



# *Plants out of Place*

The newsletter of the  
INVASIVE PLANTS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

Issue 27, February 2010

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*Through Awareness  
Comes  
Positive Change!*

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## Let's Get Ready For June - Invasive Species Awareness Month!

by Courtney LeClair

It is time again to gear up for Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) which is, as always, during June. This is when individuals and groups throughout the state hold workshops, work parties, and field trips to educate others about invasive species in their area and actions they can take to make a difference. The focus of ISAM has covered various topics in past years, ranging from woodland invasive species to aquatic invasive species; this year's focus is on **preventing the spread** of all invasive species.

The 2010 ISAM theme is "**Slow the Spread by Sole and Tread**", which, you may recall, is the same as the 2009 theme. The intent behind the 2010 theme is to bring attention to the recent invasive species law (NR40) as well as the related Best Management Practices (BMPs). For ISAM's sixth year, the poster contest has been reinstated with focus on sixth graders throughout Wisconsin and will challenge the kids to create posters that show a wide variety of prevention activities.

Along with the poster contest, is the annual **Invader Crusader Award** which is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the outstanding hard work that volunteers and professionals do with invasive species. The Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species is ready to accept Invader Crusader Nominations, so if you are interested in nominating an individual or group for this award, please visit the WCIS website and select Invader Crusader Awards:  
<http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness/index.asp>

**"Slow the Spread  
by Sole  
and Tread"**

## Invasive Species Best Management Practices for Rights-of-Way

by Thomas Boos, WDNR, Forestry Invasive Plant Coordinator

In December of 2009 the Transportation and Utility Rights-of-Way Best Management Practices (BMPs) were approved, completing a 4 year effort by the Wisconsin Council on Forestry to limit the further spread and introduction of invasive species on our natural lands. While *Forestry, Urban Forestry, and Recreation* BMPs had already been approved, the BMPs for Transportation and Utility Corridors were eagerly anticipated because corridors pose a major source for spread of invasives.

The ROW BMPs are a comprehensive set of voluntary guidelines to limit the introduction and spread of invasive species within corridors. You can read or download the BMPs at the Wisconsin Council on Forestry's website:

<http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/>. The guide includes BMPs for the major activities such as soil disturbance, vegetation management and inspection/monitoring, transporting materials, and revegetation and landscaping.

Properly-timed mowing in rights-of-way to avoid spreading invasive plant seeds is a crucial issue with respect to Best Management Practices. The Department of Natural Resources has created some wonderful resources as part of the process of developing the

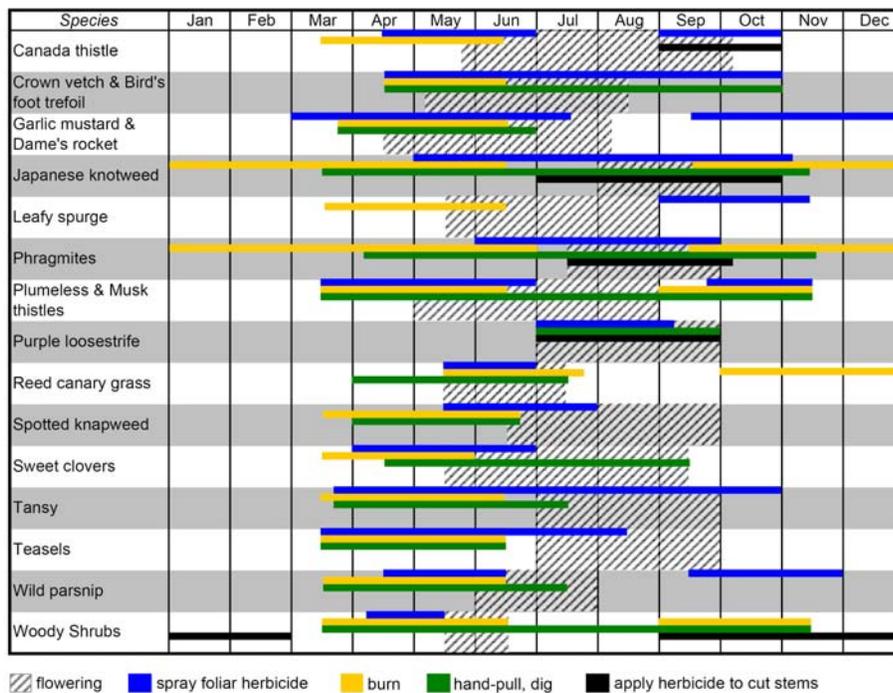
BMPs. We developed a pocket-sized field guide to help with identification. We also developed the following tables that are useful to, 1) summarize appropriate timings of various control techniques for common invasive species, and 2) provide suggested mowing times for select species in southern Wisconsin. Please note that these times are approximations and intended to be a guide and that appropriate control and mowing times will be different in northern Wisconsin or near the Great Lakes.

### What you can do to help your county implement the BMPs?

While the BMPs offer the tools to approach the problem, the first step toward implementing the BMPs is knowing where the invasive plant problems are, and it is going to require a considerable effort to inventory the roadsides. Most local highway departments do not have a budget for this work. **As an IPAW member, you can help to inventory your local roadsides.** Be proactive and contact your county and town highway departments to get this process started and to volunteer your help. If you are interested in getting more information or have any questions, email [invasives.species@wi.gov](mailto:invasives.species@wi.gov).

see page 3

**Suggested timing of control for select species in southern Wisconsin**

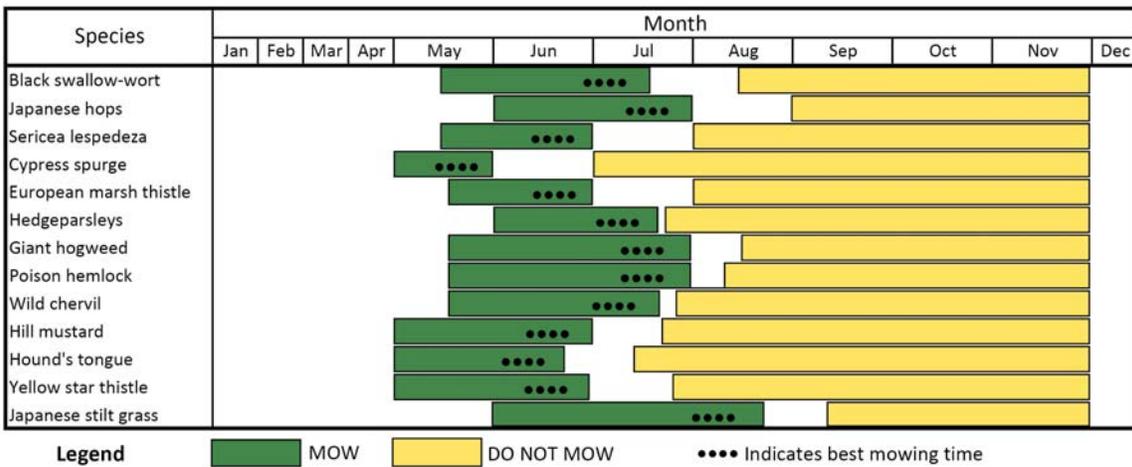


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### Suggested mowing times for select species in southern Wisconsin

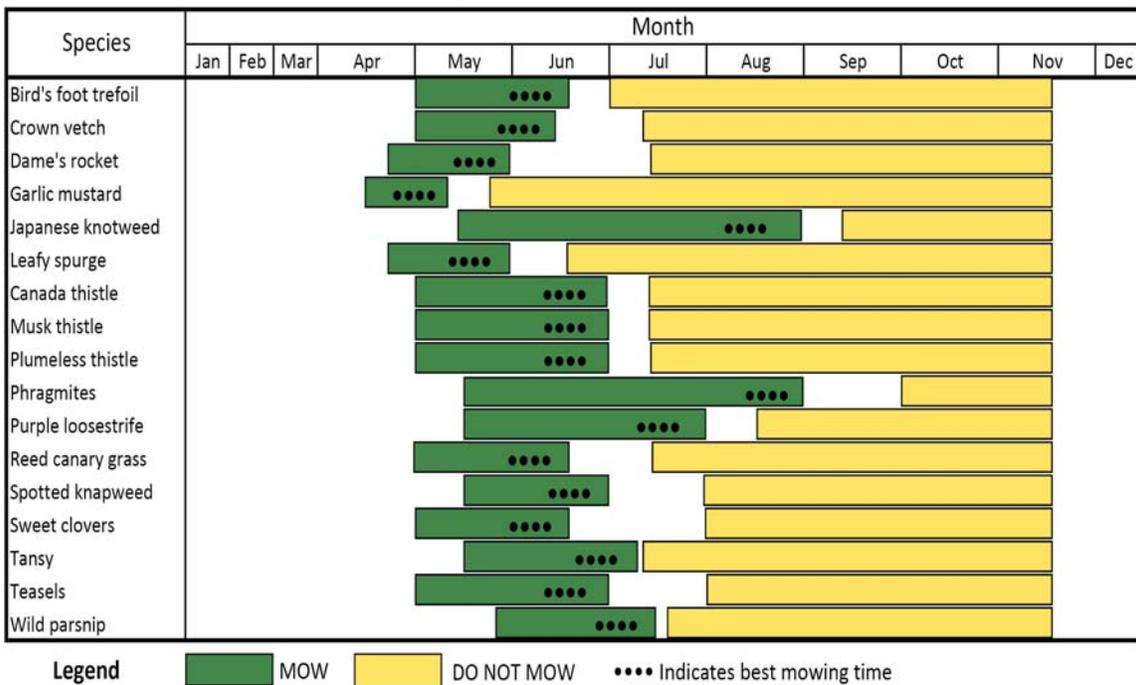
Mowing can be an effective control for some invasive species; however, it can spread those species if not timed correctly. Mowing can be done multiple times per growing season (into the “Do Not Mow” time) to prevent seed production and to deplete root reserves; however, the first mowing should occur when the target invasive is just about to flower or in the early flowering stage. Avoid mowing if seeds have already developed as this will spread them. Emergence, flowering, and seeding times vary from year to year for most species; the charts show average times. These times become later as you move north or for areas near the Great Lakes.

#### Mowing times for less common\* invasive species in southern Wisconsin



\*These species are not yet common in most of Wisconsin and need to be contained if found where prohibited.

#### Mowing times for common invasive species in southern Wisconsin



### Plants on the Move

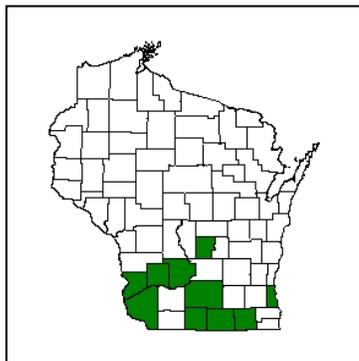
by Courtney LeClair

While many of the plants that are regulated by the new invasive species law (NR40) are fairly widespread, there are several plant species that are restricted to certain regions of Wisconsin. These species are “split-listed” in NR40, which means that in the regions of the state where they are common the plant is *Restricted*, and in parts of the state where they are not known to occur the plant is listed as *Prohibited*. The following plants are just a few examples of the split-listed species. The maps associated with each species show the counties where we know the plants are present. If you have additional information related to where these species are spreading, please contact me at [courtney.leclair@wisconsin.gov](mailto:courtney.leclair@wisconsin.gov), or (608) 267-7438.

**Amur honeysuckle** (*Lonicera maackii*) looks very similar to the other non-native bush honeysuckles, but there are a few distinctive characteristics that make it easy to identify. To me, the leaves are the most prominent feature since they are glossy, dark green, and come to a long point. Like the other Eurasian bush honeysuckles (Tartarian, Morrow’s, and Bell’s), the stem pith is hollow, which is a feature that separates these species from the native honeysuckles that have white or solid stem pith.



Lonicera maackii foliage and distribution

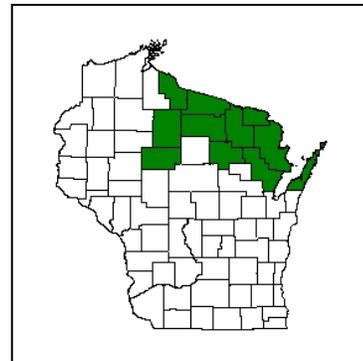


**European marsh thistle** (*Cirsium palustre*) has been found only in northern Wisconsin and has a more widespread native relative, swamp thistle (*Cirsium muticum*), that is very similar in appearance. However, *C. palustre* has extremely spiny stems and leaves, while the native swamp thistle has a smooth stem and softly spiny leaves. It seems that the flowering time overlaps for a few weeks with the non-native species blooming earlier in the season (June-July).



spiny stem

Cirsium palustre flower, stem and distribution



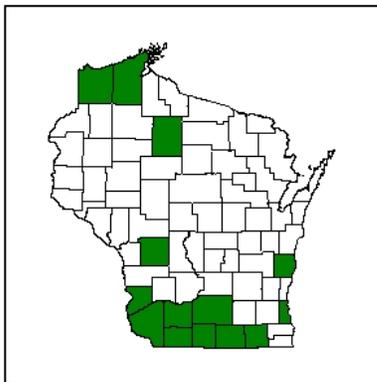
*"Properly-timed mowing in rights-of-way to avoid spreading invasive plant seeds is a crucial issue with respect to Best Management Practices."*

Thomas Boos

**Poison hemlock** (*Conium maculatum*) looks similar to many other plants in the carrot or parsley family. What sets this species apart from the rest are the **hairless**, ridged stems with purple mottling on the lower sections. The fruits of poison hemlock are also quite distinctive in that they are two joined seeds that are ridged and are almost spherical when joined together.



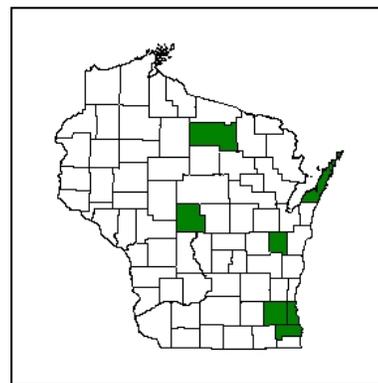
*Conium maculatum* flowering plant and distribution



**Tall manna grass** (*Glyceria maxima*) is a perennial grass that is commonly sold commercially in a variegated form. Leaves are shallowly grooved with a prominent mid-vein and stiff, short hairs are present along the leaf edges. The plant can reach up to 8' tall while American manna grass (*Glyceria grandis*; native) reaches 4.5' tall. Inflorescences bloom during June to August and reach 1' long.



*Glyceria maxima* flowering plant and distribution



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## Help Protect Your Local Rivers from Invasive Species! Training Offered April 24<sup>th</sup> in Madison

Because of the success of the training program held last summer, the Rock River Coalition will co-host another training to teach citizens to monitor invasive species in rivers. Paddlers, fisherman, *Water Action Volunteer* monitors, and river enthusiasts are invited to attend.

The River Alliance of Wisconsin has launched Project RED (Riverine Early Detectors), a monitoring program that trains citizens to identify and report 15 invasive species within river corridors statewide. During the free training, the River Alliance will teach you to monitor your river by canoe, kayak, or on foot. They will help you choose locations and a monitoring schedule that are convenient to you and your volunteers. The River Alliance will also provide you with online data management tools available through [www.citsci.org](http://www.citsci.org) that help you report and map your findings. The protocols are easy and fun. In addition, you can use this activity to become more familiar with your river or stream and to engage your friends and neighbors!

The 15 species of concern are purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hops, common reed, flowering rush, hydrilla, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, Brazilian waterweed, didymo, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, New Zealand mudsnail, Chinese mystery snail, and banded mystery snail.

Sponsored by the Rock River Coalition, Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed, and Dane County, the Project RED training is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Madison (1 Fen Oak Court). An optional paddle on Badfish Creek will be held from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. To reserve your space, please contact Patricia Cicero with the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department at (920) 674-7121 or [patriaciac@jeffersoncountywi.gov](mailto:patriaciac@jeffersoncountywi.gov).

To learn more about invasive species in our river corridors and how you can help in the fight against invasives, please visit the River Alliance's website: <http://wisconsinrivers.org>.



photo by Jon Beers

## The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Cooperative

Invasive species are already widely dispersed across the landscapes of Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and are having devastating ecological and economic impacts to communities. Forests used for recreation and timber, native fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational waters are all at risk from these growing invasive populations.

The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Cooperative (WRISC) is a developing partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, land managers, utility companies, civic organizations, and individuals interested in creating and implementing a comprehensive plan to manage aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. This cooperative partnership is being formed to combine multi-agency resources and expertise to serve as a community forum to share information about invasive species. WRISC will distribute educational materials to landowners and land managers, host workshops on invasive species and proper control techniques, and promote best management practices to help slow their spread.

WRISC is unique because it is the first Cooperative Weed Management Area to cross state lines. Counties included in the partnership include the Wisconsin counties of Florence, Forest, and Marinette and Dickinson and Menominee Counties in Michigan. This multi-county, bi-state partnership is crucial for the management of the invasive species found in the region because invasive species have no respect for jurisdictional boundaries!

WRISC is hosting its first partner meeting from 9:00 am - noon on 17 March at the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center in Florence, WI. If you are interested in learning more about WRISC's mission, are interested in becoming a partner of this cooperative, or would just like to learn more about invasive species and what you can do to help slow their spread, please contact us or join us on 17 March. Please RSVP to our free event using the email address listed below or call Melissa Simpson at (715) 528-4464 ext. 139.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE WILD RIVERS INVASIVE SPECIES COOPERATIVE AT: [wildriverscwma@gmail.com](mailto:wildriverscwma@gmail.com)

## Update on the IPAW Education and Communication Committee

Within the IPAW Education and Communication Committee there are four subcommittees: 1) Website and List-serve, 2) Newsletter, 3) Educational materials, and 4) Speaker's bureau. While Amy Staffen continues to serve as the Education and Communication Committee Chair, Courtney LeClair has recently taken on the role of chairing the Educational materials and Speaker's bureau subcommittees. Courtney currently works on invasive plant education and early detection as an AmeriCorps member at the Wisconsin DNR. In 2009, she coordinated Invasive Species Awareness Month (ISAM) and will do that again this year.

An advisory group recently met to prioritize projects, and decided to make updating the speaker's bureau, modernizing the power point presentations (over 60 available) and organizing them by topic or user group, and revitalizing the door hanger project as their current priorities.

If you have not been involved in the **Educational materials** or **Speaker's bureau** committees and would like to participate in any of the projects, or if you are interested in being part of the speaker's bureau, please contact Courtney at [courtney.leclair@wisconsin.gov](mailto:courtney.leclair@wisconsin.gov), or (608) 267-7438.

## Two New Invasive Projects in the Mark Renz Lab, UW-Madison Agronomy Department

Mark Renz and Dr. Laura Jull of the UW-Madison Horticulture Department received a grant from the UW-Extension Horticulture team to examine the invasiveness of important woody cultivars in Wisconsin. IPAW estimates that 45% of the invasive plants in Wisconsin were originally introduced as cultivars. Currently, there are many cultivars of invasive plants that are sold as “non-invasive”, but there is no research to evaluate these claims.

“...this study will develop a technique to evaluate invasiveness and differentiate between potentially-invasive and non-invasive cultivars.”

Both the ornamental industry and citizens who want to use plants that are not invasive are left without objective information about the invasiveness of cultivars. This research will examine cultivars for which the “wild type” of the species is known to be invasive. The seed production and viability of the cultivar will be determined, and its potential for establishment in common landscapes of Wisconsin will be estimated. These factors will be measured across Wisconsin by selecting sites within three USDA hardiness zones. The methods used in this study will develop a technique to evaluate invasiveness and differentiate between potentially-invasive and non-invasive cultivars. UW-Extension publications will be updated with specific information about the invasiveness of cultivars, which will be useful to help shape decisions for landscape plantings.

A second project funded by the UW-Extension Horticulture team will focus on research and education about roadside invasive species. Roadsides are major corridors for spread of invasive plant species, and their spread is often exacerbated by inappropriate roadside mowing times. This project will produce materials to improve the ability of city and county road personnel to identify invasive species listed in the DNR’s NR-40 rule. These materials will be made available online and will be used at 3-4 trainings around the state. These trainings will focus on mapping invasives, control methods and resources, techniques to prevent the spread of invasives, and new methods to prevent the spread of invasives that the Renz lab has been developing. These trainings will be coordinated with the statewide trainings for NR-40 compliance that the DNR has planned in conjunction with CWMA’s around the state. The final goal of the grant is to develop a mowing recommendation guide that provides specific, science-based, information on the optimum time to mow common listed plants on roadsides to prevent spread of seeds and minimize the potential for future invasion.

“A second project ... focuses on research and education about roadside invasive species.”

You can help with these projects. The Renz lab is seeking input on the woody plant cultivars that should be examined. If you have any information or ideas for either of the projects, please send them to Brendon Panke ([bjpanke@wisc.edu](mailto:bjpanke@wisc.edu)). Thank you for your time and help.

***June is Invasive Species  
Awareness Month!***

## Iowa County Is Setting the Right Kind of Example

by Courtney LeClair

Following a talk that Kelly Kearns gave to state highway commissioners about the new invasive species rule (NR 40), it was obvious to many that they needed help to identify the main invasive plant problems in their counties. Several commissioners requested help in finding people who could help them to map invasive species. One highway commissioner approached the task on his own. Craig Hardy, Iowa County Highway Commissioner, took it upon himself to contact key local people that he thought might be able to help him.

**"This is just one example out of many that show the partnerships that are possible between the Wisconsin DNR, highway departments, and local organizations and individuals."**

To help determine the areas of concern, Craig is asking for help from individuals and organizations that can find and report invasive plants in the county. In addition to the absence or presence of invasives, he is looking for specific location information, density of the populations, and native plants that are of special interest. Iowa County is also considering implementation of a new county mowing and weed control policy.

The Iowa County Highway Department has also asked the Wisconsin DNR to attend their annual training which will allow additional education about identification of invasive plants, NR 40, and the Best Management Practices that can be put in place to avoid spread along transportation corridors. An initial meeting between some of the partners will be held at the end of February, which will cover long-term planning and options for mapping invasives.

Craig has taken many steps in order for Iowa County to start this field season on the right foot. This is just one example out of many that show the partnerships that are possible between the Wisconsin DNR, highway departments, and local organizations and individuals.

**Through Awareness Comes Positive Change**

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***Plants out of Place***

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Check out what IPAW is working on!  
go to [www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org)

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