

## **Vermont's Monthly Invasives Update 2009**

June 2009

*The Monthly Invasives Update is distributed by The Vermont Chapter of Nature Conservancy's Wise on Weeds! program. If you would like to receive the newsletter, or have something to contribute, please contact Sharon Plumb at [splumb@tnc.org](mailto:splumb@tnc.org).*

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## **SPECIES SPOTLIGHT**

### **1. Species Spotlight: Japanese Knotweed *Polygonum cuspidatum***



Only 6 – 8 weeks since it first poked its head through the sandy soils along streambanks and roadsides, Japanese Knotweed is 8-10 feet high. Because of its hollow stems, people frequently call it ‘bamboo’.

When it first sprouts, the shoots are reddish and look like asparagus. In fact, you can use the sprouts to cook with - - making them savory like asparagus, or adding them to pies and tarts instead of rhubarb. The leaves are heartshaped, and

the flowers trail down the stem. Honeybees love the flowers, but otherwise insects do not find the plant attractive for food.

Since it arrived in Vermont, it has taken over most of the riverbanks of our major rivers and many tributaries. It is a fast spreader. It can grow from small fragments of stem or rhizome.

#### **Removal Techniques:**

**Mechanical treatment:** Cut stalks the first week of every month (at least 3 x) during the growing season. Repeat cuts annually and replant area until plant dies back.

**Chemical treatment:** Cut stalks of knotweed in late June. Cut again after August 1 and drip a 25% glyphosate herbicide\* solution into the stems. An injector gun (right) can also be used for application. For large infestations, spray a 3 % glyphosate low volume foliar solution.

**DO NOT COMPOST! Plant fragments can re-sprout.**

#### ***For safe and legal herbicide application:***

- Read the herbicide label. The label is the law.
- If you are treating large stands of an invasive, or working on public lands, it is highly recommended that you hire a licensed herbicide applicator.
- Private citizens can legally apply non-restricted use herbicides on land on which they own. All others need to become certified applicators or hire someone that is certified.
- If you have questions about herbicide use, contact the VT Agency of Agriculture at 802-828-2431.
- If you are working in or near a waterway or wetland, contact the VT Department of Environmental Conservation at 802-241-3761.

## **NOTEWORTHY NEWS**

### **2. Vermont Aquatics Nuisance Bill**

AN ACT RELATING TO AQUATIC NUISANCE CONTROL - H.15

All the steps of its passage are set out at

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/database/status/summary.cfm?Bill=H.0015&Session=2010>

This bill recodifies the existing aquatic nuisance control program under one statutory chapter, including 10 V.S.A. §§921-924, §1263a, and §1266. In addition, this bill makes the following changes in the existing aquatic nuisance control program and related programs:

- Expands the existing aquatic nuisance transport prohibition law to include all aquatic plants or aquatic plant parts and other aquatic nuisance species (ANS) identified by the secretary by rule. It limits the transport law to transport to or from Vermont waters on the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, trailer, or other equipment.
- .Corrects language in the aquatic nuisance control permit statute that will enable the issuance of permits for chemicals other than pesticides (such as alum).
- Exempts from permit requirements the use of bottom barriers, structural barriers, structural controls, and powered mechanical devices in small ( $\leq$  one acre) ponds on private property.
- Adds "structural barrier" to the methods requiring an Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit.
- Authorizes the issuance of aquatic species rapid response general permits, with coverage available to the commissioners of DEC and Fish and Wildlife in emergency situations for non-indigenous new aquatic species and allows for access authority with permission to implement these permits.
- Authorizes rulemaking to implement the statute.
- Updates the ANS statement that the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is required to include with motorboat registrations and renewals to enable flexibility as the ANS situation changes. This proposal would also add similar language to educational materials produced after July 1, 2009, regarding water pollution, use of state waters, hunting or fishing produced by ANR and the Department of Tourism and Marketing.
- Requires that the Boating Safety Course include an educational component on ANS and spread prevention.
- Requires two reports to the Legislature by January 15, 2010, one regarding funding needs and potential new sources to the Aquatic Nuisance Control Fund, and one regarding aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and their impact on the economy and the environment, current programs and regulations, and recommendations for improving regulations and response, and coordinating public education and outreach.
- Extends the sunset date of the Working Committee on Mercury Pollution until January 15, 2015.
- It also includes an amendment to do a study on the status of terrestrial invasive plants and report the answers to 5 questions back to the Senate and House natural resources committees in January 2010. The text of the amendment concerning the study is as follows:

## Sec. 10c. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT ON INVASIVE SPECIES

On or before January 15, 2010, the agency of natural resources, after consultation with the invasive and noxious plants working group administered by the agency of agriculture, food, and markets and the department of forests, parks and recreation, shall submit to the house and senate committees on natural resources and energy, the house and senate committees on agriculture, and the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources a report that shall include the following:

- (1) A summary of the economic and environmental impact of invasive species on the state;
- (2) A summary of how invasive species are currently regulated in the state;
- (3) A summary of how state agencies and affected state industry respond to invasive species outbreaks in the state;
- (4) Recommendations for improving state regulation of and response to the threat and spread of invasive species; and
- (5) Recommendations for providing and coordinating public education and outreach regarding invasive species.

### **3. The Conservancy's Wise on Weeds! Program Receives EPA Educational Grant**

The Conservancy's Wise on Weeds! program recently learned that it has received an EPA educational grant. The grant allows us to increase our outreach and management efforts in the Richmond Floodplain Forest, and expand our partnerships with The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and the Vermont Land Trust.

### **4. The Conservancy's Wise on Weeds! Program Receives Wellborn Ecology Grant**

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Wellborn Ecology Fund has awarded the Wise on Weeds! program \$4600 to continue expanding its work in the Upper Valley.

## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **5. Managing Invasive Plants in Your Forests:**

June 30, 8:45 – 3:30 pm. Hildene, Manchester. Intensive 6 hour workshop: including identification, treatment methods, and how to prioritize sites and species. Co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, Bennington County Sustainable Forest Consortium, VT FPR, and VT Coverts, and Polatin Ecological Services. To register go to:

<http://www.bccdvt.org/>.

### **6. Invasive Plant Management for Road Crews Workshops**

Learn why invasive species are a threat to Vermont's natural resources, local economies, and human health; learn how to identify weeds in the field based on plant form and habitat; and learn how to reduce the spread of invasive terrestrial plants through best management practices for road crews. Credit: This is a 4 hour Environmental Workshop under the new Vermont Local Roads Scholar Program. Instructors: Sharon Plumb -

Coordinator of The Nature Conservancy's Wise on Weeds! Outreach and Education Program and Craig Dusablon - Landscape Coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Transportation Fee: \$10 Go to <http://www.vermontlocalroads.org/> to register and for more information. June 24, Manchester; July 22 Ferrisburgh; August 26 Woodstock.

**6. Invasive Plants 101! Landowner Workshop at Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park**

July 8, Woodstock, Vermont. Learn what terrestrial invasive plants are, why they are a problem, and how you can manage them at the landscape level. Presenters Include The Conservancy's Sharon Plumb, Redstart Forestry, and Marsh Bilings Rockefeller National Historical Park ecologist Kyle Jones. Contact Kyle Jones at [Kyle\\_Jones@nps.gov](mailto:Kyle_Jones@nps.gov) for more information.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**7. Get outside with The Nature Conservancy and Pull it Up! Contact Becca Jordan at [rjordan@tnc.org](mailto:rjordan@tnc.org) for more information.**

- July 28, 9:30-3, White River Ledges Natural Area, Pomfret, VT
- July 30, 9:30-3, Maidstone Bends Natural Area, Maidstone, VT
- August 3, 9:30-3, Pherrins River, Morgan, VT
- August 10, 9:30-3, LaPlatte River Marsh Natural Area, Shelburne, VT
- **Water Chestnut Removal** Hand pull water chestnut from canoes in wetlands of the Southern Lake Champlain Valley. All equipment and training provided. *June 23rd and 25th.* contact Calvin Maginel at (802) 265-8645 ext. 27 or by email [cmaginel@tnc.org](mailto:cmaginel@tnc.org).

**8. Burlington Parks & Rec Invasive Plant Removal Program**

This exciting program is designed to introduce outdoor enthusiasts, property owners and gardeners to the most prominent invasive plants in Burlington. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about invasive plants, identify them in the field and remove them. All removal session will take place in the field. Field conditions can vary and participants should dress appropriately in long pants, sturdy shoes and gloves. Water bottles and bug spray are recommended. Tools will be provided. **All sessions are free but pre-registration is required. Contact Lisa Coven at [LCoven@ci.Burlington.vt.us](mailto:LCoven@ci.Burlington.vt.us) for more information**

Date: Saturday June 6th 9:30-11:30	Location: Leddy Park
Date: June 13th, 9:30am-11:30am	Location: McKenzie Park
Date: July 11 <sup>th</sup> , 9:30am-11:30am	Location: McKenzie Park
Date: Saturday July 18th 9:30-11:30	Location: Leddy Park
Date: August 8th, 9:30-11:30	Location: McKenzie Park

**9. Volunteers Needed to Assist in European Frogbit Management**

The Lewis Creek Association (LCA) is launching an 8-week intensive management program to control European Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) in the Town Farm Bay

Wetlands, in Charlotte, VT. Frogbit, like many aquatic nuisance species, has been documented as decreasing populations of native aquatic plants and potentially damaging fish spawning habitat. For several years, concerned citizens in Charlotte have been volunteering their time pulling frogbit each summer. From their initial progress, LCA with funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and VT State Clean and Clear Program, is launching a pilot control project in the wetland to reduce the frogbit population and document the effectiveness of a hand-pulling operation. The project's coordinators, Sue Smith and Sara Kuebbing, have hired a crew to manually hand-pull frogbit from June 1, 2009 – July 24, 2009. But, they are still looking for additional help to hand-harvest frogbit!

**Volunteer dates:**

Wednesdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24; July 1, 8, 15, 22 – 10:00am to 12:00pm  
Saturdays, June 20, 27, July 18, – 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Please contact us for more details and are interested in helping out. If you have a group who is interested in volunteering, additional volunteer dates can be arranged.  
Sue Smith: [ssmith@gmavt.net](mailto:ssmith@gmavt.net) and Sara Kuebbing: [sara.e.kuebbing@gmail.com](mailto:sara.e.kuebbing@gmail.com)

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

10. **The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is soliciting proposals for the 2009 "Pulling Together" Initiative.** The Pulling Together Initiative seeks proposals that will help control invasive plant species, mostly through the work of public/private partnerships such as Cooperative Weed Management Areas.  
[www.nfwf.org/pti](http://www.nfwf.org/pti) Application Deadline: June 30, 2009

11. **The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is soliciting proposals for the 2009 Native Plant Conservation Initiative (NPCI) grants cycle.** The NPCI grant program is conducted in cooperation with the Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA), a partnership between the Foundation, ten federal agencies, and more than 270 non-governmental organizations. PCA provides a framework and strategy for linking resources and expertise in developing a coordinated national approach to the conservation of native plants. Since 1995, the NPCI grant program has funded multi-stakeholder projects that focus on the conservation of native plants and pollinators under any of the following 6 focal areas: conservation, education, restoration, research, sustainability, and data linkages. For more information please visit [www.nfwf.org/npci](http://www.nfwf.org/npci). Application Deadline: July 1, 2009

**RESOURCES**

13. **Wild Ones Promotes Native Plants.** [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org) Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound practices to encourage biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Wild Ones is a not-for-profit, environmental, educational, and advocacy organization.

**14. Invasive Species Middle School Curriculum**

Are you a teacher or do you know a teacher who would like to teach middle & high school students about invasives? Check out Georgian Court University's EPA funded curriculum at <http://gcuonline.georgian.edu/phragmites.htm>.

### **15. Goutweed Soup**

Goutweed is taking over roadsides, floodplain forests and sugarbushes. It's flowering now in most places. Don't plant it - - but do eat it! Check out this recipe for Goutweed Soup.

[http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://tofufortwo.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/goutweed\\_soup.jpg&imgrefurl=http://tofufortwo.net/2008/05/21/goutweed-soup/&usq=\\_\\_RRFmEI6IfGENfvUHeWssPK0M17M=&h=1880&w=2816&sz=369&hl=en&start=6&um=1&tbnid=C-S7KtJgTDQvmM:&tbnh=100&tbnw=150&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dgoutweed%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dsafari%26rls%3Den-us%26sa%3DN%26um%3D1](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://tofufortwo.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/goutweed_soup.jpg&imgrefurl=http://tofufortwo.net/2008/05/21/goutweed-soup/&usq=__RRFmEI6IfGENfvUHeWssPK0M17M=&h=1880&w=2816&sz=369&hl=en&start=6&um=1&tbnid=C-S7KtJgTDQvmM:&tbnh=100&tbnw=150&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dgoutweed%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dsafari%26rls%3Den-us%26sa%3DN%26um%3D1)