



Vol 6
Issue 2
2012
Summer Summary

Unwanted Invaders

Invasive Species Council of Manitoba

c/o 5006 Roblin Blvd. Winnipeg, MB R3R 0G7

Ph: (204) 232-6021 Fax: (204) 986-7236

Email: info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

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Would you like to help spread the word about invasive species?

ISCM is now on Facebook!



www.facebook.com/ISCM

Visit and like us today. Stay in the loop on invasive species in **Manitoba!**

Knapweeds – don't let them 'kid-knap' the landscape!

By: Jessica Wood, Summer Coordinator, ISCM

The end of June saw Cheryl and I in the RM of Stanley (Morden area) helping out with Diffuse Knapweed scouting. This plant is a highly invasive species that was introduced from the eastern Mediterranean with contaminated crop seed back in the late 1800's. Currently, Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa* Lam.), infests much of the western and central United States, it is found through out the south and central area of British Columbia as well as parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The only patch in Manitoba occurs in the RM of Stanley. For the last ten years there has been a full blown control effort on the population there. This year we pulled approximately 150 plants, which is great news! The patch gets smaller and less dense each year.

Why do we care about Diffuse Knapweed? Well, as always with invasive species, it lacks natural control agents. Native insects and herbivores do not feed on the plant. The plant can displace native vegetation in undisturbed areas which makes it a larger threat. (Many invasive species like disturbed areas) Knapweed uses allelopathy, the release of specialized chemicals, to crowd out and kill native plants. This plant invades rangeland, is harmful to livestock, reduces biodiversity and can cause yield losses in forage crops. There are several other invasive knapweeds such as the Russian Knapweed, Spotted Knapweed and Yellow Star Thistle. All around the Knapweeds are harmful to Manitoba's ecosystems. Don't let Knapweeds 'kid-knap' our landscape!



DIFFUSE KNAPWEED

Photo Credit: J.Wood, ISCM



DIFFUSE KNAPWEED FLOWER

Photo Credit: S. Dewey, Utah State University

PHRAG ALERT!

Phragmites australis (Cav.) Trin. Ex Steud. commonly known as Invasive Phrag or Invasive Giant Reed, is becoming one of the most widely spread invasive species in Canada. It is a very aggressive, perennial plant that likes semi-aquatic conditions such as ditches and disturbed wetlands. ISCM and its partners are very concerned about the spread of this tremendously invasive plant. In other parts of Canada and across the USA, Invasive Phrag has been documented taking over entire stream channels and marshes. By forming thick stands, it out competes native species and changes the water conditions around it, affecting other wetland inhabitants.

Often confused with our native *Phragmites* species, autumn is the best time to identify Invasive Phrag. During the fall, native Phrag has red-purple stems while Invasive Phrag have pale yellow to green stems.

Let's keep a look out and stop the spread in Manitoba. See the Invasive Phrag fact sheet on page 7 for more information.



Photo Credit: J. Swearingen, USDI

Leafy Spurge Pull

In June, the Friends of Bird's Hill Park and the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba teamed up to battle leafy spurge in Bird's Hill Park. We had a fantastic group of ten volunteers meet us at the park and we pulled with all our might. The aim of the Leafy Spurge pull was to thin out the patch for herbicide application by our friends at Manitoba Conservation. It was a great success! Looking at the patch now, a few months later, you can see yellow and dead Leafy Spurge plants throughout the patch. With teamwork and a close eye kept on the patch, together we can eliminate Leafy Spurge in Birds Hill Park. A big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you.



Photo Credit: C. Hamel



Photo Credit: C. Hamel

Diamond Jubilee Medal Winner

Congratulations to our very own Executive Director, Cheryl Heming, on her Diamond Jubilee Medal! To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Governor General of Canada created a medal that is being given to Canadians to recognize significant contributions to a particular region of study. Cheryl was nominated in recognition of her contributions to native plants and ecosystems work. Between her work with the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba, the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders group and the passion she shows in everything she does, we think she is a deserving recipient. Way to go Cheryl!

Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Day

This October ISCM, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency partnered to hold Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Awareness Day. With over 150 attendees over two days, much knowledge on this invasive pest was shared.

EAB is a wood boring insect that has devastated Ash tree populations in the East. By staying educated, Manitobans can detect this insect early and save our Ash tree population.



Photo Credit: D. Cappaert, Michigan

Giant Hogweed—A Giant Pain!

Giant Hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, is an invasive species introduced from Asia as an ornamental plant. This plant is highly invasive, especially along streams, in ditches and other wet areas. It has not been detected in Manitoba to date. A major issue with identifying this plant is that it looks very much like our native Cow parsnip, *Heracleum lanatum*, which also likes to grow in wet areas. The major difference is size. Giant hogweed is just that – GIANT. Reaching up to 5 m (15 feet) it towers over grass and flower species native to Manitoba. Giant hogweed is known to contain a sap that causes painful blistering and sun sensitivity in humans, avoid contact with this plant if found.

See page 8 for a comparison document. Remember, even if you are unsure, report any invasive species sightings to ISCM, we are always willing to help with identification.



Photo Credit: T. English, USDA APHIS PPQ

Invasive Species, Biodiversity and Disturbance in Alberta

By: Bob Weber, The Canadian Press , Oct 16, 2012

EDMONTON - A study suggests that a few farms, oil sands mines and forestry developments might be good for Alberta's boreal forest — up to a point. The University of Alberta study, published Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications*, suggests that forests with a moderate level of disturbance actually have more plant species. But lead author Stephen Mayor adds that new biodiversity comes mostly from invasive species and quickly reaches a tipping point.

"The forest can tolerate some level of disturbance without an enormous negative effect on biodiversity. But there really is a limit to how much intrusion by human land use it can tolerate and eventually we do really lose a lot of our native flora."

Mayor and his colleagues wanted to test a theory that suggests forest biodiversity increases when parts of it are disturbed because the disturbed areas increase the variety of habitats.

"The more variety on the landscape you have, the more species you have."

Although most previous studies have failed to support that theory, Mayor guessed that was because they didn't look at a broad enough area. He and his team decided to consider the entire northern half of Alberta, one of the most hotly contested landscapes in the country — home to farms, ranches, oilsands mines, forestry cut-blocks and national parks.

"The scale is unprecedented," Mayor said.

Zooming in on 242 one-hectare plots, the scientists cross-referenced disturbances revealed by satellite and aerial photos with surveys of the plant species found within each. They concluded that, on a regional basis, biodiversity actually increases as more disturbances are scratched into the landscape. But once that disturbance reaches a level of 47.5 per cent, biodiversity starts to crumble.

"If you're creating different environments, you can get more species," Mayor said. "The critical thing is that it only works up to a point, so the more disturbance you get past that 50 per cent range, you start losing more species."

As well, the nature of the forest starts to change. Invasive species start to take over.

"The composition of our flora will change with more disturbance," said Mayor. "We will be losing more native species and seeing a lot more weedy exotics that might not necessarily be preferable. "Native species from boreal Alberta started declining quite quickly after about 40 per cent (disturbance). But invasive species — exotic weeds and things like that — were increasing right from the start."

The research holds important lessons for a province — and a country — striving to balance a resource-heavy economy with environmental preservation, said Mayor.

"Forests are quite resilient to changes that we're putting on the landscape," he said.

Alberta recently instituted a land-use plan for northeastern Alberta, a region that includes both the oil-sands and vanishing caribou herds. Another plan for southern Alberta around the South Saskatchewan River basin is in the works. Similar plans are expected for the entire province.

New Website!

Visit the new Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) website for Manitoba and Saskatchewan—also known as the Prairie Region. A great tool to help with detection and tracking of invasive species. It is fast and easy to use, no experience needed. Check it out!

<http://www.eddmaps.org/prairieregion/>

Upcoming Invasive Species Events

October 2012

30- Nov 1st Annual North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) and the North American Roadside Vegetation Management Association (NRVMA) combined conference, Branson, Missouri. Visit www.nawma.org or www.nrvma.org to register today!

November 2012

12-15 The Canadian Weed Science Society is holding their Annual Meeting in Winnipeg this year. Taking place at The Fairmont, the theme for this years plenary session is: Evolution in Action: Changes in Weeds from Crop domestication to Glyphosate Resistance . If you are interested in attending or presenting, please visit the CWSS-SCM website: <http://www.weedscience.ca/home>

December 2012

3 & 4 Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Annual Conservation Conference—Keystone Centre, Brandon, MB. Learn about watershed planning, surface water management initiatives and sustainable landscapes administered by Manitoba's Conservation Districts. This years keynote speaker is Dr. David Suzuki the award winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster. Visit www.mcda.ca for more information and to register!

5th The Invasive Species Council of Manitoba is holding its annual Early Detection and Rapid Response Workshop and Annual General Meeting at the Holiday Inn, Airport West, Winnipeg, MB. See you there! More information will be available at invasivespeciesmanitoba.com shortly.

6 & 7 The Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association is holding their Fall Training Seminar at the Holiday Inn, Airport West, Winnipeg, MB. See their website for more details www.mbweeds.ca

January 2013

22 & 23 The Invasive Species Council of BC is holding a Public Educational Forum at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC. The workshop will focus on case studies of 2012 response initiatives; highlights of First Nations partnerships; a focused panel on the role of media in invasive species awareness; highlights of emerging issues and more. Everyone is welcome, visit www.bcinvasives.ca for more information or to register.

22 & 24 Uniting the Red River Basin for 30 Years! The Red River Basin Commission's 30th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference will be held at the Alerus Center and Canad Inns, Grand Forks, North Dakota, USA. See their website for details: <http://www.redriverbasincommission.org/>

February 2013

19-22 The 10th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference will be held in Red Deer, AB this year. The theme is Engaging People in Conservation. For more information visit www.pcesc.ca/

Websites

Invasive Species Council of Manitoba: <http://www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com>

Prips (Mapping): <http://prips.usask.ca/>

Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group: <http://leafyspurge.ca/>

Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project: <http://www.purpleloosestrife.org/>

ISCM Executive Board 2012

Who we are...

The Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM) is a non-profit organization providing a centralized and coordinated province-wide leadership body adopting a collaborative approach to invasive species in Manitoba.

Vision...

Maintain a healthy, bio-diverse landscape through the prevention, early detection, and education and awareness of invasive alien species management practices in order to eradicate or limit further spread.

Cheryl Heming

ISCM Executive Director

Jane Thornton, Vice-Chair

MAFRI

Glen Campbell

Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

John Johnston

Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association

Ron Moss

Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

Beverly Dunlop

Agri-Environment Services Branch

Linda Christianson

Manitoba Conservation, Forestry

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CFIA's Invasive Plant Programme

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Ducks Unlimited Canada

Wybo Vanderschuit

Riding Mountain Bio Reserve

Julie Pelc

Nature Conservancy of Canada- Manitoba Region

Candace Parks

Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship

Bill Gardiner

MAFRI

Cameron Meuckon

Manitoba Conservation

The ISCM would like to thank our funding sources and partners,

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Environment Services Branch (formerly Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration)
- Agriculture Sustainability Initiative, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- A Rocha
- Assiniboine Watershed Network
- City of Winnipeg
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Dow Agrosiences Canada
- Fisheries Enhancement Fund
- Friends of Birds Hill Park
- IASPP Fund—Government of Canada
- Integrated Vegetation and Management Association Manitoba/ Saskatchewan
- Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI)
- Manitoba Beef Producers
- Manitoba Conservation
- Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project
- Manitoba Urban Green Team, Province of Manitoba
- Manitoba Water Stewardship
- Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association
- Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Region
- North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA)
- Pembina Valley Conservation District
- Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve
- Riding Mountain National Park
- Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council (SIPC)
- Service Canada Summer Jobs, Government of Canada
- Stanley Soil Management
- T & T Seeds
- University of Manitoba



For more information Contact:

Invasive Species Council of Manitoba

c/o 5006 Roblin Blvd. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3R 0G7

Ph: (204) 232-6021 Fax: (204) 986-7236

STOP THE SPREAD



PHRAGMITES OUTCOMPETES OTHER WETLAND PLANTS THAT ARE IMPORTANT FOOD SOURCES FOR WATERFOWL

UNWANTED PLANTS

Origin

There are 2 types of phragmites in North America - one is native and the other was accidentally introduced from Europe in the 1700's. Establishing itself on the Atlantic coast it has since spread across North America.

Status

Phragmites is found throughout Canada and the United States and recently a number of stands were found in Winnipeg and the surrounding area.

Impacts

Phragmites out competes the native plants by forming thick stands, causing a change in the nutrient and hydrological cycle, which in turn alters the habitat for wildlife.

Where to Look

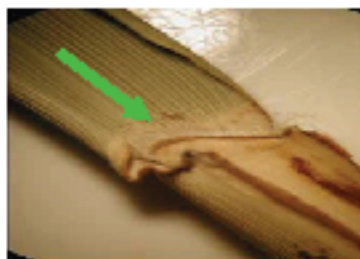
Semi-aquatic, the invasive giant reed can be found in disturbed wetlands at higher elevations but can also be found along roads and within ditches.

LOOK FOR:

- ◇ LARGE PERENNIAL GRASS THAT GROWS UP TO 4.5 M TALL OR MORE IN DENSE PATCHES ALONG WATERWAYS
- ◇ STEM: NATIVE STEM ARE RED TO PURPLE IN THE FALL, INVASIVE IS PALE YELLOW TO GREEN
- ◇ FLOWERS: FLOWERS IN MID SEPTEMBER TO EARLY OCTOBER WHEN NATIVE PLANTS HAVE ALREADY DIED BACK
- ◇ FLOWERS: FLOWERS IN MID SEPTEMBER TO EARLY OCTOBER WHEN NATIVE PLANTS HAVE ALREADY DIED BACK



Native phragmites ligule



Invasive phragmites ligule



Native phragmites seed head on left, invasive phragmites flower head on right; both taken at same time of year

To report a sighting call:
Stop Aquatic Invasive Species
1-877-867-2470

info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com
(204)232-6021

Canada

Funding for this project was provided in part by the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program, a Government of Canada initiative.



Invasive Species Council of Manitoba
c/o 5006 Roblin Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3R 0G7
ph: (204) 232-6021 fax: (204) 986-7236

Photo Credits: invasive phrag on rte 90 @ Lindenwoods Dr and close up of phrag stand: C. Parks; Seed head: C. Parks; Native and invasive Phragmites ligule: Dr. J. Gilbert



Giant Hogweed

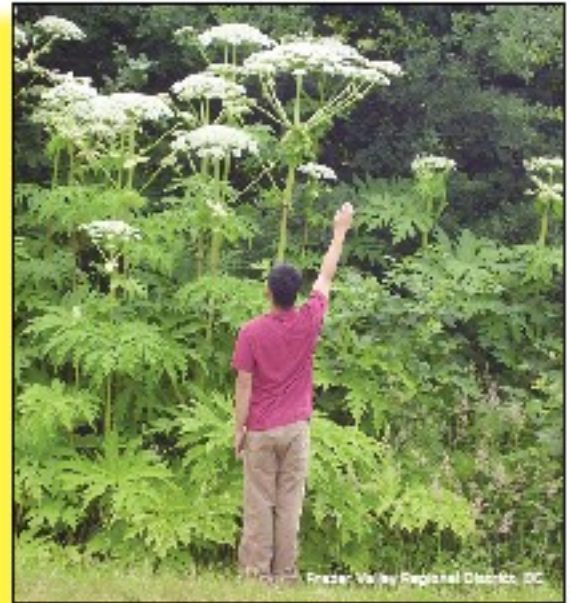
NATIONAL FACT SHEET

Scientific Name: *Heracleum mantegazzianum*; Family: Apiaceae (Carrot or Parsley)



IDENTIFICATION:

Gardening enthusiasts grow giant hogweed because of their bold, tropical-looking leaves, white-clustered flowers that grow in a large umbrella-shaped heads, and the sturdy, architectural look. Giant hogweed has a presence that commands attention, growing 1.5 to 5m tall in flower; however, it has escaped cultivation and is **HIGHLY INVASIVE**, and poses **SIGNIFICANT HUMAN HEALTH RISKS**.

Giant hogweed is easily mistaken for cow parsnip. Use the following comparison table to help identify giant hogweed:



Giant hogweed grows up to 5m in height with large umbrella-like white flowerheads that reach a diameter of 1.5m.

Cow Parsnip (<i>Heracleum maximum</i>)	Giant Hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>)
 <p><small>© Invasive Plant Committee, DC</small></p>	 <p><small>Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food, DC</small></p>

<p>Cow parsnip leaves are NOT shiny, are broader and less serrated than giant hogweed.</p>	 <p><small>C. Mason</small></p>	<p>Giant hogweed leaves are shiny and large, with leaf edges very coarse and serrated, like a jagged saw edge.</p>	 <p><small>R. Did</small></p>		 <p><small>D. Brown</small></p>
<p>Cow parsnip flower and leaf stalks are usually green, but lower stems can also have purple. However, purple marks are NOT blotches, streaks or spots.</p> <p>Flower stalks and leaf stems are smooth and have very soft hairs.</p>	 <p><small>C. Mason</small></p>	<p>Giant hogweed flower and leaf stalks have purple streaks, blotches, lines, and/or spots.</p> <p>Flower stalks and leaf stems contain stiff hairs with a bristly feel.</p>	 <p><small>R. Did</small></p>	<p>Cow parsnip blooms in July.</p> <p>Flowerheads are much smaller than giant hogweed, with a diameter of only 0.2m [20cm]. Has 15 to 30 ray flowers per stem.</p>	<p>Giant hogweed blooms in mid-August.</p> <p>Flowerheads form a large umbrella shape, and grow up to 1.5m [150cm] in diameter. Has more than 50 ray flowers per stem.</p>