

# Invasive Species Management

## The Problem with Invasive Plants

These are plants that can spread into natural areas, develop self-sustaining populations, and become dominant and disruptive in those ecosystems. Invasive plants out-compete native plants for light, water, and nutrients. They can eliminate entire native plant communities, thus reducing the food and habitat for wildlife.



Wavyleaf Basketgrass

Cheryl Fairfaras



Lesser Celandine

Cheryl Fairfaras



Mile-a-Minute

Cheryl Fairfaras

## Invasive Plant Characteristics

- Grow fast and mature early
- Reproduce profusely by seed or other plant part
- Extensive roots or rhizomes to store energy
- Difficult to remove or control
- Spread quickly over large areas
- Have few natural predators or diseases



Steve Nanz

Common Eastern Bumblebee



Steve Nanz

Yellow-breasted Chat

## Habitat Management and Invasive Species

Early successional habitat is in short supply in our region, causing a decline in many species of wildflowers, pollinators, and birds that depend on meadows and shrubby habitats. Creating early successional habitat means creating a disturbance. Invasive plants thrive in disturbed areas, making invasive species control a major challenge for habitat management. Natural Resource Managers control invasives by pulling, cutting, mowing, targeted herbicide applications, biological controls, and even with goats.

## What Can You Do?

- Be aware and learn to recognize invasive species
- Remove invasive species from your landscape before they escape to natural areas
- Avoid introducing invasive species and plant native alternatives in your garden
- Check your hiking boots and clothes to avoid spreading invasive plant seeds
- **Volunteer for a Weed Warriors or Conservation Stewardship Program at your local park**



Eco-Goats Eating Invasive Plants

Cheryl Fairfaras