

NIIPP Bulletin September 2014

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1. New Invader and EDDMapS Alerts –

Cook County, IL

Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=5148&id=us_IL_17031

DuPage County, IL

Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=5219&id=us_IL_17043

Lake County, IL

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3414&id=us_IL_17097

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3405&id=us_IL_17097

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea ssp. stoebe micanthros*)

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=50209&id=us_IL_17097

McHenry County, IL

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe ssp. micanthros*)

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3013&id=us_IL_17111

Chinese lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3033&id=us_IL_17111

Will County, IL

Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=5219&id=us_IL_17197

Lake County (Indiana report through GLEDN)

Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3012&id=us_IN_18089

LaPorte County (Indiana report through GLEDN)

Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3012&id=us_IN_18091

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea ssp. stoebe micanthros*)

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3013&id=us_IN_18091

Porter County (Indiana report through GLEDN)

Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3012&id=us_IN_18127

2. 4th Annual NIIPP Meeting

The 4th annual NIIPP meeting will take place at the Arbor Room, Thornhill Center, at the Morton Arboretum on Wednesday, October 8th from 8:30 a.m. until noon. The agenda and a registration form are available on our website at <http://www.niipp.net/niipp-4th-annual-meeting>

3. Clean Boats Crew ends 4th season

Clean Boats Crew, the regional aquatic invasive species education and outreach program that is a collaboration between IL-IN Sea Grant and NIIPP, ended its fourth season on August 10th. This season our site leaders interacted with 3,519 people bringing the total number of exposures for the program above 8,000. Many thanks to our site leaders and to the IL-IN Sea Grant Co-coordinator Sarah Zack! More information about Clean Boats Crew can be found here <http://www.niipp.net/clean-boats-crew>.

4. Regional native tree and shrub sale

Conserve Lake County is holding their native tree and shrub sale until September 24th. For more information please click here <http://www.conservelakecounty.org/native-plant-sale>

5. Spread the word about Asian bittersweet!

Autumn is fast approaching and Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) cuttings will soon be available for decorative arrangements and wreaths. Please choose a native or silk alternative for decorative purposes and when purchasing bittersweet plants at the nursery or garden center use the scientific name and the position of the fruits and flowers to make sure that you are purchasing the native! Native bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) has all of its fruits and flowers at the end of branches/vines, while the invasive Asian bittersweet has flowers and fruits all along the vine. For more information about this plant please click here <http://www.niipp.net/natural-history-identification/spec/CEOR7>

6. Is Japanese stiltgrass killing our native toads? Yes, but indirectly.

Information from Chris Evans, Invasive Species Campaign Coordinator for the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan:

Recent research indicates that Japanese stiltgrass invasion is causing shifts in the community that leads to drastic increases in predation of young toads by wolf spiders.

More details and discussion at <http://illinoisiam.blogspot.com/2014/08/is-stiltgrass-killing-our-toads-yes-but.html>

In 2011, I published some thoughts on two other stories that looked at indirect effects of plant invasion on native wildlife. You can read that discussion and get links to articles on that research at <http://illinoisiam.blogspot.com/2011/10/two-recent-stories-on-ecosystem-impacts.html>

7. Ecology Meets Economy Season 2 – A Forum for Green Industry and Land Management Professionals

Will be held September 17th from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at Johnson's Nursery, W180 N6275 Marcy Road, Menomonee Falls, WI. I've attached the agenda and registration form.

8. Invasive Plant of the Month – Mugwort (*Artemis vulgaris*)

NIIPP has recently received several anecdotal and EDDMapS/New Invader reports of mugwort in Cook County. If you are noticing populations of this species invading natural areas please report them so that we can have a better sense of how extensive and prevalent the infestations are! Thank you!

Mugwort's name comes from its use as a malt to flavor drinks. It is also known for its herbal properties as a mild sedative and digestive stimulant. It is a member of the Aster family and is a native of Eurasia. It can grow up to 6 feet tall and has four inch long alternate leaves that are dark green above and deeply lobed with pointed ends. The undersides of the leaves have a whitish, woolly coating. Mugwort prefers sunny areas and well-drained soil and grows well along roadsides and in disturbed areas. In late summer it produces spikes of yellow-green flowers at the top of each plant. Mugwort spreads by rhizomes and rhizome parts, which makes it particularly difficult to control. However, repeated mowing 2-3 times per season or a two year treatment of 6 ounces of glyphosate per gallon are reported to be successful <http://www.njaudubon.org/Portals/10/IBBA/PDF/NJAS%20Invasive%20Plant%20Species%20booklet%20proof6.pdf>

Additional Resources

Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5148>

EDDMapS Distribution Map <http://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/usstate.cfm?sub=5148>

Weston, L.A., J.N Barney, and A. DiTommaso. 2005. A review of the biology and ecology of three invasive perennials in New York State: Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and pale swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*). Plant and Soil. 277: 53-69.



(Ohio Weed Lab Archive, www.bugwood.org)



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