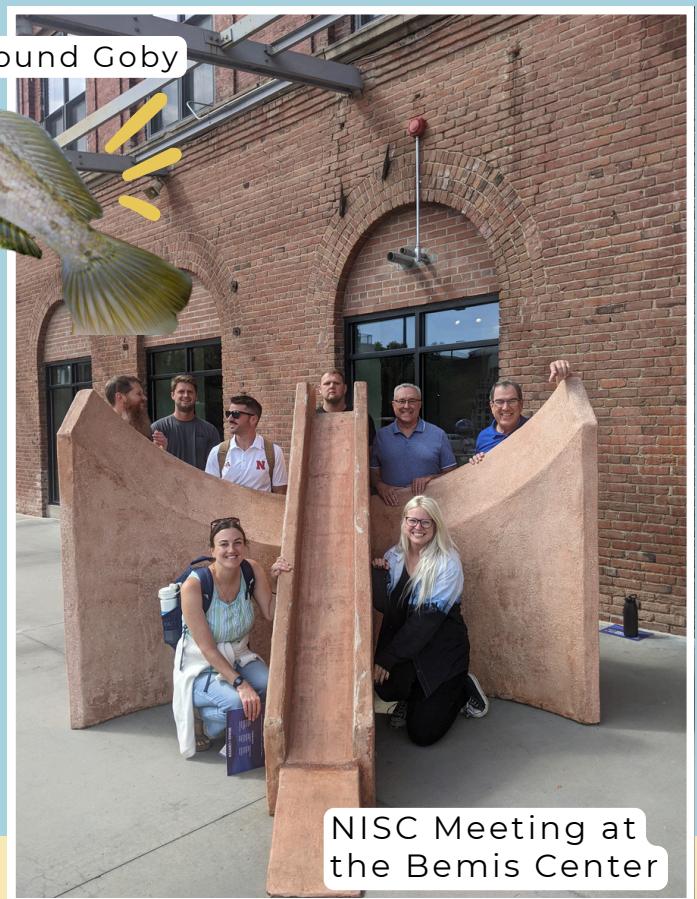
ACRES/MILES
TREATED
114,000



SPECIES
TARGETED
48



OUTREACH
EVENTS
109



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



• ...invasive monocultures
• Reduces biodiversity
• Alter food web dynamics
• Impede navigation and
 recreation
• Interact with water
 infrastructure
• Reduce habitat for native
 aquatic organisms of multiple
 taxa
• Vector for invasive mussels

PARTICIPANTS
REACHED
9,300



WATERCRAFT
INSPECTED
6,937

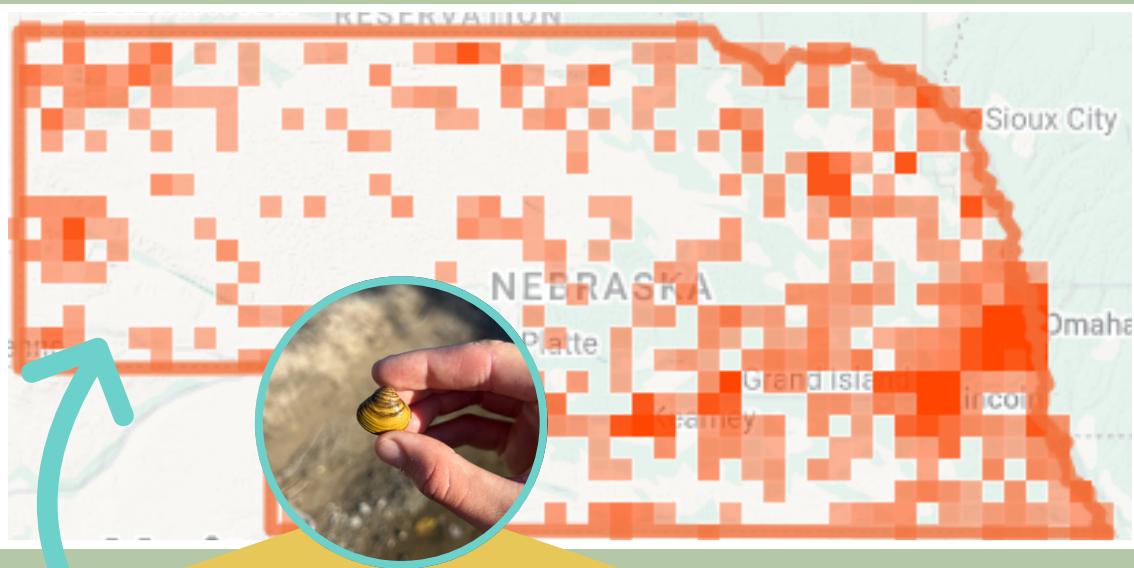


SURVEYS
CONDUCTED
51



LOCATIONS
TREATED
610

Invasive Species in Nebraska



**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)

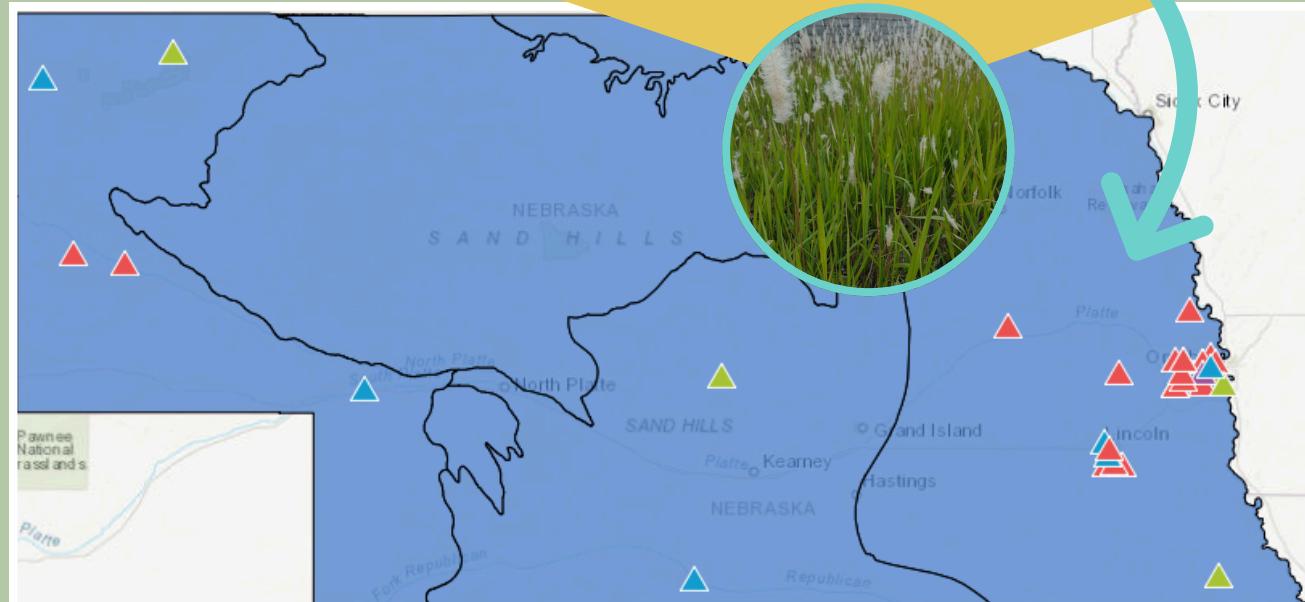


Japanese
Mystery Snail

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)



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



9

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS



70+

PARTICIPANTS



13

ACTIVITIES

Yellow Bass

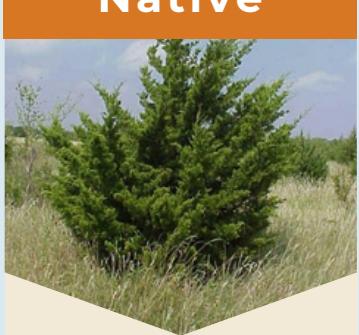


Land-Based Invasive Plants Updates

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



Noxious	Priority	Problematic Native	Potential	Established
				
THREAT: High	THREAT: High	THREAT: Low-High	THREAT: High	THREAT: Low
LOCATION: Statewide	LOCATION: Statewide	LOCATION: Statewide	LOCATION: Not Found in State	LOCATION: Statewide
LIST TOTAL: 12 state, 8 county	LIST TOTAL: 18 species	LIST TOTAL: 6 species	LIST TOTAL: 3 species	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)



Report A Sighting



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)

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

WHAT CAN WE DO?



DID YOU KNOW?

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



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.

Our Members

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References + More Information

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