

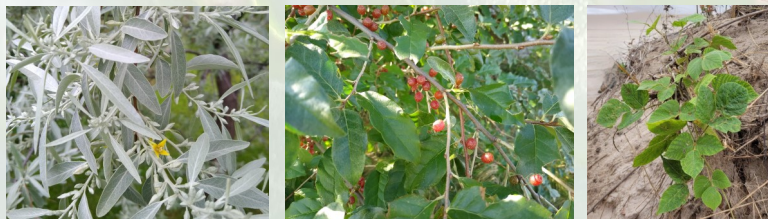
Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin

Love is in the air, and we have a whole week to celebrate our love for learning about invasive species (there is that other holiday called Valentine's Day as well). During the week of February 20th, we will highlight invasive species from around the world on our social media platforms, including our species that are invasive elsewhere!

Historical Role of Agencies in Using Invasive Species

Many agencies and organizations often focus on prevention strategies and actions people or consumers can take to prevent the spread of invasive species. However, some invasive species were promoted by agencies and environmental organizations for conservation purposes before invasive species were considered a serious environmental problem.

The 1930s saw conditions leading to rapid agricultural expansion (crop prices and machinery loans) where suboptimal lands were put into production, and many instances of soil conservation practices being disregarded. After successive droughts, horrible dust storms occurred which further deteriorated the land and led to erosion. To address erosion, the US Soil Conservation Service (USSCS), now known as USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, utilized several shrubs and vines. Multiflora rose was used as "living fences" since they were able to grow in abandoned agricultural fields and poor soil, and as a bonus, rose hips are eaten by a variety of birds and animals. Autumn olive and Russian olive were originally used as windbreakers and bird habitat by federal agencies and conservation districts. However, their use was increased during the Dust Bowl era as an erosion control shrub in the 1950s. Our final example is the Kudzu vine. Kudzu was grown in USSCS nurseries, which they subsequently paid farmers \$8/acre to plant as it had deep growing roots efficient at holding on to soil. Over 3 million acres were planted on farms by 1946!



Russian olive (left), autumn olive (center), and kudzu (right) were once promoted for erosion control and bird habitat!

As we see now, these plants have taken over and supplanted many native species over the past decades. Thankfully, we have a better understanding of how invasive species impact the environment, and have native alternatives we can use in place of invasive species!

For more information:

Finch, B. 2015. The True Story of Kudzu, the Vine That Never Truly Ate the South. Link: www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/true-story-kudzu-vine-ate-south-180956325/

Invasive Species Spotlight—Kudzu

- *Pueraria montana* var. *lobata* is vine that is native to Australasia, Pacific islands, and parts of Asia
- Has alternate compound leaves with 3 leaflets; purple individual flowers
- Vines are hairy and grow up to 60 feet, with each plant having up to 30 vines
- Roots can grow up to 6-12 ft deep and weigh about 300 to 400 lbs
- Commonly referred to as the vine that ate the South



Photo Credit: S. Singh

Native Species Spotlight—Pickerel Frog

- *Lithobates palustris* translates to "a stone that walks or hunts" and "of marshes or swamp"
- Brown-bronze in color with two parallel rows of squarish spots on back (between dorsolateral folds)
- About 2 to 3 in. in length
- Prefers cool, clear water
- Egg masses contain about 2000-3000 eggs



Photo Credit: S. Singh

Upcoming Events

February 14-15th—6th Annual RISSC Symposium. Discussion on challenges and solutions to incorporating climate change into invasive species management. Registration required: [cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcqD-CpqT8tGtSUfVttc_xrs3ZXDnR9SUlj](http://cornell.zoom.us/j/9221111111)

February 20th—NAISMA: Invasive Species Programs Across Mexico (Yolanda Barrios Caballero, CONBIO). 2pm to 3pm. Registration required: naisma.memberclicks.net/nisaw23-mexico#!/



Website of the Month

Florida is a popular tourist destination, and has several prolific invasive species in the area. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has a very informative page on the exotic lionfish. There are links on how divers and non-divers can help management efforts! myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/lionfish/

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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