



Volume 4
Issue 2
Summer/
Fall 2010

Unwanted Invaders

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5 New!

Aquatic Invasive Species Factsheets

Available for download at:

www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com



With funding kindly provided by:



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

Early Detection Rapid Response Alerts

The early detection rapid response (EDRR) program of the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba has been busy this summer with new invasive species threats being reported locally, and in neighboring provinces. The four species of recent concern to Manitoba are Salt Cedar (2 populations in rural Saskatchewan), Garlic Mustard (2 populations in Edmonton area), Spotted Knapweed (3 sites in rural Manitoba) and non-native invasive Phragmites (1 confirmed population in Winnipeg).



Garlic Mustard. Photo credit: J. Shimp, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

Salt Cedar - Saskatchewan

(from Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council)

Two populations of Salt cedar (*Tamarix* sp.) were confirmed in Saskatchewan as of August 30, 2010. All of the plants in both locations were estimated to be 5 years old or younger. One plant occurred near a dugout just south of Swift Current and six plants were located in a gravel pit near Findlater. Both populations were thought to have been introduced by contaminated equipment. Neither population occurred near flowing water, so it is believed the spread may be able to be contained. Eradication efforts have begun in recent weeks and future monitoring is to be instated, likely for several years. A Salt Cedar media day was to be held at the Swift Current location on September 21.

For more information on this Salt cedar infestation, please visit www.saskinvasives.ca.



Salt Cedar. Photo credit: S. Dewey, Utah State University, www.bugwood.org

Garlic Mustard - Alberta

(from Edmonton Journal, edited)

An invasive new weed has put down roots in the capital region, raising fears it will wipe out native plants in Edmonton area forests. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) was spotted on April 21, 2010 in Mill Creek Ravine and observed earlier in St. Albert [near Edmonton]. It has dark green, heart-shaped leaves and small white clusters of flowers at the tops of stems. The plant is native to Europe and parts of Asia. It was found in Long Island, N.Y., in 1868, where it was likely introduced as food or for medicinal purposes, according to the American National Park Service.

Diana Baragar, with the Edmonton Naturalization Group, organized two garlic mustard pulls in Mill Creek Ravine in May and along with City of Edmonton staff managed to wipe out most of this year's crop. They will have to go back every year to root out more plants, though. It will take vigilance for years because there are a lot of seeds in the ground. The city and volunteers are targeting about four yards neighbouring the ravine that are harbouring more garlic mustard. Baragar said the city is considering its options for those. No one from the City of St. Albert was available to comment on weed control efforts there. Garlic mustard is now rated a "prohibited noxious" weed under the new Alberta Weed Control Act, which came into force on June 16.

ISCM Summer Canoe Trips: Looking for Invasive Species in Manitoba

Article & Photos By: Sandi Faber Routley, ISCM Project Technician

Staff of the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba had a busy summer in 2010 carrying out field surveys and an early detection and rapid response (EDRR) program for unwanted invaders in Manitoba. ISCM's mapping student Kevin Land and I, both avid canoeists in our spare time, had the opportunity to paddle a few local rivers looking for high priority EDRR invasive species including a number of listed noxious weeds. The rivers of interest to ISCM this year were the Pembina, Roseau and Souris Rivers.

Typical gear brought on our river trips included a canoe, paddles, personal flotation devices, first aid kit, cell phone, GPS, digital camera, and survey forms. Although most can attest to a wet Prairie summer this year, the weather was usually sunny or partly cloudy on the days we ventured out and no rain in sight. Each survey involved approximately 3-4 hours of paddling, and driving time of 1-4 hours to the site plus return to Winnipeg. The Souris River trip in southwest Manitoba required an overnight stay in the area.

Pembina River

Based on information from the local Conservation District, we expected that the level of the Pembina River (in the breathtaking Pembina Valley plain of south-central Manitoba) would drop off rapidly as the summer progressed. It therefore was ISCM's first priority for survey completion. On July 6th and 16th, two different sections of the Pembina River were canoed. The surrounding habitat was primarily pastureland fenced for cattle. The temperature was in the low 20°C



Above: Beautiful view overlooking the Pembina River plain

with a north wind.

On the 1st river section, we headed southeast downstream from the Bridge (P.R. 201) and finished later at a cut-bank area on the border with North Dakota. Beginning at the Windy Gates Bridge (P.R. 31) and finishing at the Bridge (P.R. 201), the 2nd section of river was surveyed. Water levels were higher than normal due to recent heavy rainfall in the area. Faster flow created a number of swifts which were easily maneuvered, and there was the occasional fence line crossing the water that required us to duck underneath. On both surveys Kevin and I recorded continuous populations of the following invasive species along the riverbank: large patches of Nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*) and Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), and occasional plants of Scentless chamomile (*Matricaria perforata*) and Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*).



Left: distinctive flowering heads of Nodding thistle, also known as Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*).

Roseau River

On a sunny July 21st (25°C with a light south wind), 13 km of the Roseau River in southeastern Manitoba was surveyed. The trip began in the Gardenton floodway near the US border and continued northwest through 10 km of relatively straight floodway. This was followed by 3 km of meandering river and rocky swifts which were carefully maneuvered to avoid collision. The takeout site was at the Bridge near Gardenton (P.R. 209). Almost no invasive species were observed along the way, with the exception of a few Ox-eye daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) in a cottage lot and a Leafy spurge plant at the Bridge (P.R. 209).



Above: Roseau River view by canoe.

Souris River

The Souris River was originally scheduled to be surveyed the last week of July. Due to high water levels this year and the advice of a local weed supervisor, we postponed the survey until Aug 24th. The rescheduled date, however, was partly cloudy with wind gusts up to 50 km per hour. After Kevin and I met at the scheduled starting point at the Bridge near Coulter (P.R. 251), we decided it was impossible to paddle downstream into the strong, gusting north wind! So we changed course and choose to paddle in the opposite direction by travelling upstream from the original takeout site (Sourisford Park campground) and finish at the original Bridge site (P.R. 251).

This endeavor was successful, and we completed the entire 20 km stretch with the wind pushing us and waves breaking from behind. The corners were a bit tricky because the wind angled us into the riverbank at any opportunity. This meant extra efforts in paddling, particularly for Kevin steering in Stern, but overall the journey was still manageable. The greatest news was that no invasive species were found during the survey. Only pastureland with cattle and many flocks of shore birds: Pelicans, Bitterns, duck species, Grey herons and Cormorants were observed and photographed along the way.

Overall, ICSM's 2010 canoe survey of three of Manitoba's smaller river system was a success. While we found that the Pembina River was densely populated by invasive species, with a total of 4 species GPS-mapped, on a positive note, only one to zero invasive species was were located on the other 2 Roseau and Souris rivers surveyed. ISCM hopes that canoe surveys of Manitoba's many river systems will continue annually to protect our natural landscapes from these economically- and environmentally-detrimental invasive plants and animals.

EDRR Alerts Continued

Spotted Knapweed - Manitoba

(from Nasir Shaikh, Provincial Weed Specialist)

Sprague - [In late July] we visited a site near Sprague heavily invested with spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*). This piece of crown land was a gravel pit that was last used in 1993. Most of the pit (about 10-15 acres) was infested with this weed and some plants were also found over a mile away. Once it establishes at a disturbed site it continues to spread into the surrounding habitat. We saw skeletons of last year's growth, from which new growth had emerged. We also saw new growth from new seeds.



Spotted knapweed flower with dark bracts. Photo Credit: M. Ammeter.

Spotted knapweed has hairy, deeply-cut leaves and purple, or sometimes white, flowers. Flower-head bracts have a black-tipped fringe which gives them a spotted appearance, hence the name. It has an aggressive root system that will take up

more moisture/nutrients compared to other plants. This species is prolific, with individual plants producing up to 25,000 seeds. If it invades pasturelands the cattle do not eat it much, and very soon this weed takes over the whole pasture. It is a highly competitive weed that can easily displace desirable forage. Its roots exude a chemical which prevents other plants from growing.

Some of the herbicides that work on Knapweed are Picloram, 2,4-D, Dicamba, Clopyralid and Glyphosate. The best time to apply is before the mature plants set seed to maximize effectiveness. It is a matter of serious concern and we have discussed it in the recent EDRR meetings. Our goal is to quarantine the area, and aim for long term control and eradication. Robert Budey, the Weed Supervisor in the area, is managing this issue diligently. I would also like to thank Doug Cattani [formerly] from MAFRI (Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives), and the ISCM (Invasive Species Council of Manitoba) staff for taking up this issue and creating awareness in the public.

(ISCM update)

Beasejour/Birds Hill - small infestations of Spotted Knapweed have also been observed along a rail line in the Beasejour area by Doug Cattani in July and on the boundary of Birds Hill park by a the public volunteer in mid-August. MAFRI & local Weed Supervisors continue to work on control and eradication programs for these local sites.

Invasive Phragmites - Manitoba

(ISCM update)

Winnipeg - This summer an observation of invasive Phragmites or Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*) within the City of Winnipeg was forwarded to ISCM. In August, the stand was checked during initial flowering stage (which occurs approx. 1 month later than native Phragmites) and positively identified to be the invasive subspecies. Invasive Phragmites is taller (up to 15 ft tall), and has longer, darker flowering heads than the native species. In early October, staff of ISCM and City Naturalist Services Branch removed the flowering heads of the invasive stand in attempt to control. Please report any suspected invasive Phragmites sightings to ISCM or to 1-87-STOP AIS-0 (1-877-867-2470).



Native (top) and Invasive (bottom) Phragmites flowering heads (beside 30 cm ruler). Photo credit: ISCM.

Mark your Calendars!

September 19-22, 2011



**NAWMA's 19TH Annual Conference
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada**

Partner Hosts:

Invasive Species Council of Manitoba

Integrated Vegetation Management Association-Manitoba/Saskatchewan

Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association

Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council



**SEE YOU
IN
WINNIPEG
2011!**

The Nature Conservancy of Canada: Stony Mountain Weed Pull event

Article & Photos By: Cathy Shaluk, Regional Education and Communications Coordinator, Nature Conservancy of Canada – Manitoba Region

This summer, the ISCM and the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Conservation Volunteers joined forces in the battle against some of Manitoba's invasive alien plant species. NCC's Conservation Volunteer program, now in its' second year, is designed to engage people in the protection of Canada's biodiversity while providing a meaningful, hands-on educational experience in ecologically significant natural areas.

On Saturday, August 28th, 10 Volunteers from NCC Manitoba Region and ISCM with support of George Willis, Rockwood/Rosser Weed District supervisor, and Greg Popoff, Stony Mountain's Councillor tackled the invasive plants 'Leafy Spurge' and 'Canada Thistle' found on NCC's Stony Mountain Prairie Preserve. The Prairie Preserve is located 20 minutes north of Winnipeg within the town of Stony Mountain.

Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) and Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) are both aggressive invasive weed species from Eurasia that have infested more than five million acres of land in the United States and the prairie provinces of Canada. Within four hours the volunteers hand-pulled 10 bags of Canada Thistle and two bags of Leafy Spurge from the prairie effectively reducing the number of viable seeds entering the surrounding habitat. The weed bags were carefully transported to a site near the Prairie Preserve for incineration which removed the risk of spreading the plants seeds to other areas.

NCC is already planning for another successful season and is looking forward to working with ISCM on many more projects tackling our alien invasive species. Call or visit the Nature Conservancy of Canada's website for information on our conservation and stewardship programming and future volunteer opportunities.

www.natureconservancy.ca, Office contact: (204) 942-6156.



Top: Leafy Spurge Hawkmoth munching on Spurge plant; Bottom: Volunteers in photo, Back row: L to R : Gene Fortney, Deb Shaluk, Ransom Slack, Jean Britton, Karen Jones, Denise Gunter, Brenda Van Wallegghem, Michael link. Front Row: L to R: Michelle Mico and Helene Swanson. Missing from photo: Cathy Shaluk.

ISCM Report-A-Species & Giant Hogweed Update

By Sandi Faber Routley, ISCM Project Technician

Giant Hogweed is a very tall (over 15 ft), ornamental plant from west central Asia that was chosen as a 'poster child' for a national invasive species awareness campaign across Canada in 2010. It was selected primarily for two reasons: 1. It aggressively grows and reproduces and has escaped cultivation to invade natural areas where planted; 2. It poses significant human health risks due to production of a phototoxic sap that can burn the skin when exposed to sunlight.

Media coverage of this invasive plant across the country was extensive, including profile stories on the CBC National News and in hundreds of provincial rural and urban newspapers. This approach to Invasive Species Awareness was successful and caught public attention across the country. Giant hogweed was reported in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia as a result of this campaign.

In Manitoba and across the prairies, there are local native Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*) with white flowers, and Wild

Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) with yellow flowers, which are often confused with Giant Hogweed, but characteristically much shorter in height (1-7 feet tall). Native Parsnips are in the same family (Carrot) as Giant Hogweed and produce a similar phototoxic sap. However, the skin reaction in humans is much less severe than caused by Giant hogweed.

Over the summer months, ISCM was very busy and received approximately 30 reports of suspected Giant Hogweed sightings. The reports mainly came through the Report-A-Species link on our website www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com or by way of phone calls to our office. After reports were checked by ISCM Staff (either through digital photos sent in by email, plant description provided by the caller, or by visiting suspected locations), all were later confirmed to be the native Parsnip or Hemlock species (one report). Thankfully, it appears that Hogweed is not yet established in Manitoba.

One tremendous benefit from all the Giant Hogweed media attention for ISCM is that Manitoba's citizens have become much more aware of- and educated on- invasive



Left: Cow Parsnip, often mistaken for Giant Hogweed, is native to Manitoba. Photo credit: W. Siegmund.

species of concern, and have taken a direct role in protecting the local landscape by reporting suspected invaders. This summer ISCM has received significantly higher number of invasive species reports to our email and website address than ever before. ISCM wishes to thank all those who have reported invasive species in recent months and encourage you to keep up the good work by continuing to keep an eye out for unwanted invaders! Email info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com or www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com for more information.

Upcoming Invasive Species Events

November 2010

- Nov 15-18 Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting, Delta Hotel & Convention Centre, Regina. www.weedscience.ca
- Nov 17-18 Social Marketing Training Session, "Fostering Sustainable Behaviour Re: Invasive Species," with renowned speaker, Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr. Hilton Airport Hotel, Vancouver. Limited space. For more info: Gail Lucier, Invasive Plant Council of BC, 250-392-1400 or glucier@fraserbasin.bc.ca

December 2010

- Dec 1-3 Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association Annual Fall Meeting with ISCM Annual General Meeting (Thursday, Dec 2), Holiday Inn Airport West, Winnipeg
- Dec 6-8 Manitoba Conservation Districts Association Convention, Keystone Centre, Brandon. www.mcda.ca
- Dec 7-8 Manitoba Grazing School, Victoria Inn, Brandon. www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca

January 2010

- Jan 11-13 ND Weed Commissioners Association Meeting, Best Western Seven Seas, Mandan, North Dakota.

February 2010

- Feb 8-9 Manitoba GreenShow, Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB. www.landscapemanitoba.com

July 2011

- July 6-8 Noxious and Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Course, University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research and Extension Center, North Platte, Nebraska. Contact Dr. Stephen Young at 308-696-6712 or syoung4@unlnotes.unl.edu.

INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF MANITOBA: SAVE THE DATE!



ISCM Annual General Meeting, December 2nd,
in conjunction

with Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association
Fall Meeting, December 1st-3rd,
Holiday Inn Airport West, Winnipeg, Manitoba



For more information visit: www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com or
phone (204) 232-6021; email: info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com.

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.

ISCM Executive Board* 2010**Cheryl Heming**

ISCM Coordinator

Doug Cattani

University of Manitoba

Glen Campbell

Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

John Johnston

Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association

Ron Moss

Agri-Environment Services Branch

Jane Thornton

MAFRI

Linda Christianson

Manitoba Conservation

Garth Ball

Manitoba Conservation

Bill Gardiner

MAFRI

Wybo Vandershuit

Riding Mountain National Park

Julie Sveinson Pelc

Nature Conservancy of Canada- Manitoba Region

Wendy Ralley/ Candace Parks

Manitoba Water Stewardship

Lisette Ross

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

*Other Executive members to be confirmed.

The ISCM would like to thank our funding sources and partners, without whom we would not exist:

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Environment Services Branch (formerly Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration)
- Agriculture Sustainability Initiative, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
- Assiniboine Watershed Network
- Centric Productions
- City of Winnipeg
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Dow Agrosiences Canada
- ECO Canada
- Fisheries Enhancement Fund
- Integrated Vegetation and Management Association Manitoba/ Saskatchewan
- Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI)
- 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
- Riding Mountain National Park
- Service Canada Summer Jobs, Government of Canada
- Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, Manitoba Conservation
- T & T Seeds
- Winnipeg Airports Authority



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

E-mail: info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

STOP THE SPREAD

SPINY WATER FLEA

Bythotrephes longimanus

SPINY WATER FLEA WILL NEGATIVELY IMPACT MANITOBA'S WATERWAYS!

Origin

A zooplankton species native to Eurasia. It was introduced to North America from ballast waters of ocean-going ships in 1982.

Status

This crustacean has invaded all the Laurentian Great Lakes, and some inland lakes in Ontario and Minnesota including the Lake of the Woods region.

Impacts

Reproduces quickly. Avoided by small native fish, thus populations can grow out of control. Competes with native fish for food and fouls fishing gear. Reduces abundance and diversity of native zooplankton species. Their eggs are resistant to drying, freezing and extreme temperatures, and even withstand being eaten by fish. Can easily be transported over land in undrained water (bilge, livewells, bait buckets, etc.) on watercraft and equipment.

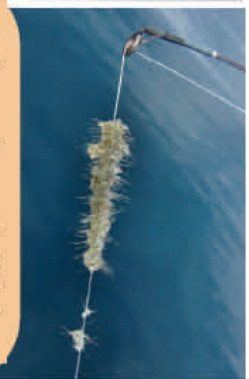
Where to Look

All lakes, rivers and streams.



LOOK FOR:

- ◇ 1 TO 1.5 CM (1/3 TO 5/8 INCH) LONG.
- ◇ LONG TAIL (2/3 BODY LENGTH) WITH BARB-LIKE SPINES.
- ◇ COMMONLY FOUND IN CLUMPS ON FISHING LINES OR FISHING GEAR THAT LOOK LIKE GELATIN OR COTTON BATTING WITH TINY BLACK SPOTS.



PREVENT THE SPREAD!

CLEAN and inspect watercraft, trailer and gear before leaving the access. Remove all plants, animals and mud. Rinse using high pressure, and/or hot tap water.

DRAIN all water from watercraft and gear including the motor, livewell, bilge and bait bucket.

DRY watercraft and gear for at least 5 days in the hot sun (if rinsing is not available).

DISPOSE of unwanted live bait and worms in trash and dump bait bucket water on land. Never release live bait into any waterbody!

For more information or to report a sighting,

Call: **1-87-STOP AIS-0** or 1(877) 867-2470

Visit: **Manitoba.ca/StopAIS**

For general invasive species info,

Email:

info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

Phone: (204) 232-6021

www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

Funding for this project was provided by the **Fisheries Enhancement Fund**



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

Photo credits, Banner: fishcrazy-bigdog.blogspot.com; Actual size of Spiny water flea (scale bar represents 1 mm): J. Liebig, NOAA GLERL; Fishing line clumped with Spiny water fleas: Jeff Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant.