Resources on Invasive Plants

1. **The New England Invasive Plant Group (NIPGro),** headquartered at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, is a new organization that networks agencies, organizations and individuals involved in invasive plant issues in the region. NIPGro promotes the sharing of information among network members, research into plant biology and management techniques, alternatives to invasive species still in use, and provides a clearinghouse and referral system for information. An electronic newsletter gives updates about new invaders, projects being undertaken by members, upcoming events, new research, and more. All interested parties are welcome to sign up for the network, free of charge. An Invasive Plant Summit will be held September 19-20, 2003 in Framingham, MA.

   All are encouraged to become involved in the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE), described below. NIPGro and IPANE are funded through a grant from the USDA through 2005. The first issue of the NIPGro newsletter can be found on the website: www.fws.gov/r5soc under "announcements" or "what's new?" To be included in the network, contact coordinator Cynthia Boettner at 413-863-0209 ext. 6, or cynthia_boettner@fws.gov.

2. **The Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE)**
   The Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, based at the University of Connecticut, is a web-based atlas of up to 100 species known or suspected to be invasive in the New England area. The atlas will support an early detection and alert system for new invaders. The IPANE website will include images and descriptive data, and a database documenting the existence and spread of those species in New England. Maps will be included in the future.

   IPANE is intended to provide public access to an online interactive resource of regionally invasive vascular plants, including both historic and current data. Current field data is collected and submitted by volunteers trained by the New England Wild Flower Society (see below) and trained professionals. IPANE will provide an effective tool for students and researchers, land managers, conservationists, scientists, government agencies, the nursery industry, and the interested public. Website: http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane

3. **The New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS)** is the oldest plant conservation organization in the United States, promoting the conservation of temperate North American plants through programs in conservation, education, research and horticulture. NEWFS has been very active in controlling invasive species and educating people about the issue. An informative special edition of their magazine is devoted to the subject of invasive plants in New England. Copies of "Invaders" are available by calling Linda Jackson at 508-877-7630 ext. 3601 ($4.50 includes shipping and handling). Staff provide training sessions on the identification of invasive plants for those wishing to contribute data to the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE). New volunteers are being recruited for 2003 and 2004. NEWFS also leads many volunteer events to control new populations of invasive plants and those threatening rare species. For IPANE training sessions, contact Bryan Connelly at connollybryan@hotmail.com, 860-423-8305. For learning more about volunteer control events contact Chris Mattrick at 508-877-7630 ext. 3203, cmattrick@newfs.org. Further information about invasive plants can also be found on their website: http:www.newfs.org

4. **The Invasive Plant Control Initiative Strategic Plan for the Connecticut River Watershed/Long Island Sound Region.** March 1999. Written by the Initiative Steering Committee led by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The plan highlights agencies and organizations already working on the issue in the watershed and New England, what needs exist, and what actions would best serve the region within five years. Some priority actions are already being undertaken by the New England Invasive Plant Group based at the Conte Refuge headquarters. 51 pp., plus several appendices. Text and some appendices available on the website www.fws.gov/r5soc under "what's new?" or "announcements."

5. **Resources from The Nature Conservancy**

Element Stewardship Abstracts, published by the national office of The Nature Conservancy, are excellent. Summarizing the existing literature on a given plant, they provide detailed information on life history, control methods and research needs. http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html

TNC's Wildland Invasive Species Program also has an online publication, the Weed Control Methods Handbook. This handbook is what every natural areas manager should know about weed control methods. Consisting of seven chapters and six appendices, it reviews manual, grazing, fire, biocontrol, and herbicide techniques. There are in-depth discussions of eleven different herbicides, plus a great deal of supporting information on herbicide use. Nearly 200 pages. It is available, free for the download at their web site: http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu.

TNC also has an email listserve with regular notices about invasive plant issues nation-wide. Write Barry Meyers-Rice at bazza@ucdavis.edu

6. **The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group** maintains a website on invasive plants and their control, as well as announcements of conferences and other events. (http:www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg).

7. The **Invasive Plant Council of New York** has a website with information on invasive plant species, their control, and their alternatives, as well as a database of resource people experienced with managing them. Paying members receive a mailed informational newsletter. http://www.ipcnys.org, 518-271-0346

8. **A Guide to Invasive Non-native Aquatic Plants in Massachusetts** C. Barre Hellquist and Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Management, Lakes and Ponds Program, Boston. 14 page booklet with line drawings, color photos and brief descriptions. For a free copy, contact Michelle Robinson, 617-626-1382. Also available online at www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/lakepond/aquatic_species.pdf

9. The "**Wisconsin Manual of Control Recommendations for Ecologically Invasive Plants**," edited by Hoffman and Kearns, and published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Copies are available by sending $3 to the Endangered Resources Fund, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921. Also available online at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/manual_toc.html

10. A centralized source of fact sheets is the **Native Plant Conservation Initiative's Alien Plant Working Group** which maintains a website. The thoroughness of the information varies from plant to plant. Many more fact sheets are in progress and are indicated on the website: www.nps.gov/plants/alien/

11. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has produced a **"Noxious and Nuisance Plant Management Information System-PMIS" (Version 4) on CD-ROM**, that discusses 60 plants, and includes pictures, range maps, control information, and information on pesticide regulations in 26 states. The Aquatic Plant Information System-APIS@ includes the identification and management of over 60 species of native and introduced aquatic and wetland plants. Single copies of each of these CD's are available free from Michael J. Grodowitz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEWES-ER-A, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180 (grodowm@mail.wes.army.mil). Not all of the plants included are problems in New England.

12. **A Guide to Aquatic Plants in Massachusetts** by Wanda Kelly, published by the New England Aquarium and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management Lake and Ponds Program. This booklet serves as an easy-to-use key to identifying local native and exotic aquatic plants. A series of questions detailing shape, color, smell and habitat help guide you to the identity of the plant. 33pp. $2.95 plus shipping and handling. Phone 617-973-5266 or check website: (http://www.neaq.org/visit/gift.html)

13. **Native Alternatives for Invasive Ornamental Plant Species (in Connecticut)** edited by Timothy Abbey of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group. Highlights alternatives to four species considered widespread and invasive in Connecticut (autumn olive, Japanese barberry, purple loosestrife, burning bush) and one potentially invasive species in Connecticut (Norway maple). 14pp. Available on websites: www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/ and www.caes.state.ct.us. Single copies can be ordered from Tim Abbey (timothy.abbey@po.state.ct.us, 860-687-4763) or Cynthia Boettner (Cynthia_Boettner@fws.gov, 413-863-0209 x6)

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Society for Ecological Restoration, Northeastern Chapter. Contacts: David Robertson, Chapter contact (215) 657-0830. The Society is an international membership organization "committed to ecologically sensitive repair and management of ecosystems." SER facilitates communication among restorationists; encourages research; promotes awareness of the value of restoration; contributes to public policy discussions; and develops public support for restoration. Techniques for invasive control are discussed in their publications *Restoration and Management Notes* and *Ecological Restoration* (available at a discount to members) and at their annual conference. The Northeastern Chapter publishes a newsletter, sponsors field trips to restoration sites in the northeast, and sponsors other educational/networking activities for its members. (www.ser.org)

The *Natural Areas Journal* includes extensive invasive species management information. It is published quarterly by the Natural Areas Association. Articles about invasives that have been published in the journal through the years are compiled in the "Compendium on Exotic Species". As more articles are published, updates to the compendium will be made. These products are available from the Natural Areas Association, P.O. Box 1504, Bend, OR 97709, 541-317-0199. (www.naturalarea.org)

The Journal of Aquatic Plant Management is a publication of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, an international organization of scientists, educators, commercial pesticide applicators, administrators and concerned citizens interested in the management and study of aquatic plants. It contains peer reviewed, scientific publications on aquatic plant ecology, physiology and management. Contact Dr. David L. Sutton, JAPM, University of Florida – IFAS, Research and Education Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL, d33314, 954-577-6317, dlsutton@ufl.edu. (www.apms.org)

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