



# What's Working:

## Invasive Species Control

February 2015

### General Invasive Species Control Information

- [The MIPN Control database](#): allows people to select a plant they want to control, indicate the type of habitat it is in, whether or not they are professionals or novices, etc. and the database comes back with specific chemical, mechanical, and/or biological methods.
- [MnDOT](#) has a new noxious weed booklet providing weed control recommendations.
- [PlayCleanGo](#) is a new outreach effort to increase awareness about invasive species.  
The [DNR's invasive species web pages](#) have undergone some reorganization and updating.
- Development of Cooperative Weed Management Areas to promote partnerships for the management of invasive species across boundaries.
- Biological control, the use of natural enemies to control non-native pests, can be an effective tool in managing invasive plants. Non-native plants can become invasive because they lack the insects and diseases that control them in their native environments. Biological control reunites natural enemies, such as herbivores and pathogens, with their host (invasive plant) to reduce impacts caused by the pest. The goal of biological control is to reduce the target pest population and its corresponding impact to an acceptable level. The Minnesota Departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Natural Resources (DNR) have implemented successful biological control programs for leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and purple loosestrife statewide. Development of new biological control efforts for garlic mustard, buckthorn and common tansy are underway. Our programs utilize specialized insects that were tested extensively for host specificity (safety) and efficacy. Biological control programs in Minnesota are cooperative. Multiple agencies, associations, institutions, and private landowners work together to accomplish goals. Lead agencies help to coordinate efforts, disseminate information, provide expertise, and collect data (Monika Chandler, Minnesota Department of Agriculture).
- We have gotten a lot of help in maintenance of public park restorations in from the Sentence-to-Serve program that is part of the County Sheriff Department. The crews have helped with such



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work as dragging cut buckthorn, pulling mullein, root chopping sweet clover and bird's-foot trefoil and more. This helps to keep the project cost down considerably (Gina Hugo, Sherburne SWCD).

- The following webpages provide valuable information about Cooperative Weed Management Areas and invasive species control.
  - IPAW - [www.ipaw.org](http://www.ipaw.org) note it includes a section on CWMA's called "Regional invasive plant groups". Also includes archives of our newsletters with articles on ongoing projects. Our extensive reed canary publication is also on this site. The nursery/consultants list that is on there is a bit out of date. We'll be updating it this winter.
  - MIPN - [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org) - be sure to include a link from your site to the "CWMA Resources" here. Kate Howe is coordinating a revision of the MIPN CWMA cookbook and would appreciate any feedback you could provide. Other useful info here includes many publications, power points and conference abstracts
  - WI DNR Invasives page - <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/> Our entire website is undergoing a major revamping, so this URL will soon be changed. you may want to wait a month or so to make links to this site. Lots of publications, fact sheets (we have new ones we will be putting on the new site), photos (keep the credits attached if you use them). Also, Mark Renz's lab at the UW Madison Agry Dept is developing new fact sheets focused on control with lots of details about what herbicides to use for what plants.  
<http://ipcm.wisc.edu/Publications/WeedSciencepublications/tabid/116/Default.aspx>  
(Kelly Kearns, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)
  - Information about invasive species control information from the Pope Cooperative Weed Management Area can be found at: <http://weedwatchers.org/index.cfm/pageid/65>