

Invasive Plants and Animals in Delaware



DNREC Division of
Fish and Wildlife

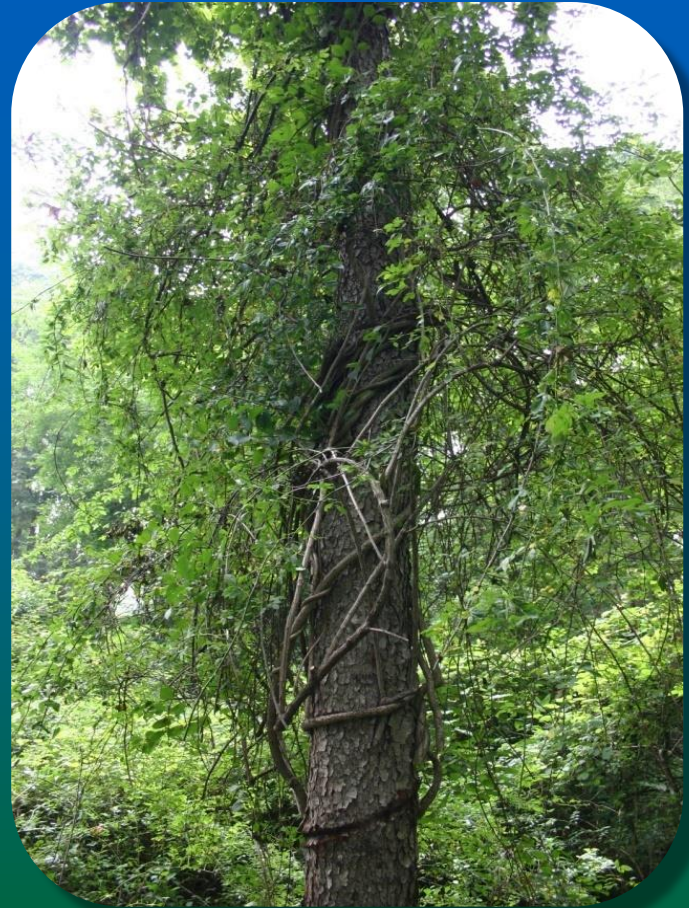


WHAT is an invasive plant?

Not native – does not naturally occur in a specific area

Aggressive – creates problems for native plants, animals and natural communities

Has very few, often ***no predators*** in its new location



WHAT is an invasive species?

An alien species whose introduction causes economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.



Reduces Diversity – outcompetes natives when competing for resources

Disrupts Natural Communities – can change habitat structures for other organisms

Has very few, often *no predators* in its new location (can spread or reproduce quickly)

WHAT are some other characteristics?

Hardy, out-compete natives

Grow quickly

Produce many seeds and/or spread by underground root systems (rhizomes)

Produce biological toxins that suppress the growth of other plants



WHAT makes an animal invasive?

Out-competes other native
animals for food, habitat, etc.

May displace or destroy plant
communities (usually through
eating habits and/or
overpopulation)



WHERE do they come from?



45°

30°

30°

45°

HOW do they get here?

ornamental landscapes and gardens

conservation projects,
erosion control

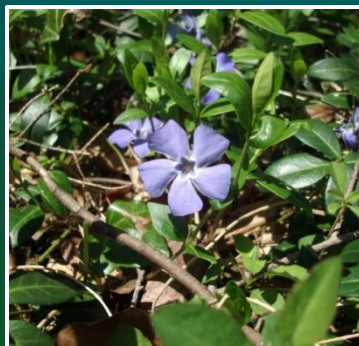
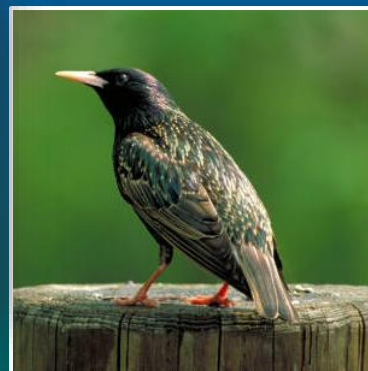
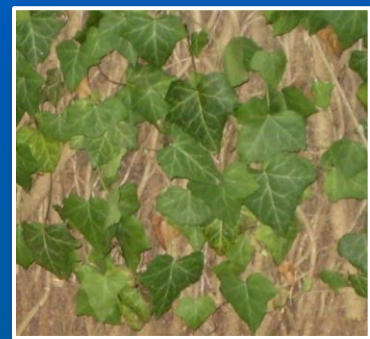
pallets and packing
material

crop seed

Fur trade

Pets





WHY should we be concerned?



fire hazards

alter hydrology

alter soil chemistry

changes in plant communities and biodiversity

competition with native plants

Who is managing for invasive plants?

Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

Dept. of Agriculture

Local and national environmental organizations

Hikers, bikers, hunters, fishermen

Landscapers, gardeners

Methods of Control



Pulling



Spraying



Cutting and/or
Spraying



Mowing



Large-scale spraying



Aerial Spraying



Burning



What can *YOU* do?

Plant natives



Remove invasive plants
in your gardens and
neighborhoods



Volunteer!



A few invasive plant examples...

English Ivy







Japanese Wisteria







Oriental Bittersweet







Canada Thistle







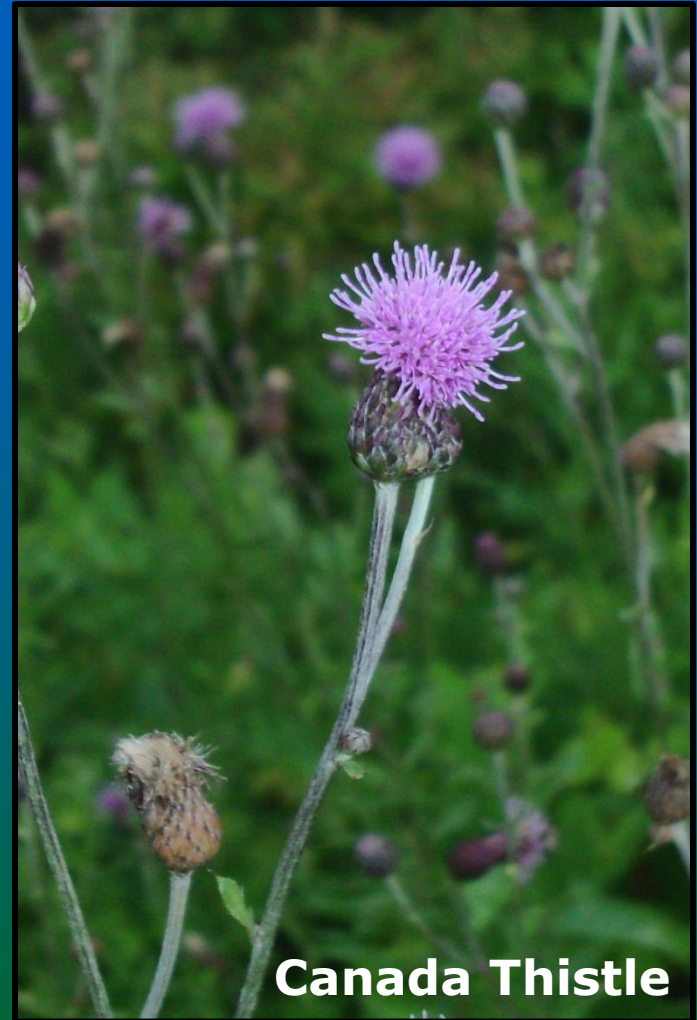






Spotted Knapweed









Phragmites







Invasive Plants To Know

Delaware has a long list of invasive plants that affect native wildlife habitats and agriculture.

Below is a list of plants to know for the Envirothon.

English Ivy *Hedera Helix*

Spotted Knapweed *Centaurea stoebe*

Oriental Bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Multiflora Rose *Rosa multiflora*

Japanese/Chinese Wisteria *Wisteria spp.*

Reed Canarygrass *Phalaris arundinacea*

Japanese Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*

Common Reed (Phragmites) *Phragmites australis*

Johnson Grass *Sorghum halapense*

Autumn Olive *Eleagnus umbellata*

A few invasive animal examples...









Questions?

Thank you!



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