



Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin

Upcoming Events

March 24th—EGLE Not MI Species Seminar (virtual, 9am to 10am). *Step aboard Michigan’s Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant program.*

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4120941414593589775>

April 20th—NAISMA Seminar (virtual, 2pm to 3pm). *A Biocultural Approach to Integrating Indigenous Knowledge with Western Science for Invasive Species Management and Policy*

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91711111111?pwd=WN_7AEES_quROafoNB9QSPuSg



Website of the Month

Michigan State University Extension has a native plant database, where you can search for plants based on soil moisture, region, sunlight and pollinators. There are also informative plant factsheets for a variety of species!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/plant_facts/

With the arrival of pothole season in Michigan, Spring can’t be far behind! Some of you may be thinking about prepping your yard and tidying up leaf litter, consider waiting until daytime temperatures have consistently been above 50°F for at least 7 consecutive days. This allows pollinator species some time to emerge as they often overwinter or lay eggs amongst the leaf litter and brush.

Jumping Worm: New Worm to Keep an Eye Out for!

Did you know that the species of worm we all grew up with are not originally from the region? Because the glaciers scoured the landscape, existing worm habitat was destroyed. The worms that you saw on the sidewalk or used as bait were European earthworms (*Lumbricus terrestris*). They are thought to have been brought in during the European settlement period, and their negative impacts have been well documented. Asian jumping worms are a newer group of worms from the genus “Amyntas” that have been found in the region, their common name stems from their thrashing and snake like movements when disturbed. They have a milky to grey colored band (clitellum) located near the head which completely encircles the body and is flush with the surface.



Jumping worms can arrive in plants from stores and garage sales, as well as in discarded fishing bait.

Jumping worms can change the texture of the soil layer and eat the mulch or leaves that would normally provide nutrients for trees. This can also change what type of native plants can grow in the area. Typically they arrive from people dumping bait, introducing worms into their gardens, and from potted plants or trees with contaminated soils. Once here, they are hard to exterminate, especially from large areas making prevention important! Tips to prevent their spread include removing soil from plants before transplanting, disposing of unused bait in the trash, purchasing compost that has been heated to 131°F or greater, and cleaning gardening tools before using in another yard/garden.

Invasive Species Spotlight—Black Swallow-Wort

- *Cynanchum louiseae* is a perennial vine that can grow up to 7 ft
- Leaves are shiny and dark-green with a pointed tip; twines itself around plants
- This species can form dense stands and crowd out native plants
- Monarch butterflies will mistake this plant for milkweed and lay eggs on the leaves, when eggs hatch, caterpillars will die if they eat the leaves
- Roots and leaves can be toxic to some livestock animals and other insects



Photo Credit: Shikha Singh

Native Species Spotlight—Monarch Butterfly

- *Danaus plexippus* is commonly known as the monarch butterfly
- Females will lay 300 to 1100 eggs, of which less than a dozen will reach adulthood
- Caterpillars have black, yellow and white stripes
- Require milkweed leaves for food
- Adults require flower nectar for food
- Sometimes adults confuse swallow-wort for milkweed, leading to caterpillar mortality

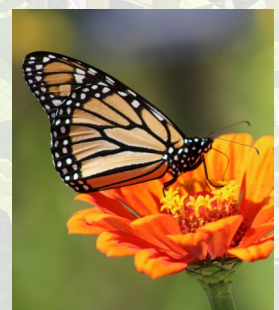


Photo Credit: Shikha Singh

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

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



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