NEBRASKA INVASIVE NEWS NETWORK

JUNE 2010

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UPDATES TO THE NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES WEBSITE!

HTTP://WWW.SNR.UNL.EDU/INVASIVES

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

INVASIVES@UNL.EDU

Interested in attending a conference on invasive species?

Nebraska Invasive Species Project Calendar: http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/events.htm

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

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON STATE AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Zebra Mussels, an aquatic nuisance species. Photo: KDecker

Under direction of the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and the Nebraska Invasive Species Council, the Nebraska Aquatic Nuisance Species Planning Committee would like to announce the development an Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan for the State of Nebraska. A draft of the plan is available for public review until July 5 and a public meeting will be held June 9, 2010 at UNL East Campus in Lincoln. Nebraska is one of the few states remaining to develop an Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan (see map). This plan will increase communication and collaboration among state and federal agencies, develop tools to educate and inform the public about aquatic nuisance species and in turn, help us to protect Nebraska's economy and environment. The Plan focuses on preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species. Prevention is far more effective, and costs less than trying to control established populations. For more info, and to read the plan, click here.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS IN NEBRASKA

Family Fishing Night
June 8, 2010: Prairie View Lake, NE

Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan - Public Input Meeting
June 9, 2010: Lincoln, NE

Northeast Nebraska WMA Tour June 9, 2010

Waterfest!
June 12, 2010: Holmes Lake, Lincoln NE

Great Plains Field Days
June 18, 2010: York, NE

Carp-O-Rama June 26 2010: Pawnee Lake, NE

Quad County Weed Conference, June 30,2010 Beatrice, NE

Check out what's going on in Nebraska!

KNOW YOUR WEEDS AND CONTROL OPTIONS

Western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*) (*Larry Allain @ USDA-NRCS Plants Database*)

From field to field and season to season, weed control is an ongoing battle for many growers. Stevan Knezevic, weeds specialist at the Haskell Agricultural Laboratory near Concord, invites you to check out the following articles previously published in CropWatch in case you're facing one of these weed control challenges this year. The next four weeks will be critical for achieving timely weed control without limiting crop yield. Without timely control, weeds will rob your field of valuable moisture and rob you of potential income.

The critical period of weed control is a period in the crop growth cycle when weeds must be controlled to prevent yield loss. UNL research has shown that each crop has such a period and that it is influenced by cropping practices such as nitrogen level in the crop. Delaying weed removal beyond the start of the identified period of weed control will cost a producer an average of 2% in yield loss per every leaf stage of delay in both corn and soybean. Watch upcoming issues of CropWatch for more information on these critical periods for corn and soybean.

Read here

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ENACTS THOUSAND CANKERS DISEASE OF WALNUT QUARANTINE

On May 7, 2010, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture enacted a state exterior quarantine to prevent the introduction of Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut from being introduced into the state. Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD), a devastating disease that attacks black walnut trees, has killed a large number of trees in several western states. TCD has not yet been found in Nebraska or other states in the general native range of black walnut. The quarantine affects the distribution of certain wood materials from the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Read more details here.

To access the full quarantine document, click here

Twig Beetle entry holes—spreads Thousand Cankers Disease. Photo: M. Kennelly, KSU

EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN IOWA...MOVING CLOSER TO NEBRASKA!

Emerald Ash Borer. Photo: David Cappaert, bugwood.org

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Iowa Emerald Ash Borer Team confirmed today that the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive pest that kills ash trees, has been found in Iowa along the Mississippi River two miles south of the Minnesota border in Allamakee County. The land is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is the first confirmed EAB infestation in Iowa. Four EAB larvae were found in one ash tree by members of Iowa's EAB team during a survey of the area following the recent announcement that the beetle had been found just across the Minnesota border. An infestation in nearby Victory, Wis., was discovered in 2009.
A quarantine prohibiting the movement of firewood, ash nursery stock, ash timber or any other article that could further spread EAB is pending from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. A federal quarantine would follow the state quarantine. Read full story...

Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week!
May 23-29
Governor Heineman's Proclamation

ELIMINATING WEEDS COULD PUT MORE COWS ON THE PASTURE

Spotted Knapweed Photo: Nebraska Weed Control Association

By Don Comis
April 28, 2010

An online weed calculator developed by an Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist tells ranchers the number of additional cows they could raise if they eliminated one or two widespread exotic invasive weeds.
Rangeland ecologist Matt Rinella at the ARS Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory in Miles City, Mont., created a computer model that predicts weed impacts on forage production.
Data for developing the model came from 30 weed researchers working throughout the western United States. In addition to developing the calculator so that ranchers can calculate what weeds are costing them on any given site, Rinella used the data to estimate what weeds are costing ranchers in a 17-state region. He calculated that if leafy spurge were eliminated, ranchers in that entire region could graze up to 200,000 or more cows a year and save tens of millions of dollars. Spotted knapweed is another exotic invasive weed whose elimination would greatly increase the number of cows ranches could support, and the calculator also predicts its impacts.

Try the calculator here

WYOMING ANNOUNCES NEW BOATER STICKER

Casper resident Tom Durst has accumulated about a half-dozen watercraft in three decades of boating in Wyoming. The 67-year-old said he will grudgingly purchase the state's new aquatic invasive species decal that went on sale last month for each of his boats.
The sticker is part of the state's emergency regulations adopted in March under a Wyoming Game and Fish Department program aimed at keeping AIS species such as zebra and quagga mussels out of Wyoming waters. The program includes boat inspections on all major waterways in Wyoming. State lawmakers allocated $1.5 million in February as part of a new law that gives the agency the authority to inspect boats and prevent the launching of any watercraft suspected of harboring zebra and quagga mussels. Boaters are also required to purchase an AIS decal for all watercraft this season to help fund the effort.. Read here...

INVASIVES IN YELLOWSTONE PARK

Tiny aliens hiding beneath the surface of Yellowstone's waters are currently endangering essential food sources for native cutthroat trout as well as the eagles, ospreys, pelican, otters, and grizzly bears that rely on trout for forage. Non-native Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) of snails, mussels, algae, and disease are rapidly spreading in Western U.S. streams and lakes, and threatening waterways in Yellowstone. Last year alone, more than 2,500 Yellowstone boaters reported that the last place they used their boat was in a state that could be contaminated with aquatic invaders such as zebra mussels, didymo ("rock snot") , New Zealand mud snails, and whirling disease. State and Federal agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are actively pursuing interagency collaboration to jump start efforts in parks and elsewhere. In 2006 and 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided seed money to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks to launch a pilot project in education and control of invasive aquatic species.

Read more here

Pelican Creek near its confluence with Yellowstone Lake. Photo: Todd Koel, NPS

NEW TESTING FOR ASIAN CARP IN GREAT LAKES WATERWAY

Illinois and federal officials announced plans Wednesday to again dump fish poison into a Chicago-area waterway to help them determine whether the invasive Asian carp has come any closer to the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, a bipartisan group of about a dozen lawmakers from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin continued to pressure congressional leaders to bring up for quick action their legislative proposal that would force the closure of locks between the waterway and Lake Michigan.

"We're talking about a $7 billion recreational fishing industry, a $16 billion recreational boating industry and, frankly, our way of life," Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., said at a Capitol news conference.

Illinois politicians argue closing the locks could prove too costly to industries that rely on area shipping.The plans announced Wednesday involve using the fish toxin rotenone in a stretch of the Calumet-Sag Channel that links Lake Michigan and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, to find out whether there are any Asian carp in an area where positive carp DNA samples have been found.

Read here

KUDZU LINKED TO POOR AIR QUALITY

Kudzu, a fast-growing and invasive Asian vine introduced in the American South several decades ago, has now blanketed more than 7 million acres of the region, making it sometimes seem more common than the hallmark azaleas, dogwoods and peach trees.

Now there's evidence that the plant also increases air pollution.A paper published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reported a link between kudzu and the production of ozone, the colorless and odorless gas that is the main component of smog. Ozone can damage lung tissue, increasing inflammation and the risk of asthma attacks.

Read full story...

Kudzu is spreading rapidly, an estimated 100,000 to 125,000 acres a year. (Mickey Welsh, Associated Press / June 5,

COUNTING THE COST OF ALIEN INVASIONS

Far too many governments have failed to grasp the scale of the threat from invasive species, warns UN Environment Programme's executive director Achim Steiner. In this week's Green Room, he issues a call to arms to halt the alien invasion. Some governments, such as New Zealand, are facing up to the challenge with tough customs controls on foreign plants and animals. South Africa has well-funded removal programmes aimed at, for example, conserving the unique Cape Floral Kingdom and its economically-important nature-based tourist attractions. But far too many countries have failed to grasp the scale of the threat, or are far too casual in their response. The challenge is both a developed and developing economy one, but perhaps the true scale is perhaps only now unfolding.

Scientists with the Delivering Alien Species Inventories for Europe (DAISIE) say there are now 11,000 invaders in Europe, of which 15% cause economic damage and threaten native flora and fauna.

Read more of this BBC story

A plant native to Brazil is invading vital habitat for rhinos in Nepal

STATUS AND TRENDS IN STATE INVASIVE SPECIES POLICY: 2002-2009

Status and Trends in State Invasive Species Policy: 2002-2009 reviews developments in state laws and regulations governing invasive species in eleven states. It finds that invasive species laws and regulations are often fragmented and incomplete and have developed primarily on a species-by-species basis in response to crisis. As a result, they often fail to address potential future invaders or close off known invasion pathways. Fortunately, states have begun regulating invasion pathways and identifying species that may become invasive in the future due to climate change or other factors.

States are increasingly creating interagency councils and management plans to coordinate these novel invasive species responses.

Read the report here:

SCIENTISTS RELEASE BIOCONTROL FOR WATER HYACINTH

By Stephanie Yao
May 18, 2010

A new insect that will help control the invasive weed waterhyacinth has been released by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists and cooperators.

Waterhyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is a free-floating aquatic plant native to South America that has infested freshwater ecosystems from North Carolina to California but is especially problematic in the southeastern United States. The plant is a real menace, affecting water traffic, water quality, infrastructure for pumping and hydroelectric operations, water use and biodiversity. Other problems include fish kills due to low oxygen levels and increases in populations of vectors of human and animal diseases.

Full story here

This tiny insect, *Megamelus scutellaris*, has been released as a biocontrol for the invasive weed waterhyacinth, which has become a major problem in southeastern waterways.
Photo courtesy of Philip Tipping, ARS.

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

NE Coop Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
909 Hardin Hall, 3310 Holdrege
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Phone: 402-472-3133
Fax: 402-472-2772
E-mail: invasives@unl.edu

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.

The Nebraska Invasive Species 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