



Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin

Invasive species organizations encourage residents and land managers to designate a few trees to monitor for invasive species every August. In Michigan we are on the look-out for a variety of tree pests such as beech leaf disease, spotted lanternfly, and Asian longhorned beetles (ALB). Signs of ALB include pencil sized insect holes, dying branches, or sawdust like material at the base of the tree.

Why Remove Invasive Plants When Pollinators Love Them?

There are many times we do site visits or consulting projects where we identify invasive plant species for removal, and some of those plants have a lot of pollinator activity around them (bees, wasps, butterflies etc.). Naturally, with there being a big buzz about how bees and other pollinator species are facing habitat loss and pesticide-related deaths, people wonder if it is best to just leave the plants. Below we present a few reasons why removal is usually suggested! Most invasive species are generalist species and can survive a variety of conditions, and often sprout earlier than native ones and shade them out. Some invasive plants are allelopathic, meaning they secrete a compound that prevents other plants growing nearby, thus taking over an area and eliminating important native species. Some studies have shown native plant communities to support higher biodiversity in a region.

Some insects may rely on one plant to complete the larval stage, such as the monarch caterpillars only eating milkweed plants, and Karner blue caterpillars needing wild lupine. Unfortunately, for Karner's, the commonly planted big leaf lupine is invasive here and can hybridize with wild lupine (neither being a viable food source for larva). Without food, local populations may die-out or adults move elsewhere. The allelopathic spotted knapweed has a long single taproot with lateral roots and when it replaces native plants with fibrous root systems, there is less root for soil to attach to, thus leading to erosion (and eventual sedimentation of lakes or streams if nearby). Dry invasive brush can also become a fire hazard during periods of drought! Michigan has many native species to meet your needs, so consider replacing invasive plants with native ones!



A)



B)



C)

Invasive big-leaf lupine (A) can hybridize with native wild lupine (B) and take over and suppress native plants like common milkweed (C) that monarch caterpillars eat.

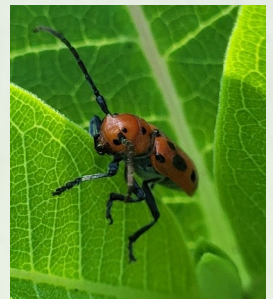
Invasive Species Spotlight—Spotted Knapweed

- *Centaurea stoebe* is an invasive plant that can live about 3 to 7 years and grow 2 to 3 ft. tall
- Leaves are bluish or grayish green and lance shaped lobes; several upright stems
- Flowers are pinkish-purple and bloom from July through September
- Has a long thick tap root
- Is allelopathic



Native Species Spotlight—Red Milkweed Beetle

- *Tetraopes tetrophthalmus* is a long-horned beetle that is orangish-red, with black spots and a curled black antennae
- Adults are about 3/8 to 1/2 in. long
- Prefers common milkweed
- Larva overwinter in roots of milkweed
- Do not eat monarch larvae or eggs
- Called four-eyes as each antenna bisects an eye



Upcoming Events

August 22nd—NOAA Series: Wildfire and Invasive Plants in Alaska's Boreal Forest. Three speakers from University of Alaska Fairbanks, 3:00pm to 4:00pm.

Registration required:

uaf-accap.org/event/wildfire-invasive-plants/

September 12th—MIPN Series: Japanese chaff flower. Speaker Chris Evans from Univ. Illinois Extension, 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

Registration required:

mortonarb.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufuCvqDwoHNB5Z9F42DU-SLyzKONbALSZ#/registration

September 20th—NAISMA: Reviewing the Impacts of Climate Change on Biological Control Agents: Identifying Research Priorities and Knowledge Gaps. Speaker Dr. Annette Evans from USGS 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

Registration required:

naisma.org/event/september-webinar/

Website of the Month

This website provides the contact information of CISMAs like us or CWMAs (Cooperative Weed Management Area) across USA and Canada. If you know of one not on the map, consider asking them to add their information!

naisn.org/cwmamap/

If you have questions, please contact JLW CISMA Coordinator Dr. Shikha Singh at shikha.singh@macd.org or (517) 395 - 2089.

Visit our website for more events and resources: jlwcisma.weebly.com



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