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Seen It? Call 401-874-5807 or email invasives@rinhs.org TODAY!
The site may qualify for free inventory and/or invasive control by RINHS

Mile-A-Minute Vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*)

Area of Concern: RI STATE-WIDE

Mile-a-minute vine is native to Asia. It is an herbaceous, trailing plant, tolerant of many growing conditions but with a preference for moist soils and sunny situations. The stem of mile-a-minute vine is covered with numerous down-turned barbs, which enable the plant to scramble over other vegetation. Plants serving as armatures, are frequently smothered in the dense growth. The dense, barbed growth of mile-a-minute greatly impairs access to areas for people and wildlife. It is an annual in the northeastern United States and is spreading from known locations in Rhode Island.



More Images: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=3065>



The Forest Health Works Project (FHWP), a partnership of the RI Department of Environmental Management and the RI Natural History Survey, is a new state effort to control invasive plants that threaten forest health. More info at www.rinhs.org

The FHWP is funded by the U.S. Forest Service through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Area of Concern: WESTERN RI

Garlic mustard is a biennial herb native to Europe. This species is tolerant of many growing conditions, but prefers moist soils and can easily persist in the understory of a forest. Chemicals in garlic mustard's roots inhibit the growth of fungus necessary for the uptake of nutrients by native plants. The first year's growth produces evergreen rosettes. These are followed in the second year by a stalk up to 3' high. The leaves are garlic scented. Garlic mustard has a 4-petal white flower and produces a characteristic mustard seed pod. Avoid infested areas when the exploding pods are ripe to prevent spreading the seeds. It is currently thought to be limited to coastal areas in Rhode Island.



More Images: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=3005>



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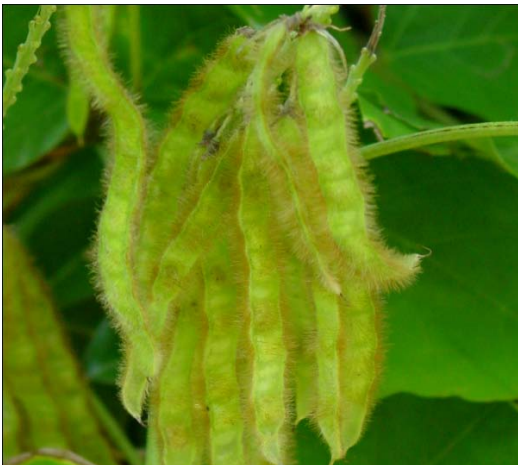
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Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)

Area of Concern: RI STATE-WIDE -- REPORT IMMEDIATELY

Kudzu is a vine in the pea family native to Asia. Known as the "Vine that ate the South", kudzu is an extremely fast growing deciduous plant capable of reaching lengths of over 100'. It readily smothers other vegetation. Leaves are hairy, and alternate along the stem with three lobes. Flowers occur in midsummer as long fragrant purple clusters. Seeds are held in flat, brown, hairy bean-like pods. Preferred habitat includes open, disturbed areas such as roadsides, edges and old fields. Isolated populations have been found in MA. Please report immediately.



More Images: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=2425>



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Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)

Area of Concern: RI STATE-WIDE

Japanese stiltgrass is an annual grass native to Asia. It can grow up to 3' high from a stilt-like root structure and has a sprawling habit. Stiltgrass prefers moist soils and is very shade tolerant; it can persist in a closed canopy forest and overtake native vegetation. The plant has a slightly off-set, iridescent mid-vein along the leaf and a smooth stem. Roots are forked, or 'stilt-like'. Japanese stiltgrass begins flowering in late August and seeds mature by early to mid-September. Avoid infested areas when seeds are present to prevent dispersal.



More Images: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=3051>



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Perennial/Giant Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)

Area of Concern: RI STATE WIDE -- REPORT IMMEDIATELY

Perennial pepperweed is a perennial herb native to Eurasia. It is in the mustard family and can grow 1-5' in height. In the late fall to early spring a rosette of wide, toothed leaves develops. Leaves are alternate, long and oblong. Flowering occurs in the late spring to summer, when flat, dense clusters of flowers develop at the apex of the stem. Individual flowers are 4-petaled and white, each producing a round to oval, hairy pod. Pepperweed occurs in coastal wetlands, riverbanks, marshes, rangelands and roadsides. Isolated populations have been found in MA & CT. Please report immediately.



More Images: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=5931>



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Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*)

Area of Concern: RI STATE-WIDE

Water chestnut is an annual aquatic plant native to Eurasia. It can grow vigorously and densely in shallow, nutrient-rich waters. Water chestnut can obliterate native pond habitat, clog waters to most recreational uses, and present a significant physical hazard to swimmers and waders due to its barbed seed pods. Leaves floating on the surface of the water are alternate, triangular in shape, strongly toothed and connected to the stem by an inflated leafstalk. Underwater leaves are feathery and opposite. The plant is not related to the water chestnut used in stir-fry. Isolated populations have been found throughout Rhode Island.



More Images: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=3499>

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Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Area of Concern: RI STATE-WIDE

Eurasian watermilfoil is a submersed aquatic plant that invades lakes, ponds, and slow moving rivers. The plants are rooted, with red-brown stems growing up to the water surface, usually reaching 3-10'. Leaves are bright green, finely dissected with blunt tips, and arranged in whorls along the stem. The delicate leaflets give this plant a feathery appearance. Eurasian watermilfoil thrives in slow moving, nutrient rich waters and it can tolerate brackish conditions. Once established, dense mats of leaves restrict light availability, leading to a decline in biodiversity. Eurasian watermilfoil is native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. Isolated populations have been found throughout Rhode Island.



More Images: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=3055>

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Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Area of Concern: RI STATE-WIDE -- REPORT IMMEDIATELY

Hydrilla is a submersed, rooted aquatic plant typically found in water up to depths of 20'. Hydrilla forms dense mats at the surface of the water that block sunlight from reaching native vegetation, and can clog rivers and irrigation ditches. Leaves are whorled in bunches of 3-8, but most often with whorls of 5. The leaf margins are visibly serrated. Midribs of the lower leaf surface sometimes have small, raised teeth. Plants are rooted, with small tubers that over winter in the pond substrate. Hydrilla can invade most slow-moving or still water systems. Isolated populations have been found in MA & CT. Please report immediately.



More Images: <http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=3028>

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