



WNY PRISM

Partnering to Protect Western New York
from Invasive Species



Fall 2021 Newsletter

The WNY PRISM mission is to proactively identify, evaluate and address invasive species priorities in western New York using a coordinated partnership of local professionals, organizations and private citizens to improve, restore and protect local aquatic and terrestrial resources.



Slender false brome management at Genesee County Park and Forest before (2018, left) and after (2021, right). Inset: Natives reestablishing.

Early Detection and Rapid Response: WNY PRISM Finds Success Managing Emerging Species

The early detection of new and emerging invasive species is essential for preventing their establishment and spread within the region. Successful early detection programs allow for potential threats to be identified and assessed at a point when negative impacts can be reversed, or avoided altogether, through use of Best Management Practices. The earlier an infestation is found the more successful management efforts will be.

WNY PRISM first developed an [Early Detection Priority Species List](#) in 2015 and works to reevaluate it regularly, as conditions change. The list was updated earlier this year and currently includes six terrestrial and three aquatic species. The nine priority species are those which WNY PRISM dedicates the most time and resources managing.

WNY PRISM Early Detection Survey and Monitoring Technicians surveyed 24 new sites and over 90 miles of trail for priority terrestrial early detection species, slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*) and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) in 2021. Of the 24 sites, slender false brome was not found and Japanese stiltgrass was only found at two sites. Both new stiltgrass sites had populations small enough that all plants were removed the same day data was collected.

Early detection site monitoring and management was completed at six previously identified slender false brome sites and fifteen previously identified stiltgrass sites. For the second year in a row, no stiltgrass was found at Emery Park, and for the first time, after three years of treatment, no plants were found at Majors Park. For sites where manual removal was implemented, WNY PRISM staff removed a total of 9.75 bags of slender false brome and four bags of Japanese stiltgrass. WNY PRISM will continue to monitor all early

Early Detection Species and WNY PRISM Rapid Response

detection sites until the target species is not found for at least five years. It is at this five-year mark that a site is considered “presumed eradicated.”

Porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) was first reported to WNY PRISM by a community scientist in 2020. They removed the plant when initially found, and returned to monitor the site and implement further management in 2021. WNY PRISM surveyed the site as well this year and appreciates the continued interest and support from the community to prevent this species from spreading.

WNY PRISM monitored six sites for water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and three sites for water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*), both priority aquatic early detection species. Three water hyacinth sites are now presumed eradicated as plants have not been found for at least five years. Active water hyacinth sites remain at Unity Island, Oppenheim Park and Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal (Canal). An additional site within Buckhorn Island State Park is being monitored and managed by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. No plants have been found at Unity Island since those first found and removed in 2017, but plants have been removed in multiple years at Oppenheim Park and the Canal. WNY PRISM removed six plants from Oppenheim Park in 2020 (none found in 2021) and pulled 38 plants from the Canal in 2021, in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Water lettuce at Hyde Park Lake was first found and reported to WNY PRISM in 2020. In response, WNY PRISM staff surveyed the lake and removed 730 plants. The lake was surveyed twice in 2021, but no additional plants were found. Water lettuce was however, found at sites within Ellicott Creek and the Canal in 2021. Over the course of three separate surveys, 148 water lettuce were removed from Ellicott Creek, and 38 plants removed from the Canal, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



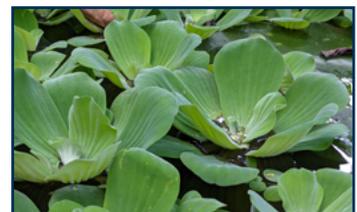
Japanese stiltgrass,
Microstegium vimineum



Slender false brome,
Brachypodium sylvaticum



Water hyacinth,
Eichhornia crassipes



Water lettuce,
Pistia stratiotes

Get Involved!

How to Report Early Detection Species

WNY PRISM has developed several data collection protocols for the survey, assessment and monitoring of early detection species. Whether you are a volunteer, experienced community scientist, or a professional land manager, these resources can be used to help improve invasive species management efforts.

The [Early Detection Reporting Protocol](#) is the quickest and easiest way to make sure observations and information about early detection priority species gets to the right place. Species, infestation size, location and photos are all you need to report through the iMapInvasives App or directly to WNY PRISM.

The [Early Detection Assessment Form](#) asks for more detailed information on the site and infestation. This helps land managers better understand the unique habitat conditions that impact what types of management will be the most appropriate and gives them a head start in responding to a new infestation. The [Early Detection Assessment Protocol](#) gives detailed instructions on how to fill out the form.

Upcoming Events

Uninvited Documentary Virtual Viewing Party
November 5; 12pm-1:30pm

[Event Registration](#)

Fall Riparian Planting with Genesee RiverWatch
November 10; 9am-4pm

To register, call **585-233-6086**

CCE Agriculture, Food & Env. Systems In-Service
November 15; 11am-12:30pm

[Event Registration](#)

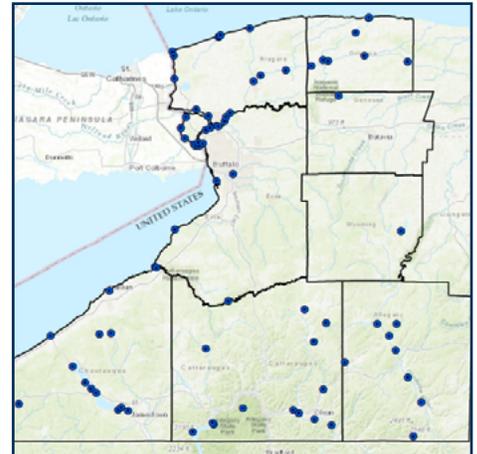
For more information on these or other events, visit our [website](#).

WNY PRISM Public Boat Launch Survey

In September, WNY PRISM completed a survey of 76 regional public boat launches. The survey was designed to both document the presence and condition of aquatic invasive species signs, informational materials and disposal boxes, and to provide information on each launch's suitability for hosting a possible future Watercraft Inspection Steward/Environmental Educator.

Of the 76 launches surveyed (an additional seven launches were identified but inaccessible due to construction), 37 launches, or 49%, had signs related to aquatic invasive species and spread prevention. Only fifteen launches, or 20%, had disposal boxes, of which five were in poor condition.

Moving forward, WNY PRISM looks forward to working with the DEC and partners to increase the number of launches with signs and disposal stations.



WNY PRISM surveyed 76 public boat launches across the region.

Take the Pledge to Protect Your Lands, Trees and Waters

Invasive species cause significant harm to our lands and waters, and too often by the time widespread awareness of individual species forms, the available resources needed to address those species is not enough. Preventing the establishment and spread of invasive species is an effective strategy for addressing them before they become too widespread. To do this, we need your help!

You can pledge to protect your lands, trees and waters by making a commitment to take simple steps that will stop the spread and introduction of invasives. Designed around familiar national campaigns including Clean. Drain. Dry. and Don't Move Firewood, WNY PRISM's Pledge to Protect Campaign makes it easy for community members to turn simple actions into habits that will protect our local terrestrial and aquatic resources.

When you pledge to protect your waters, you are committing to cleaning off all visible mud, animals and plant material from your boats and other equipment, draining your motor, bilge and livewells, drying everything for at least five days or wiping it dry with a towel, and disposing of unwanted bait and fish in the trash.

When you pledge to protect your trees, you are committing to burning firewood where you buy it, gathering wood on site (where permitted), and leaving leftover firewood at your campsite.

When you pledge to protect your lands, you can commit to both planting native and non-invasive species when you know before you grow and can commit to cleaning off your footwear and other clothing, gear and vehicles before and after recreating when you Play. Clean. Go.

Over 100 people have already pledged to protect their lands and waters by signing a commitment banner. Stop by any of our upcoming events to sign the banner and take the pledge yourself!



Invasive Species Profile: Porcelain Berry

[Porcelain berry](#) (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) is a deciduous, perennial climbing vine that can grow up to 20 feet long. It has variably shaped leaves with toothed edges and shiny undersides with hairs only along the veins.

The vine produces small greenish-yellow flowers over the summer. Their distinctive berries, which develop in various shades of white, yellow, lilac or green, mature to a bright blue. Porcelain berry is most often confused with native grapes, but can be differentiated by comparing their bark and pith.

Porcelain berry grows quickly and forms thick mats that compete with native plants for light, water, nutrients and space. Once established, it can suppress and eliminate native vegetation while also



Porcelain berry has colorful fruit, which attracts birds and contributes to its spread through seed dispersal.

limiting tree regeneration.

Birds are attracted to the colorful berries, helping to disperse the seeds in their droppings and creating new infestations. Porcelain berry can also propagate through root fragments, making it more difficult to manage.

Porcelain berry was introduced as an ornamental plant in the 1870's. Its colorful berries, vertical structure and the use as ground cover, made it a desirable garden plant.

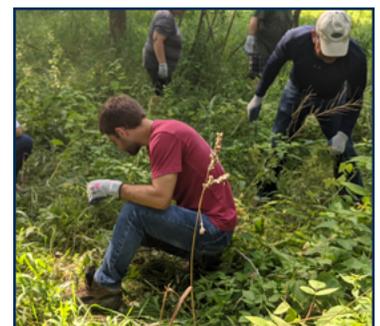
Porcelain berry is a [prohibited species](#) in NYS, meaning that it is illegal to sell, purchase or introduce it to new locations. You can help limit the spread of porcelain berry, and other ornamental invasive plants, by planting only native and non-invasive species in your gardens. Porcelain berry can be reported to [iMapInvasives](#) or directly to WNY PRISM.

Community Engagement: Volunteer Workdays



WNY PRISM hosted five Japanese Stiltgrass Volunteer Workdays as part of our early detection work this summer. Workdays took place at several sites along Cazenovia Creek in West Seneca including Mill Road Park, Cazenovia Creek Wildlife Management Area and the West Seneca Soccer Complex. After learning how to identify Japanese stiltgrass, volunteers engaged in hand-pulling individual plants. Over the course of five workdays, 46 volunteers removed 17 bags of Japanese stiltgrass and donated over 141 total hours!

WNY PRISM will host more volunteer workdays in 2022! If you are interested in receiving volunteer workday updates, please email wnyprism@buffalostate.edu.



Community Scientists Are More Important Than Ever!

Become a community scientist and help WNY PRISM by reporting hemlock woolly adelgid and spotted lanternfly! These pests can cause significant damage to our trees and forests and native plant communities, and in the case of spotted lanternfly, agriculture as well.



HWA can be identified by wool-like ovisacs.

[Hemlock woolly adelgid \(*Adelges tsugae*\)](#) (HWA) is a tiny, aphid-like insect, so named for the white wool-like masses that both protects adult HWA from the cold winter temperatures and creates an ovisac in which they lay eggs in the spring. HWA threatens eastern and Carolina hemlock, causing decline and mortality within 4-10 years. When you spot a hemlock tree, look for the white, wool-like masses on the underside of branches from late fall to summer. If a hemlock looks greyish from a distance, please give it a closer look as this may be a sign of infestation. Please report all sightings of HWA through [iMapInvasives](#).



SLF egg mass. Photo: Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture

The [spotted lanternfly \(*Lycorma delicatula*\)](#) (SLF) is an invasive planthopper whose primary host is another invasive species, tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). SLF is a threat to crops like apples, plums, cherries, grapes, peaches, and nectarines, as well as some native trees. Surveys should be focused on looking for their egg sacs, which resemble dried mud, in areas with tree of heaven. The egg sacs can be found on trees and just about any smooth surface including rocks, vehicles and outdoor furniture and containers. If found, SLF should be reported immediately. Community scientists can report SLF by following these steps:

1. Take a photo.
2. Collect a sample and place it in a freezer or in a jar with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer.
3. [Contact SLF responders](#).

After reporting and collecting a sample, any additional SLF should be killed by stepping on it or crushing it.



Adult spotted lanternfly
Photo: Lawrence Barringer,
Pennsylvania Department of
Agriculture, Bugwood.org

iMapInvasives is a great tool for community scientists to keep invasive species managers informed of new and existing infestations. You can simply create an account, complete a brief tutorial, and begin reporting invasive species in your area. iMapInvasives also offers [self-guided training](#) and recorded training videos on their [YouTube channel](#).

Contact Us!

SUNY Buffalo State
Great Lakes Center, SAMC 319
1300 Elmwood Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222

(716) 878-4708

wnyprism@buffalostate.edu
wnyprism.org



WNY PRISM



[wnyprism8](#)

WNY PRISM Steering Committee Members

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper | Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy | Cornell Cooperative Extension Ecology & Environment, Inc. | Natural Resource Conservation Service USDA - NRCS | New York Sea Grant
NYS Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc. | NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History | Great Lakes Center - SUNY Buffalo State
United States Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
USFWS, Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office