

NIIPP Bulletin October 2013

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1. **New Invader Alerts**

Cook County

1 report of oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) in Cook County, IL observed on August 26, 2011
http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3012&id=us_IL_17031

1 report of common water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in Cook County, IL observed on September 4, 2013
http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3020&id=us_IL_17031

1 report of water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) in Cook County, IL observed on September 4, 2013
http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3064&id=us_IL_17031

DuPage County

1 report of Callery pear (Bradford pear) (*Pyrus calleryana*) in DuPage County, IL observed on September 27, 2013
http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=10957&id=us_IL_17043

1 report of Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) in DuPage County, IL observed on August 30, 2013
http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3051&id=us_IL_17043

Kane County

1 report of Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) in Kane County, IL observed on September 23, 2013
http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=3052&id=us_IL_17089

Lake County

1 report of wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) in Lake County, IL observed on July 2, 2013
http://www.eddmaps.org/county.cfm?sub=5114&id=us_IL_17097

2. **Special request from the New Invaders Watch Program**

Please report infestations of Callery (Bradford) Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) to the New Invaders Watch database! We need this information for risk assessment purposes. Please go to www.newinvaders.org to make a report. Thank you!

3. Invasive Ornamental Plant Symposium/NIIPP 3rd Annual Meeting

Eighty-one people attended the Invasive Ornamental Plant Symposium on Thursday, October 3, 2013 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Attendees and speakers came from nine states and represented more than 50 organizations and agencies. The presentations were very informative as were the afternoon discussions. Discussion will be continued online and via conference call. Presentations are posted on the NIIPP website at http://niipp.net/?page_id=2023

4. Summary of Where Ecology Meets Economy

The “Where Ecology Meets Economy: A Forum for Green Industry Professionals and Land Management” took place in Menomonee Falls, WI. Wisconsin is well along in its process of having green industry and natural areas managers work together to choose which ornamental plants need to be regulated as was demonstrated by the fact that Johnson’s Nursery and the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium were the hosts of the meeting.

Two take-home messages from this meeting were 1) it is possible for green industry and conservation to work together and happily do so and 2) by using public lands as primers or templates we set the tone for what people plant on private lands. An interesting suggestion from Steve McCarthy was fees (taxes) for the purchase of ornamental plants that could be used to fund restoration efforts.

Please have a look at the presentations and resources from this important meeting at <http://sewisc.org/sewisc-events/311-where-ecology-meets-economy-a-forum-for-green-industry-professionals-land-managers>

5. Invasive Plant of the Month: Asian bittersweet

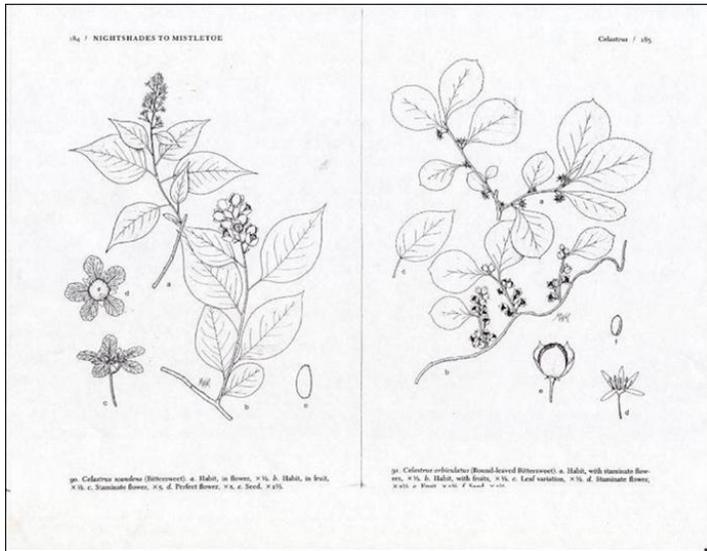
NIIPP has already featured Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) as its invasive plant of the month, but the branches of Asian bittersweet I keep seeing delicately tucked among the pots of chrysanthemums and cabbages on walks through my neighborhood have prompted me to feature it again☺. Please spread the word about not using this plant for decorative purposes in autumn!

Asian (Oriental) bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is a deciduous, woody perennial vine native to Asia that is frequently used in decorative wreaths in autumn and winter. Its leaves are alternate, glossy; nearly as wide as long and have fine teeth along the margins. Asian bittersweet will grow to the tops of trees and become quite thick and rope-like (with bark). The leaves of this plant will shade out sections of tree foliage and weaken the tree, making it susceptible to wind damage.

It is important to note that Asian bittersweet and native bittersweet (*C. scandens*) are look a-likes. The best way to tell them apart is to look at where the fruits clusters are found along the vine. In Asian bittersweet fruit clusters (right side of picture below) are found all along the vine (usually associated with leaf axils), while native bittersweet will have a cluster of fruits at the end or “top” of the vine.

Asian bittersweet is a New Invader: <http://www.newinvaders.org/species/orientalbittersweet.pdf> and is predominant throughout <http://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/usstate.cfm?sub=3012>

Additional information about Asian bittersweet can be found at http://niipp.net/?page_id=530&id=CEOR7



American Bittersweet Image - <http://www.glsc.usgs.gov/files/factsheets/2007-2%20Identifying%20Bittersweet.pdf>



(photos taken by Deb Maurer, LCFPD)