



In addition to seeing many ghouls and goblins running around, we are entering a scary time where many plants are going to seed! Check shoes and clothing for seeds and burrs, and if you are constructing hunting blinds, avoid using invasive plants like phragmites and cattails as cover. We are also in peak bird migration month! To help our feathered friends reach their wintering regions safely, turn off unnecessary lights at night and put up anti-collision decals if your home has birds hitting your window.

## Fall Prescribed Burns and Additional Management Techniques

As we head into fall, the time to manage many invasive plant species has elapsed. However, there are still some management actions you can take! Prescribed burns can take place in spring and fall, and occur when trained managers deliberately set fire to a region to improve habitat! Prescribed burns can be a cost effective way to remove large amounts of surface level invasive species in a short amount of time. Benefits to prescribed (or even natural wildfires) include access to areas previously blocked by invasive species, return of nutrients to the ground from standing dead stalks, spring plants get a competitive edge by removing sunlight blocking shrubs, and some invasive fungi may die. Burns also help oak trees by removing competing maple, cottonwood or sumac saplings. Fire is also integral to Jack pine trees as fire is needed to open the resinous pine cones to release the seeds, and the ash helps the seed grow. This is extremely beneficial for Michigan's Kirtland's warblers who require stands of young Jack pines. Strategic prescribed burns can reduce hazardous fuels such as excess leaf litter, which according to the American Lung Association may result in better air quality when accidental fires or natural wildfires occur.

It is important to note that prescribed fires may not kill the roots of some plants or destroy all seeds. Prescribed burn soil temperatures drop off after a couple inches, so seeds about 2 inches or deeper may not die as the soil temperature does not get high enough. Burns may stimulate some invasive plants to grow and may not kill invasive insects. To maximize invasive species management, land managers should consider using additional techniques involving herbicide (cut stump, hack and squirt etc.) or physical means (grinding the stumps, hand pulling the seedlings and saplings etc.) to achieve management goals.



A)



B)

Prescribed fires can help remove invasive species (A) but doesn't necessarily kill everything as shown in (B), where you can see some green vegetation where a prescribed burn just occurred.

## Invasive Species Spotlight—Spotted Lanternfly Egg Mass

- *Lycorma delicatula* is a planthopper insect
- Egg mass is 1.5 in. long, grey, looks like putty (newly laid mass is shiny)
- Found on rough surfaces like bark, rail carts, cars and furniture
- Contains 30-50 eggs per mass
- Females can lay at least 2 masses
- Visible from about September to May
- If found, scrape into container containing alcohol



## Native Species Spotlight—Beech Blight Aphids

- *Grylloprociphilus imbricator* are sap sucking aphids (aka boogie-woogie aphids)
- Nymphs look like white cotton tufts with white wool like filaments
- Colonies shake their abdomens in unison to warn off predators
- They excrete honeydew waste that attracts sooty mold
- Generally no major tree harm



## Upcoming Events

**November 6th**—JLW Cisma training session; 10am to 12noon at the AJ Smith Recreation Center.

Registration required: email [shikha.singh@macd.org](mailto:shikha.singh@macd.org) to register

**November 8th**—JLW Cisma & Shades of the Outdoor event: Invasive Species: What They Are, Why We Should Care, and Ones To Look For; 7pm to 8pm.

Registration required:  
[tinyurl.com/JLWSOTO](http://tinyurl.com/JLWSOTO)

**November 15th**-ISC webinar: How Humans Affected the Spread of Zebra Mussels; 1pm to 2pm.

Registration required:

[us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_RJz4HcSRTKu07nnAMWKuYg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RJz4HcSRTKu07nnAMWKuYg#/registration)



## Website of the Month

A group focused on research and public engagement where invasive species and climate change intersect. The website provides links to upcoming events and research summaries.

[risccnetwork.org/northeast](http://risccnetwork.org/northeast)

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

Visit our website for more events and resources: [jlwcisma.weebly.com](http://jlwcisma.weebly.com)



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