

NEBRASKA INVASIVE NEWS NETWORK

APRIL 2010 HAPPY SPRING!

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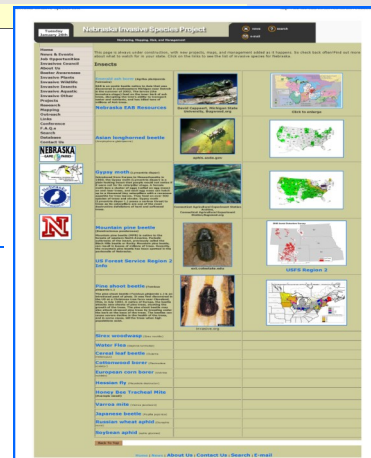
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UPDATES TO THE NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES WEBSITE!

[HTTP://WWW.SNR.UNL.EDU/INVASIVES](http://www.snr.unl.edu/invasives)

IF YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR THE WEBSITE, PLEASE EMAIL US:

[INVASIVES@UNL.EDU](mailto:invasives@unl.edu)



Interested in volunteering to help with invasive species outreach?

There are a number of upcoming events where the Nebraska Invasive Species Project could use your help!

Like talking to the public about invasive species? Interested in education and outreach?

Want to learn more about invasive species?

Please contact Karie Decker at the Nebraska Invasive Species Project for more information:

invasives@unl.edu or 402-472-3133

NATIVE PLANTS FOR NEBRASKA LANDSCAPES

A positive trend in gardening is the use of native plants. In Nebraska, when people hear native they often envision a prairie-like landscape. On hearing the word native, one person may see beauty in their mind's eye while another may see something resembling a weed patch. The use of native plants is a positive trend. Natives are well adapted to local growing conditions and help conserve water. They often are resistant to native plant pests. They are much less likely to become invasive plants. In contrast, some introduced plants, like purple loosestrife and musk thistle, have become noxious weeds.



A positive trend in gardening is the use of native plants. Photo: Nebraska State Arboretum.

[Read story here](#)

More Links:

[Wildflower Week events celebrated across Nebraska](#)

[How green is your garden?](#)

[Native Plants Attract Beneficial Insects](#)



Nebraska Invasive Species Project:

<http://snr.unl.edu/invasives>

Now on Facebook!
Become a fan, Add info,
Upload photos!



CONFERENCES / EVENTS IN NEBRASKA

[3rd Annual Missouri River Landowner Conservation Workshop](#) March 31, Niobrara

[Omaha Earth Day Celebration](#) April 17, Omaha

[Lincoln Earth Day Celebration](#) April 24, Lincoln

[Sunday with a Scientist - Invasive Species, Terns and Plovers](#) April 18, 2010 NU State Museum, Lincoln

[138th Annual Arbor Day Celebration](#) April 30, 2010: Arbor Lodge State NE17-19 2010: Nebraska City, NE Park

[Nebraska Outdoor Expo](#) May 13-15, Ft. Kearny State Recreation Area

Check out what's going on in Nebraska!

WET WINTER EXPECTED TO CAUSE MORE INVASIVE WEED PROBLEMS



Photo: Nebraska Weed Control Association

The winter weather in this area is a shot-in-the-arm, so to speak, for plants across Nebraska. Perennials and biennials will likely prosper from the moisture and blankets of snow. Winter allows many plants to rejuvenate and helps many types of plant seeds to prepare for

germination when warmer spring weather arrives. This is true for weeds as well as desirable ornamentals. This area can expect non-native invasive weeds to launch a new onslaught as spring approaches, according to County Weed Supt. Randy Bartlett.

[Read full story](#)

GRAND ISLAND POISONING INVASIVE

Grand Island residents may find dead starlings in yards and streets in the coming days.

The city hired the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reduce the overpopulation of birds by poisoning feed at their roosting site. The treatment started Monday. The USDA is using DRC-133, a

chemical that is starling specific. The chemical is not expected to harm any other species.

The targeted starling should die within 24 to 36 hours of consuming the treated feed and will often be found at the roost site.

[Read More here](#)



European Starling, ©

European Starling
Photo: Copyright Dan Sudia

**Platte Valley and West Central Weed Management Area's
Invasive Species Control in the Central Platte River
2009-10 Summary**

In 2009 the Platte Valley Weed Management Area (PVWMA) and West Central Weed Management Area (WCWMA), collectively referred to as WMA's, collaborated to apply and receive grant funding for invasive plant species control within the Platte River channels. This joint effort

allowed a larger landscape approach. The WMA's consist of 12 counties in south-central Nebraska. This document highlights the results of last years efforts and outlines goals for 2010-2011.

[Click here to access](#)



Phragmites along the Platte River. Photo: Karie Decker, Nebraska Invasive Species Project



**Missouri River Recovery Program
2009 Annual Report**

The Missouri River Recovery Program has finalized it's 2009 Annual Report: Biological Opinion on the Operation of the Missouri River Main Stem System, Operation and Maintenance of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project, and Operation of the Kansas River Reservoir System .

Click on the link below and look in the 'Annual Reports' tab.

[Missouri River Recovery Program Report](#)

KEEPING WYOMING WATERS ZEBRA-FREE



Zebra mussels, Photo: Karie Decker, Nebraska Invasive Species Project

The Wyoming Legislature allocated \$2.5 million to Game and Fish this session to keep zebra mussels out of Wyoming's waters. However, this is just the beginning of a process of figuring out a long-term solution to keep Wyoming waters zebra-free.

Today, a summit about aquatic invasive species is being held in Casper, in order to address this issue.

Sheridan Senator Bruce Burns is the Chairman of the committee that sponsored the bill on zebra mussels.

[Read the full article](#)

SWAN SONG: NATURALIST WARNS AGAINST FOREIGN BIRDS ON ERIN FISH FARM

A mute swan that's taken up residency on an Erin fish farm shouldn't be protected under the Migratory Bird Conventions Act, says an area field naturalist. Mute swans are native to Europe and Asia and were introduced to North America in the late 1800s'. The

non-native species was listed in the migratory bird act because the act simply protects the entire swan family, said Ken Abraham, a waterfowl and wetlands biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Abraham said there are some concerns about

the mute swan's effects on the habitat of other birds. The swan is known to physically attack other swans and can disrupt nests of other species, he said.

[Read entire Swan story here](#)



Non-native swans becoming a problem on Erin Fish Farm. Photo: Greg Layson, Guelph Mercury

SUPREME COURT TAKES UP ASIAN CARP DEBATE AGAIN

The U.S. Supreme Court met on Friday to discuss closing ship-ping locks around Chi-cago.

The meeting is not open to the public. It's more of a discussion on how to handle an invasive species known to take over the bodies of water it inhabits. Read the

following articles to get the details.

["The battle over how to prevent the fish from dominating Lake Michigan has drawn battle lines across the Great Lakes states. Michigan and several other states have sued Illinois, saying the river locks around Chicago near the lake](#)

[need to be closed."](#)

["The Asian carp issue has marked a turning point in relations between the Great Lakes states, which generally have agreed in the past on policy geared at cleaning up the lakes and protecting ecosystems."](#)



AP File Photo: Asian carp jump out of the water after being disturbed by the sounds of passing boats in the Illinois River in December.

LIKE CALIFORNIA ORANGE JUICE? PROTECT IT



Asian Citrus Psyllid (right) an aphid that spreads the Huanglongbing (HLB) or Citrus Greening Disease ©Copyright 2008 Citrus Research Board www.CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org



The disease that decimated the Florida citrus industry – 250,000 acres of trees lost in just five years – is heading toward our doorstep. This is an enormous problem not just for the agricultural industry, but for all of us. Many of us have backyard citrus trees that will be at risk – in fact, there are

more citrus trees in home gardens in Southern California than in commercial orchards. But even if we don't have backyard fruit trees, all of us – whether we live in urban apartments, suburban subdivisions or rural farms – have a stake in sustaining agriculture in Ventura County.

[Read about the loss of citrus trees here](#)

USDA AWARDS MORE THAN \$4 MILLION IN WEEDY AND INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH GRANTS

Crown vetch. Goutweed. Siberian elm. They are three of the 18 exotic invaders on horticulturalist Dan Bissonnette's not-wanted list of plants he hopes gardeners will shun -- or even dig up -- this season. "What is today's plant of the month could become tomorrow's ecological

nightmare," says Bissonnette who is the program co-ordinator of the Naturalized Habitat Network of Essex County and Windsor. Bissonnette is taking his message to horticultural groups and plans to issue his list by the end of the month.

[Read about the hit list here](#)

White Poplar (*Populus alba*) -one of many on the new 'hit list' Photo:Annette Casados, USFWS



FROM INTERNATIONAL HARBOR TO NATIVE HABITAT

In the 1930s, soil used as ballast to weigh down cargo ships from South America to Mobile, Alabama introduced the red imported fire ant to the southern United States. Since then, the ants have been found as far north as Maryland and as far west as California, shorting out streetlights and eating through crops and native plants in the process. Plant pests like the fire ant cost the

U.S. an estimated \$37.1 billion per year in agricultural and forest ecosystem losses. And since these pests primarily enter the country through international hubs like Mobile and then spread to nearby ecosystems, the early detection of exotic pests should start at the most vulnerable urban areas. At least that is the approach Manuel Colunga-Garcia from Michigan State University and col-

leagues propose in the March issue of *Ecological Applications*. The researchers suggest that, by establishing specific risk zones and using the information to focus resources, officials can take additional measures to prevent an influx of exotic pests while gaining knowledge about invasions.

[Read about the study](#)

BUG TACKLES UK'S KNOTTY PROBLEM



Japanese Knotweed fighting phisiid (*Aphalara itadori*); Photo: www.defra.uk.gov

Wildlife Minister Huw Irranca-Davies gave the go-ahead today for the release of an insect, called a psyllid, to stop the spread of the non-native invasive plant Japanese Knotweed, a devastating plant which costs the UK economy over £150 million a year to con-

trol and clear. Japanese Knotweed is listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species. It grows vigorously at a rate of up to a metre a month, including through tarmac, con-

crete and drains, causing damage to roads and buildings costing the millions of pounds to remove each year. This deadly plant also damages our natural environment by stopping other plants from growing, and destroying habitats for native species.

[Read the story here](#)

IDAHO SENATE APPROVES EXPANDED ENFORCEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES CHECKS

The Idaho Senate Friday approved legislation clarifying and expanding how the state will try to keep water-based invasive species out of Idaho. The legislation would require that all boats and other vehicles, including cars and trailers, that could carry two invasive

species, quagga mussels or Eurasian Watermilfoil, stop at check stations to make sure they're clean. Police and other law enforcement officers would be able to stop or impound any vessels if they have reason to believe they could have mussels on them.

[Read the full story to get the details.](#)



New legislation allows for required check stations in Idaho Photo: Katherine Jones / Idaho Statesman

The Nebraska Invasive Species Project

The Nebraska Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, along with partners both state-wide and nationally, have joined together to provide information to the public and private sector on invasive species issues. This information includes basic invasive species biology, monitoring and management meth-



NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT

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HOW YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVES



Gardeners—Plant Native...If you don't know, don't grow it! Native plants often require less water!

Boaters and Fishermen

Don't dump your bait buckets into the water supply. Drain and clean your boat and equipment.



Burn it where you buy it!
 Never transport firewood—it can harbor harmful insects like the Emerald Ash Borer.

Pet Owners—never release your pets into the wild. The can release exotic diseases and damage habitats.

GET INVOLVED!!!
 Stay informed, share your knowledge with others. You are our first line of defense.

LEGISLATIVE BILL 582

...TO CREATE THE NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

The purpose of the *Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council* is to coordinate invasive species management and research across the State for the prevention and detection of invasive plant and animal species.

Through a coordinated effort, we intend to provide land managers with the information needed to utilize funding and resources more effectively and efficiently. Our goal is to minimize the effects of harmful invasive species on Nebraska's citizens and ensure the economic and environmental well-being of the state.

Nebraska Invasive Species Project:
<http://snr.unl.edu/invasives>

