

NEBRASKA INVASIVE NEWS NETWORK

DECEMBER 2009

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE NEBRASKA
INVASIVE SPECIES
PROJECT!**



FreeFoto.com

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Interested in attending a conference on invasive species?

National Conference Information: <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/calendar.php>

Missed a Conference? Proceedings here: <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/proceedings.shtml>

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS URGE CONSUMERS TO AVOID INVASIVE PLANTS IN HOLIDAY DECORATING

With the holiday season fast approaching, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) and the Department of Fish and Game's Division of Fish and Wildlife (MassWildlife) are urging homeowners and holiday decorators to beware of invasive plants that may be used in holiday wreaths and garland.

"Many invasive plants serve as beautiful holiday decor, but these plants are a serious threat to the integrity of native biodiversity in the Commonwealth," said DAR Commissioner Scott Soares. "Consumers should be conscious of which species are problematic." [Read Here](#)



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

Conducting invasive species research in Nebraska?

The Invasive Species Research Database web-site will serve as a tool to connect researchers and managers as well as policymakers and the public. Please contact the Nebraska Invasive Species Project for more information invasives@unl.edu

STOPPING THE ZEBRA MUSSEL INVASION

November, 2009

Invader in point: the zebra mussel. If you haven't heard, a mollusk no bigger than a carp scale has been wreaking havoc on fisheries in several major U.S. watersheds.

Like most invasives, zebras (and their cousins,

quagga mussels) spread like a computer virus. A single adult zebra mussel can produce 1 million larvae.

Like all bivalves, zebra mussels filter feed. Here's the problem: They feed on some of the same microscopic organisms fish fry need to survive and grow.

Nebraska is surrounded by these nasties on three sides. Colorado has quaggas in the South Platte River watershed, while both Iowa and Kansas have zebras.

[Journal Star Article](#)



Dreissena polymorpha
Zebra Mussel - USGS

GLOBAL TREE DEATH PATTERNS REVEAL EMERGING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS FOR FORESTS



December 2009

Invasive plants are advancing into Eastern forests at an alarming rate, and the rapid spread has been linked by researchers in Penn State's College of Agri-

cultural Sciences to forest road maintenance and the type of dirt and stone used on roads. In a paper titled "Forest Roads Facilitate the Spread of Invasive Plants," published in the August 2009 issue of *Invasive Plant Science and Management*, Mortensen detailed some eye-opening revelations about the pro-

cess by which invasive plants advance so quickly. "Roads can play a profound role in the spread and growth of invasive species by serving as corridors for movement and by providing prime habitat for establishment," Mortensen explained.

[Read more about the study](#)

OKLAHOMA LEGISLATORS URGED TO ADDRESS EASTERN RED CEDAR

November 2009,

The hardy trees take over nearly 300,000 acres of Oklahoma land every year, and a mature tree can soak up as many as 30 gallons of water a day. Fire is the main deterrent of the trees' spread. Fires — from lightning or set by American Indians before the state was settled —

had kept the trees under control. But now that fires are fought, and landowners are leery of controlled burns because they may be liable for damages if the fire gets out of control, the Eastern red cedar's growth in recent years has gone mostly unchecked. [Read Here](#)



Eastern Red Cedar.
Photo: troop17.com

VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$40 MILLION TO ADDRESS BARK BEETLE

December 2009

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that U.S. Forest Service will commit an additional \$40 million to address public safety concerns and forest health needs arising from the millions of acres of dead and dying

trees from bark beetle infestations in the West. Vilsack made the announcement on a conference call with Colorado Governor Bill Ritter.

"Forest lands play a critical role in providing clean water and a healthier climate for all

Americans, and the USDA is committed to protecting and preserving this important resource from pests like the bark beetle," said Vilsack.

[Read the full story](#)

Meet the beetle

The pine bark beetle is killing trees throughout the West and causing an uptick in the business of tree trimmers who remove the dead and dying timber here in Colorado.



Actual size

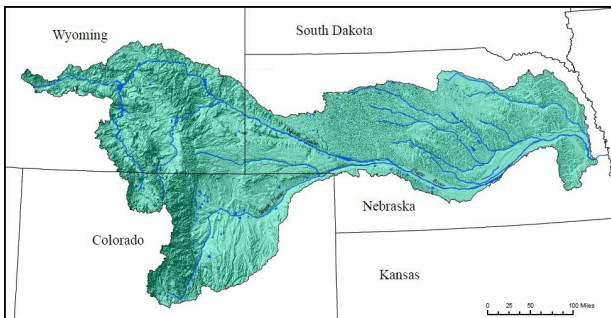
Lifecycle: In late summer, adults leave trees in which they developed to mate and tunnel into living, green trees to lay eggs. Larvae hatch and tunnel to feed, spending the winter under the bark and emerging in summer as adults. **Fungus:** Pine beetles, and other bark beetles, carry a blue-tinted fungus that, together with beetle feeding, weakens or kills the trees.



Sources: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, U.S. Forest Service

Thomas McKay, The Denver Post

INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THE 3-STATE PLATTE RIVER BASIN



Wyoming, and Nebraska. Project funding comes from grants within the state or from federal agencies (NRCS, USGS, BLM, etc.) who serve as project partners. Targeted invasive weed species vary by project and state.

[Read what is going on in each state:](#)

Image courtesy of USGS.

December 2009

The Missouri River Watershed Coalition helps coordinate the management of invasive species throughout a six-state region which includes the Platte River drainage in Colorado,

'BIOSCIENCE' STUDY: SPECIES DOWN, DISEASE UP

December 2009

The extinction of plant and animal species can be likened to emptying a museum of its collection, or dumping a cabinet full of potential medicines into the trash, or replacing every local cuisine with McDonald's burgers. But the decline of species and their habitats may not

just make the world boring. New research now suggests it may also put you at greater risk for catching some nasty disease. Habitat destruction and biodiversity loss," — driven by the replacement of local species by exotic ones, deforestation, global transportation, encroaching cities, and other environmental changes — "can

increase the incidence and distribution of infectious diseases in humans," write University of Vermont biologist Joe Roman, EPA scientist .

[Read Here](#)



In the Amazon, when trees fall, bites — and malaria rates — rise. This is part of a global pattern, say UVM biologist Joe Roman and EPA scientist Montira Pongsiri, that links biodiversity loss with infectious diseases. (Photo courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

NEW REPORT: COST OF POTENTIAL EMERALD ASH BORER DAMAGE IN U.S. COMMUNITIES, 2009-2019

Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire), a phloem-feeding beetle native to Asia, was discovered near Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario in 2002. As of March 2009, isolated populations of emerald ash borer (EAB) have been detected in nine addi-

tional states and Quebec. EAB is a highly invasive forest pest that has the potential to spread and kill native ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.) throughout the United States. Scientists' estimate of the discounted cost of treatment, removal, and replacement in re-

sponse to EAB infestation over a 10-yr horizon from 2009-2019 is \$10.7 billion.

[Kovacs, K.F., et al.](#)
Cost of potential emerald ash borer damage in U.S. communities



Emerald Ash Borer. Photo by David Cappaert, www.forestryimages.org. Click to enlarge.



KUDZU-MUNCHING BUG ALSO THREATENS US BEAN CROPS

November, 2009 --

Researchers recently found an insect in north Georgia that has never before been reported in the Western Hemisphere -- and its arrival could be both a blessing and a curse. Some might celebrate the arrival of the kudzu-munching bug,

which could help control the invasive vine that drapes much of the South. However, the bug also feasts on valuable crops like soybeans and other legumes.

[READ HERE](#)

This undated photo released by the University of Georgia shows a bean plataspid bug. Scientists at the University of Georgia have found a bug in nine north Georgia counties that is native to Asia and has never before been seen in the Western Hemisphere.

GLOBAL BT RESISTANCE ANALYZED

December, 2009 -- An international trio of experts systematically analyzed results from more than 40 studies, as conducted on five continents, that investigated insect reaction or resistance to *Bacillus thuringiensis*

(Bt) transgenic crops and concluded that existing theories and strategies can be used effectively to predict, monitor, and manage insect resistance to Bt crops.

[Read the article](#)

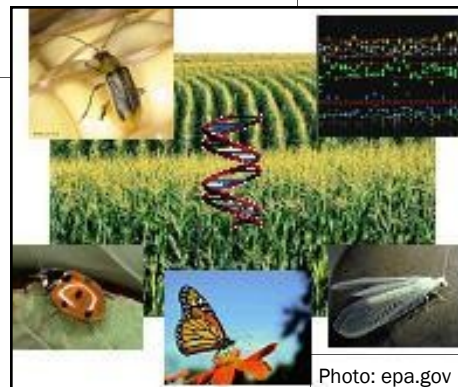


Photo: epa.gov

NEW BOATER FEES PAY FOR INVASIVE SPECIES CHECKING

Zebra and quagga mussels that can clog up power plants and hydroelectric dams are the target of a new fee for Oregon boaters going into effect with the New Year.

Until now, only boats with motors had to pay to register their craft.

But the threat of waterborne invasive species prompted the Legislature to authorize a new fee for

all boats over 10 feet long.

Registered boaters will pay \$5, owners of non-motorized boats such as canoes will pay \$7, and out-of-state boaters will pay \$22.

The estimated \$3 million to be raised every two years will pay for teams to travel around the state looking for the unwanted

creatures, and hose them down with hot water to kill them.



Image by Flickr user andres musta

[Komo News.com Story](#)

POLICY

Read Federal Bills as introduced

Congressional Bills - 111th Congress (2009-2010)

Provides access to invasive species related Congressional bills for the House and Senate, including introduction date,

sponsor, summary, full bill text, and bill status. Website: <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/laws/bills111.shtml>

*** Nebraska LB 582:** This bill establishes the Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council. The pur-

pose 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.

Get involved.
Know the policy and management actions in your area.

Hearing on Various Invasive Related Bills – Dec 3, 2009

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, will hold a legislative hearing to consider the following: - S. 373, A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to include constrictor snakes - S. 1519, Nutria Eradication and Control Act of

2009 - S. 1421, Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act - S. 1965, Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program Act of 2009 - H.R. 2188, Joint Ventures in Bird Habitat Conservation Act of 2009 - S. 1214, National Fish Habitat Conservation Act - H.R. 3537, Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 - H.R. 3433, To amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act - H.R. 509, Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2009

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 methods, and actual and potential impacts and risks of invasive species throughout the state.

NISP Monitoring Mapping Risk & Management

NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT

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The Nebraska
Environmental
Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations



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. They 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>