



# Invasive Species News

July 2015 Issue

## Other treatment options:

- **Biological control:**  
Use of a natural enemy as a control, typically insects or pathogens.
- **Chemical control:**  
Pesticides are commonly used when populations are large or other control options are ineffective.  
*Please seek guidance before using this method.*
- **Cultural control:**  
Practices that encourage native species including restoration and reforestation help to prevent future invasion.
- **Prescribed fire:**  
Appropriate as a control only for specific species, others respond positively to fire.

## Biological controls are available for:

- Leafy Spurge
- Purple Loosestrife
- Spotted Knapweed

## Invasive Plant Control Options

There are many options for controlling invasive plant species. An effective invasive plant management program combines a variety of control techniques based on the species and size of the infestation. One control technique alone may be ineffective. Control options include mechanical or manual removal, such as hand pulling or digging and cutting or mowing. These control methods are more labor intensive than others, but can be the most cost-effective option.

### Hand pulling or digging

This technique works best on small populations with young or small plants and in sandy or moist soils. When removing plants try to capture as much of the root system as possible; many species can resprout if even a small amount of the roots remains in the soil. Digging



A. Edgerton

forks or weed wrenches may be used when roots are well developed and difficult to pull by hand. Try to minimize soil disturbance when pulling or digging up plants, this can lead to further invasion.

### Cutting or mowing

When populations are too large for hand pulling, cutting or mowing can be a better option. This method must be repeated several times in a growing season

and continued over multiple years. Less frequent mowing may be effective in reducing the amount of seed produced in some species. Mowing and cutting is most effective just before the target plants are flowering. Do not cut plants that have already developed seed, this risks spreading it to other areas.

For more information visit:  
[arrowheadinvasives.org](http://arrowheadinvasives.org)

## Biological Control on the North Shore

Biological control or biocontrol is the use of natural enemies, such as insects, to control invasive species. This technique is best suited for large populations and is most effective when combined with other control methods. In 2011 and 2013, the Cook County Invasives Team released biocontrol insects in an

infestation of spotted knapweed at the Cook County Airport. Three species of weevils were that feed on either the flowers and seeds or roots of knapweed plants were released. It may take a few years for the insect populations to increase and to see a reduction in spotted knapweed at this location.



A. Edgerton

Root boring weevil on spotted knapweed

Cook and Lake  
County Invasives  
Team Coordinator,  
Laurel Wilson

USFS Gunflint Ranger Station  
2020 West Highway 61  
Grand Marais, MN 55604  
lwilson@boreal.org  
(218) 387-3772

[arrowheadinvasives.org](http://arrowheadinvasives.org)

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

*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.*

### Upcoming CCIT Events:

*All events are free and open to the public*

#### **Mon., July 20th 5pm-6pm** – Wildflower Hike with the CCIT

Where: Cascade River SP – meet at parking area on Hwy. 61

Learn native and non-native plant identification and fun plant facts!

Hikes are open to anyone, families and pets included.

#### **Mon. July 20th** – Native Plants & Restoration Techniques Interview & Discussion Forum

Where: North Shore Morning on 90.7 FM and WTIP.org;

discussion forum online on Boreal.org

#### **Sat., July 25th** – Native Plants and Restoration Techniques Workshop

Where: Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center

When: 10:00am - 12:00pm

#### **Sun., August 9th** Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Control Options Workshop

and Community Weed Pull

Where: Seagull Lake Fire Hall conference room – Blankenburg Public Landing

When: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

## Landscaping with Native Plants

A native plant is a species that grows naturally in a particular region and was not introduced by humans either purposefully or accidentally. Native plants are adapted to growth under the environmental conditions, such as soil and climate, in which they naturally occur.

Here are just a few of the benefits of using native plants in landscaping and plantings around your home:

- Require little or no maintenance (watering, mulching, mowing, etc.) once established
- Provide food and shelter for insects and wildlife
- Help prevent erosion by anchoring soil with their deep roots
- Help prevent invasion by non-native plant species



**For information on which species are appropriate for the conditions on your property contact:**

Cook County Soil &  
Water Conservation  
District  
218-387-3647  
or  
Cook County  
Extension  
218-387-3015



A. Edgerton