

NIIPP Bulletin March 2013

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1. National Invasive Species Awareness Week

March 3rd-8th is National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Help raise awareness of this important issue! Please spread the word! www.nisaw.org

2. Opportunity for control efforts with transportation agencies

Now is the time to get ready for growing season! If you have infestations of invasive plants across a boundary shared with a transportation right of way you may be in luck! Don't wait to report infestations!

Please do this early so these agencies can fit you into their schedules and before they've run out of their allotments of herbicide. Many of these agencies plan their contracts in the fall so getting your information in then (for the following year) would also be recommended!

Several transportation agencies now work with NIIPP partners-

IDOT District 1, Contact: Tim Pollowy

IDOT Districts 2 and 3, Contact: TBD (new hire!)

IL Tollway, Contact: Jeff Schneberg

Lake County DOT, Contact: Kevin Kerrigan

McHenry County DOT, Contact: Randy Morin

All of these agencies have report forms that can be downloaded from here:
http://niipp.net/?page_id=1936

3. Regional native plant classes

Need a break from fighting invasive plants this spring? How about taking a native plant class in Cook or McHenry County?

Cook County- Classes are held at Theodore Stone Nature Preserve in South Holland one afternoon a month from May – October. Contact: Barbara Birmingham barbbirm@aol.com

McHenry County- Grand tours (<http://www.lithfen.org/tours.html>) and botany for beginners' classes (<http://www.lithfen.org/activities.html>) are held at Lake in the Hills Fen

4. New Rapid Color Guides from the Field Museum

In case you want to start thinking about spring, The Field Museum has recently posted two new Rapid Color Guides - Asters of the Chicago Region and Woodland Spring Flora of the Chicago Region. These guides can be found at our new website - <http://idtools.fieldmuseum.org/>. Please e-mail Becky Collings (rcollings@fieldmuseum.org) directly with any comments or suggestions about the guides or the new website

5. Illinois Lakes Management Association Conference 2013

ILMA will be hosting their annual conference in Bloomington, IL from April 4-6th. Registration is now open. More details about the event can be found at <http://niipp.net/?p=1949>

6. Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month – A Call to Action

We are gearing up for the 4th Annual Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month in May. NIIPP will be participating in its third USFS Garlic Mustard Challenge and defending its title! If you have work days, garlic pulls, or other events planned for this month please send the information to Chris Evans and, if you'd like your events posted on the NIIPP website, to Cathy McGlynn. More information about this very important month can be found at http://niipp.net/?page_id=1016

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7. Updated Minnesota Noxious Weed Guide now available

Minnesota Noxious Weed Guide has been updated and is available for download at – <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf>

This is a living document and MnDOT has updated factsheets and included new factsheets. MnDOT will strive to keep the document and factsheets current and accurate – having stated that, Dave Hanson is open to constructive suggestions, corrections, updates, and discoveries...

Dave Hanson, MnDOT, Office of Environmental Stewardship/David.L.Hanson@state.mn.us/

8. Wisconsin Invasive Species Council to add to list of regulated invasive species

MADISON – Recommendations from the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council to add to the list of regulated invasive species are the topic of public listening sessions later this month and next month.

The council, an independent group appointed by the governor and advisory to the Department of Natural Resources, has recommended adding select invasive species to the list of species regulated by the state and clarifying rule language.

“The invasive species rule is helping us make strides against invasive species across the state and creates a level playing field for businesses that sell plants,” says council member Greg Long, who represents the nursery industry on the council. “Now we have recommendations to make the rule even more effective.”

DNR staff is reviewing the council’s recommendations and the public listening sessions offer DNR the chance to hear from the public and consider that feedback in deciding which council recommendations to accept, says Kelly Kearns, a DNR conservation biologist.

“We want to get input on the specific recommendations and hear about any economic impacts of regulating or not regulating the species proposed for listing,” Kearns says.

Such information will help DNR shape the draft administrative rule it takes to its policymaking board and will also help fulfill a statutory requirement that state agencies conduct an economic impact analysis of all proposed rules, Kearns says. Official public hearings will be held later this year once a formal revision proposal is drafted, offering another opportunity for public input.

Wisconsin’s Invasive Species Rule, found in Natural Resources Chapter 40 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, has provided consistent regulations for invasive species across the state since 2009.

DNR worked with dozens of stakeholder groups and the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species to develop the rule, which classifies invasive species into two categories, “Prohibited Species” and “Restricted Species,” and establishes regulations people must follow for those listed species.

Species recommended for the “prohibited” status are not yet widely established in the state and pose great economic or environmental threat. People may not transport, buy or sell, possess or introduce prohibited species without a permit. Control of existing populations will be required. More than 50 species are proposed by the council for listing as prohibited, including the plants water lettuce and water hyacinth and animals including the nutria and the Malaysian trumpet snail.

Species recommended for the restricted status pose great economic or environmental threat but are already widely established in Wisconsin. People may possess restricted species but may not transport, buy or sell or introduce them without a permit. Control isn’t required but is encouraged. Forty species are proposed by the council for listing as restricted, including the plants Japanese barberry, yellow iris, burning bush and crown vetch.

For more information on the recommended species additions and the general timeline for revisions, please visit the Council’s website invasivespecies.wi.gov (exit DNR).

9. The United Kingdom bans sale of non-native plants for the first time

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-bans-sale-of-five-alien-aquatic-plants-commonly-bought-for-ornamental-garden-ponds-8471691.html>

10. Invasive Plant of the Month

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) is a native of Asia and a member of the Staff-tree family (Celastraceae) along with Asian bittersweet. It was first introduced to the U.S. as an ornamental around 1860 and first reported as naturalized in Illinois in 1973. Burning bush is a multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub that can grow as tall as it is wide (15-20 feet) and produces inconspicuous small, green flowers from May to June as well as small, paired orange to purple fruits in the leaf axils in autumn. This plant spreads via root suckers and animal dispersed seeds. Its most distinctive characteristics are its green to brown stems with two to four prominent corky wings and its oblong leaves that turn a brilliant red in the fall, which makes it a very desirable ornamental plant.

Burning bush is already a serious invader of pastures, forest understories, and open woods in several States along the East Coast (particularly Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia) and has been documented in at least thirteen counties in Illinois. In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources banned the sale and importation of burning bush; New York may soon follow in September 2013 http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2012/09/new_york_makes_its_hit_list_wh.html.

Native alternatives include: *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry), *Aronia melanocarpa* (black choke berry), *Fothergilla major* (Large fothergilla), *Itea virginica* (Virginia cultivars), *Viburnum prunifolium* (blackhaw), *Euonymus atropurpureus* (Eastern wahoo), and *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki' (Japanese maple).

More information about *E. alatus* can be found at -

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/euoala/all.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/eual.htm>

