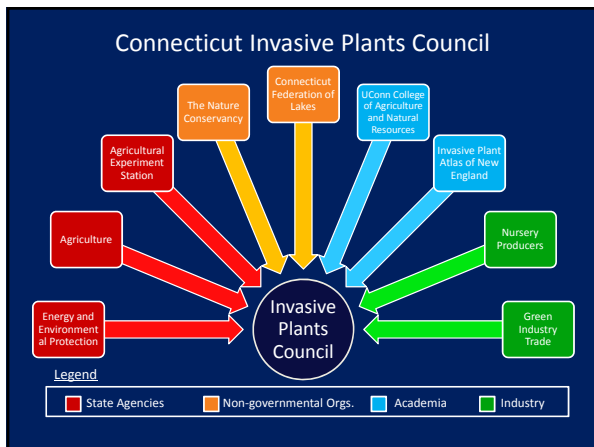


Connecticut Invasive Plants Council Update

CIPWG Symposium: October 25, 2012
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

The High Costs of Invasion

- Nationwide:
 - invasions (plant and animal) cost \$137 billion*/year
 - Plants cost \$34 billion*/year
- Connecticut:
 - \$1 million*/year on milfoil and other aquatic invasive plants
 - \$100,000*/year on Asiatic bittersweet and phragmites
- Other impacts:
 - Loss of habitat, time and resources across gov't and landowners for control, loss of recreational opportunities (esp. for aquatic plants)



IPC Responsibilities

- Recommendations to control invasive plants
- Publish and update list of invasive/potentially invasive plants
- Educate the public and assist state agencies in conducting research
- Make recommendations to the General Assembly

Taking Action: Bamboo

Bamboo in Orange, CT

- Many site visits, discussions
- Bamboo did not meet definition
- Letter to legislature:
 - Education of buyers
 - Containment near property edges
 - Responsibility for homeowners who allow plants to spread

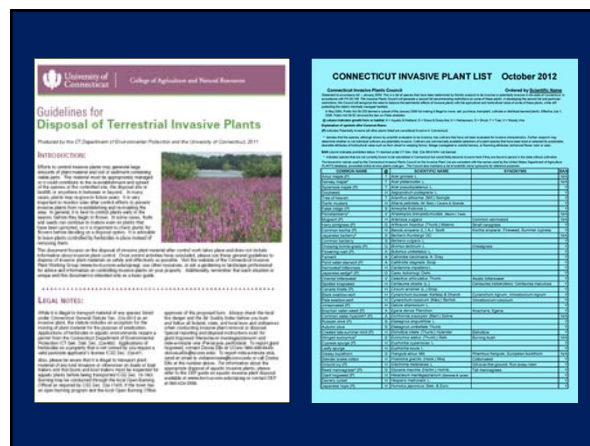
Taking Action: Mugwort

- Council acted to add mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) to potentially invasive plant list in October 2012

Mugwort in Hamden, CT

Taking Action: Outreach and Education

- communicates to varied audiences and provides educational materials



Taking Action: Outreach and Education

- Mobile educational exhibits for events and trade shows



Taking Action: Workshops

- Over 100 people attended a June 2011 workshop at Sessions woods. More workshops in future.



Taking Action:

Responding to spread of mile-a-minute

- Addressed spread to new areas with outreach talks, site visits, and removal events, including at sites in Madison, Middlefield, Prospect, Old Saybrook, and other towns



Success:

- Funding for a coordinator is now in the state budget
- Coordinator duties:
 - Contact for Council member, meeting minutes, research, etc.
 - Information on new invasions
 - Developing outreach and education materials

Partners in Action: Addressing Japanese Barberry



- Council endorsed a plan from the nursery industry to voluntarily phase-out high-seed producing cultivars of Japanese barberry
- Phase out runs June 2010 to June 2013.

Partners in Action: Addressing *Euonymus*

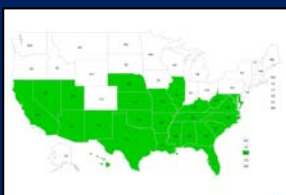
- In October 2012 the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association also announced pending switch to sterile burning bush



Dr. Yi Li and sterile *Euonymus* UConn Photo

Work at Many Levels!

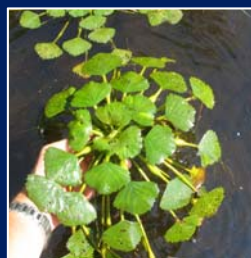
- NEANS
- AFWA
- ISAC



Arundo donax (giant cane) distribution in U.S.



Are we effective? ... YES!



Water chestnut



Snakehead

Is response adequate? ... NO!



Mile-a-minute vine in Westport



Wavyleaf basketgrass current distribution: MD, NC, VA

Where do we go from here?

(A) Focus on Prevention/Outreach

Examples:

- Boating Invasive Investigators
- Firewood/EAB/ALB
- Voluntary agreements

(B) Rapid Response - need plan and funding

(C) Long-term funding – national issue

And ... Be realistic & pragmatic!



Thank you