



# Invasive Species News

April-May 2015 Issue

## Worst Invaders in NE Minnesota:

### PLANTS

- Buckthorn
- Canada thistle
- Common tansy
- Dalmatian toadflax
- Leafy spurge
- Multiflora rose
- Purple loosestrife
- Spotted knapweed
- St. John's wort
- Wild parsnip

### ANIMALS

- Gypsy moth
- Spiny water flea
- Zebra mussel

*This project was funded in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management in cooperation with the DNR - Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.*

## Invasive Species: Frequently Asked Questions

**What is an invasive species?**  
Invasive species can be plants or animals. To be considered invasive, a species must first be introduced into an area by means other than natural processes, this makes it non-native. Not all non-native species are invasive. A non-native species is considered invasive if it has a competitive advantage over other species or negatively impacts the environment, economy or human health.

**What characteristics make a species invasive?**  
Invasive species typically have features such as high reproductive rates or a tolerance of a wide range of conditions that give them a competitive advantage over native species. In some cases, non-native species are introduced into areas where there are no natural enemies to control them.

**What is so bad about invasive species?**  
The presence of invasive species can alter hydrology, increase erosion and fire



Spotted knapweed - An invasive plant

hazard. In natural communities, they can also alter food chains and cause native species extinctions. Invasive species threaten the economy by decreasing property values while aquatic invaders can hurt fishing and boating industries. Some invasive species may be poisonous to humans or animals or may carry human diseases.

**What laws are in place to control the spread of invasive species?**

In Minnesota, the MN Department of Agriculture (MDA) lists invasive plants as prohibited or restricted noxious weeds to regulate their sale, transport and/or growth. Quarantines by the MDA, such as the gypsy moth quarantine of Lake and Cook counties, limit the materials that can be moved out of an infested area.

For more information on Cook County invasive species visit: [arrowheadinvasives.org](http://arrowheadinvasives.org)

## Coastal Program Funds Cook Co. Invasives Outreach

The Cook County Invasives Team (CCIT) has received a grant through the Minnesota DNR's Lake Superior Coastal Program to complete an invasive species outreach and education campaign. The grant will

fund six radio interviews on WTIP accompanied by a community discussion board on Boreal Access. Six workshops with expert guests will also be held in communities along the North Shore. Each group of

events will focus on a topic relating to a different aspect of invasive species prevention and control.

See "Upcoming CCIT Events" for topics and event details.

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Look for another  
issue of **Invasive  
Species News**  
in June!

#### Aquatic invasive species can...

- Reduce fish populations
- Ruin boating equipment
- Make lakes and rivers unusable by boaters and swimmers
- Degrade ecosystems
- Affect human health

#### Upcoming CCIT Events:

*All events are free and open to the public*

**April 30th** – Aquatic Invasive Species - North Shore Morning Interview & Discussion Forum  
Where: 90.7 FM and WTIP.org; discussion forum on boreal.org

**May 5th** – Aquatic Invasive Species Identification and Prevention Workshop\*  
with Marte Kitson (Sea Grant Program)

Where: Cook County Community Center - 317 W 5th St., Grand Marais

When: 5:00pm - 6:00pm

**\*Attendees receive \$5 Conservation Cash coupons to Buck's Hardware Hank!**

**June 9th** – PlayCleanGo - North Shore Morning Interview & Discussion Forum  
Where: 90.7 FM and WTIP.org; discussion forum on Boreal.org

**June 13th** – PlayCleanGo Day, National Get Outdoors Day and State Park Open House Day

Where: All MN State Parks; CCIT booth and presentations at

Cascade River State Park trail center

#### Future events to include:

- Native Plants and Restoration Techniques Workshop
- Shoreland Native Plant Identification and Planting to Enhance Water Quality Workshop
- Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Control Options Workshop
- Gypsy Moth Identification and Quarantine Workshop

Want more information? Check out our website: [arrowheadinvasives.org](http://arrowheadinvasives.org)



Summer is just around the corner which means it's time to start thinking about enjoying Minnesota's beautiful waters. Whether you are a boater, angler or swimmer, it is important to keep in mind what you may be unknowingly transporting on your equipment. Aquatic invasive species can easily cling to boats, docks and fishing equipment to spread from one lake to another. The presence of invasive species in our water resources

threatens ecosystem health in addition to reducing recreation opportunities.

Please follow these simple procedures to help ensure that our lakes, rivers and streams remain clean and healthy.

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting

• Clean and dry anything that contacted water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.)

• Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water

For more information and a list of infested waters visit: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html)