

**Illinois Invasive Species Management
Terrestrial Plants Committee
March 4, 2025
1:00 - 2:30PM
ZOOM**

Working Committee:

Chris Evans	Kelly Neal	Kim Shearer	Mark Jirik	Cathy Ward
Kellie Schmidt	Dan Connelly	Michelle Beloskur	Paul Marcum	Chris Plane
Evan Barker	Philip Cox	Heather Decker	Marc McCormack	Dave Kopsell

Observers:

Melissa Custic, IISC President
Jen Larson, USFS
Mackenzie Manicki, Wisconsin DNR

Agenda

1. Welcome, Committee Updates - 15 minutes

- Welcome to our newest committee member Heather Decker, Managing Ecologist of McDonald Woods, Negaunee Institute for Plant Science and Action, Chicago Botanic Garden
- Progress on the Exotic Weeds Act Rule-Making
 - Phil is meeting with IDNR legal counsel to finalize ad rules which also impacts permits
 - Should be moving into JCAR by April 1
- Progress towards publishing committee work on IDNR website
 - Working with IDNR to get pdfs of final assessments and meeting minutes published on the IDNR website for transparency
 - Documentation was submitted to IDNR in early January; Kelly Neal is working on our committee's behalf to make this happen with a goal for them to go online later this month.
- Update on possible regional approach to the low fecundity cultivar work
 - MIPN is working with midwest states to lead this effort
 - They are looking at previous work completed - Met with IPPS in 2015 on the topic and will build on that
 - Chris Evans, Michelle Beloskur, Kim Shearer will represent the committee in this effort

2. Recommendations for Council - Japanese Barberry - 15 minutes

Assessment and supporting documents can be found at the link below:

[Japanese Barberry](#)

- Quick summary of the species assessment
 - Emerging issue in the state of Illinois with most of the escapes occurring in southern IL, but also seen in Central and Northern IL
 - Eradication can be problematic if it's out of control in natural spaces because they can propagate vegetatively and asexually
 - From a commercial perspective, it's still an important crop in the landscape and retail space
 - This species rises to the top for many states reviewing for potential regulation
 - Big problem on the east coast; seems to be following the same pattern here so it would be best to get ahead of it
 - Low fecundity cultivars need to be addressed
 - Surveys of high quality ecosystems show this species is behaving invasively in Illinois

- Given the information reviewed in the assessment, does the species exhibit qualities that would support designation as an invasive species in Illinois?
 - Chris Evans requested a motion.
 - Paul Marcum made the motion that the species does exhibit qualities that support a designation as invasive.
 - Kim Shearer seconded the motion.
 - All present committee members voted in favor.
- Does the information above support the species being a priority for statewide eradication if found in Illinois? No - This is not an early detection. The species is already too widespread.
 - Should the species be regulated? Yes
 - If so, what level of regulation is suggested?
 - Chris requested a motion.
 - Kim Shearer made a motion for the regulation of Japanese barberry with a phaseout period of 4 years and inclusion of the recommended list of low fecundity cultivars as assessed by the committee to be excluded.
 - Cathy Ward seconded the motion.
 - All present members of the committee voted in favor.

3. **New Species Review - Japanese Chaff Flower - *Achyranthes japonica* (Chris Evans) - 20 minutes**

Assessment and supporting documents can be found at the link below:

 **Japanese Chaff Flower**

- Assessment was created and presented by Chris Evans
 - First found in Illinois in 2008
 - Taking over at an alarming rate in high quality ecosystems in southern Illinois
 - Typically occurs in more disturbed areas - can survive anywhere in the state of Illinois
 - Can survive in Ontario so it is a hardy species
 - Capable of tolerating a wide variety of ecosystems
 - It can be used as a medicinal plant
 - Primarily spread by animals via small barbed fruit, water, and humans
 - Reproduces through seed - short-lived seed bank with a very high germination rate
 - Deer feed on it, but it withstands heavy deer browse and still produces much fruit
 - Dominates the understory layer, as it can reach over 2 meters tall
 - Grows so densely it can restrict wildlife movement
 - No clearly defined economic or agricultural benefits
 - It is difficult to detect when not flowering
 - Effective control techniques exist with herbicides and hand pulling
 - Rapid movement, even displacing Japanese stiltgrass
 - Has exploded within the last twenty years, especially in Southern Illinois

4. **Review Assessment Timeline and Committee Assignments - 15 minutes**

The below species were submitted to the IISC council with the recommendation that they be assessed in 2025. IDNR has delivered the 'Intent to Review Species' communication to stakeholders. Feedback has been collected and placed in the various Google Drive folders for committee members to reference when compiling assessment resources. If you don't see anything in your folder, it means no feedback was received for your assigned species.

- #1 - Japanese Chaff Flower - *Achyranthes japonica* (Chris Evans)
- #2 - Spotted Knapweed - *Centaurea biebersteinii* (Cathy Ward)
- #3 - European Wand Loosestrife - *Lythrum virgatum* **(NEED VOLUNTEER)**

- #4 - Field Bindweed - *Convolvulus arvensis* (Mark Jirik)
- #5 Common Reed - *Phragmites australis* (Dave Kopsell)
- #6 - Winter Creeper - *Euonymus fortunei* (Michelle Beloskur)
- #7 - Porcelain Berry - *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* (Kim Shearer)
- #8 - Burning Bush / Winged Euonymus - *Euonymus alatus* (Chris Plane)

Action Needed:

Need committee volunteers for Spotted Knapweed and European Wand Loosestrife

Assessment Timeline

- March 2025
 - Present species assessments for Japanese Chaff Flower
- June 2025
 - Make recommendations for Japanese Chaff Flower
 - Present assessments for Field Bindweed
- September 2025
 - Make recommendations for Field Bindweed
 - Present assessments for Common Reed and Winter Creeper
- December 2025
 - Make recommendations for species Common Reed and Winter Creeper
 - Present assessments for Porcelain Berry and Burning Bush
- March 2026
 - Make recommendations for Porcelain Berry and Burning Bush
 - Evaluate the next round of species for review and recommendation to the council

Upcoming Meetings (ZOOM)

- June 3, 2025, 1pm
- September 4, 2025, 1pm
- December 2, 2025, 1pm

Also, mark your calendar for the Illinois Invasive Species Symposium - May 28, 2025 - Champaign, IL

COMMITTEE RESOURCES:

Link to Google Drive Folder

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ClodPtQJi5-7mIXtEssuX_qfiY4cGFY?usp=drive_link

Committee Reference List - Committee Reference List

Species Assessment Template (*updated June 2024*) - [2024 Terrestrial Plants Protocol](#)

Committee Roster - [Terrestrial Plants Committee Members.pdf](#)