

Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin

As the JLW CISMA approaches its four year anniversary, we have come along way, but recognize that more needs to be done. We are looking to expand our reach both within and outside the tri-county region, thus are excited to announce efforts for a monthly communication geared towards a variety of audiences. Over the next few months we will be adjusting our format and length as needed to ensure we meet the needs of our audience, so if you have content suggestions or ideas, please reach out to me!

When Green Does Not Equal Healthy

How many of you have taken a walk and thought how lush and healthy your local park or natural preserve looks? All that greenery, bright berries, and pretty flowers must mean it's a healthy and attractive area for native birds, animals and insects. However, not all that is green is healthy for the environment. Invasive species are those that are not from the area and causes harm to the economy, environment and/or to human health. A lot of that greenery you are seeing could be invasive! The picture below is of the same woodlot, but on two different ends. The picture on the right is what it looks like in its natural state, whereas in the left picture we can see common buckthorn beginning to takeover.



Both photos were taken at the same woodlot, but one area was being taken over by the invasive common buckthorn.

Many woodlots that have naturally open understories are being changed when species like buckthorn, multi-flora rose, and barberry move in. This in turn makes it hard for wildlife to move about, find palatable food, and in some cases will increase the amount of ticks in an area. Thorns and increased density of branches will also cover pathways and injure recreationalists. To prevent the spread of invasive species to and from local natural areas, check and clean your shoes and pets before and after visiting the area. Learn how to identify invasive species, and reach out to your local CISMA for management tips and suggestions!

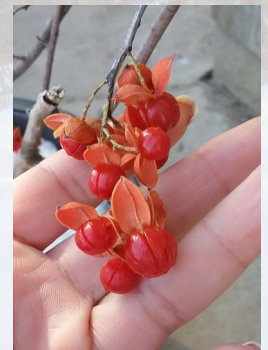
Invasive Species Spotlight—Oriental bittersweet

- *Celastrus orbiculatus* is a woody vine native to Asia that can climb up 60 feet
- Alternate leaves with 5 petaled blossoms that are greenish-yellow in color
- Mature fruit are red with a yellow seed coat, and found along entire twig
- Vines can girdle tree trunks, damage branches, and outcompete native species



Native Species Spotlight—American bittersweet

- *Celastrus scandens* is a woody vine that can climb approximately 20 feet
- Alternate leaves that are 2-4 inches long
- Flowers are greenish white to yellow in color
- Red fruits occur in hanging clusters at the end of the twig, and have a red seed coat
- Verify label as the invasive oriental bittersweet has been accidentally labelled as this species in nurseries



Upcoming Events

January 25th—Not MI Species webinar (9am to 10am): Dive into the gene pool: Using environmental DNA to detect invasive species. Visit: www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3308_3333-539592--,00.html

February 28th—JLW CISMA Partner meeting (9am to 10am)

March 18th—Spring Invasive Species Summit (virtual, 10am to 12:30pm) hosted by several South East CISMAs. Visit: www.oaklandinvasivespecies.org/summit/



Website of the Month

Michigan natural shoreline partnership website has valuable information for those living near lakes and streams. Especially interesting is a section on suggested native plants you can plant above and below the water level!

www.mishorelinepartnership.org

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Shikha Singh at shikha.singh@macd.org or (517) 395 - 2089. Or visit our website: www.jlwcisma.weebly.com



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