

Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Bulletin



Days remaining in 2023 are slowly but surely dwindling! And this can only mean one thing...the holiday season is around the corner! This month we have a few reminders on how to prevent the spread of invasive species during the holiday season, and highlight some species you will see during the winter. Finally, good luck to our friends heading out for deer hunting. May your freezers be well-stocked and your field stories impressive!

Tips to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species This Holiday Season!

Winter is coming, and with it comes different ways to spread invasive species. Here are some hidden ways we can spread invasive species whether we are having a staycation or going away for vacation! A few famous home decorating gurus (we are looking at you Martha Stewart) have suggested using invasive species such as bittersweet and honeysuckle to create wreaths, door decorations and table placements. Transporting these branches can move the species from one spot to another, including any eggs laid by insects! Staycation can also mean receiving packages and gifts via mail! Check those packages for bugs and if stuffed with leafy vegetation, throw it out in the garbage. Finally, some homeowners put up bird feeders to help our bird friends when food may be scarce. Avoid hanging them near hemlock trees (due to the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid) and clean them often!

You can still see seeds and burrs clinging to tall dried stalks, and with the constant snow fall and melt, exposed areas of grass are often visible along and in the middle of trails. If you are clumsy, there is a good chance of skiing into brush and vines. It is important to inspect all boots, skis, and snowshoes for seeds and plant matter. When snowmobiling, make sure you stay on trails and park in areas clear of invasive species. Seeds in the ground can get kicked up in areas of high activity and get stuck between the crevices of snowmobile tracks while vines and roots can get snagged in the spindles, snow guards or near the hood. Ice fishing also brings some risk! Aquatic plants like Eurasian milfoil can survive under the ice, as well as spiny water flea and zebra mussels. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) is a virus that can impact sporting fish species such as muskies and large mouth bass—with warmer water species more susceptible. VHS can survive about 14 days in the water and first infect fish via their gills. Anglers should clean all fishing gear (augers and lines) and use local bait. It is illegal to use leftover bait in other water bodies in Michigan, so please throw it in the trash.





Outdoor recreation can spread invasive species, thus it is important to clean all gear when ice fishing (A) to avoid Eurasian milfoil (B) from spreading to new lakes.

Upcoming Events

December 6th—NE RISCC: Managing for Stiltgrass in a Changing Environment, Dr. Shikha Singh (JLW CISMA); 11am to 12noon. Registration required:

cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/ tJwkceyoqz0pHN0l9ieiWM96B4xGEHi5 MR85#/registration

December 7th—NAISMA Annual Biocontrol Summit: Using Weed Biocontrol to Reduce Wildfire Risk and Mitigate Wildfire Impacts; 12pm to 4pm.

Registration required:

naisma.org/event/annual-biocontrolsummit/



Website of the Month

A fun game to teach kids about how invasive species can impact food webs! You can play this with kids (and adults!). Each game takes less than 10 minutes and simulates native species survival over several years.

sciencefromscientists.org/game/ public html2/index.html



Invasive Species Spotlight—Oriental Bittersweet

- Celastrus orbiculatus is a woody perennial vine that can climb shrubs and trees
- A dioecious plant with pollen and fruit growing on male and female plants
- Reaches 60 ft tall and vines 10 in. in diameter
- Leaves are bout 3 to 4 in. in length
- Fruit has a yellow seed coat and red center
- Can girdle native trees, break branches, and prevent sun from reaching leaves



Native Species Spotlight—White Tail Deer

- Odocoileus virginianus was named the state game animal in 1997
- Mainly vegetarian but have been known to eat meat
- Have excellent eyesight but are color blind
- Jump up to 9 ft high and across 25 ft
- Twins are common; fawn spots fade at 3 or 4 months
- Can reach a max speed of 40 mph



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







