

**Illinois Invasive Species Management
Terrestrial Plants Committee
June 3, 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~~
Greg Spyreas, Illinois Natural History Survey

Agenda

1. Welcome, Committee Updates - 20 minutes

- U of I Extension held the Invasive Species Symposium in Champaign on May 28. Chris reported that there were about 120 attendees with great energy and presentations. He shared that people were appreciative of the work of the committee and council.
- Welcome to our newest observer, Greg Spyreas, Illinois Natural History Survey - He has expressed interest in helping with assessments and serving on the committee in the future when there is an opening.
- In future meetings, Chris suggested we add an agenda item to approve previous meeting's minutes since they will be published on the IDNR website.
 - Chris asked for a motion to accept the March minutes - Phil Cox made the motion; Chris Plane seconded the motion; All members present voted to approve the minutes.
- Marc McCormack announced that he will be retiring from Bailey in July - he will present the committee with a recommendation from Bailey that may serve once he retires. We appreciate all his contributions to this work!
- Exotic Weeds Act Rule-Making Update - IDNR is accepting comments on the proposed rules which can be found at the link below. Comments must be submitted by June 9.
 - <https://dnr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dnr/adrules/documents/17-1100RG-P.pdf>
- The committee's work is now being published on the IDNR website at the link below - thanks to Kelly Neal for her work to get this project moving.
 - <https://dnr.illinois.gov/programs/invasivespeciescouncil.html>
- Update on possible regional approach to the low fecundity cultivar work
 - IL, WI, OH, and other midwestern states are interested in this work so it was suggested that Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) lead the effort
 - Michelle reported that the first meeting was May 1 and then next will be held the 2nd week of June
 - A grant has been submitted through the Horticultural Research Institute for potential funding of the project
 - The subgroup has representation from eight states including Chris Plane and Kim Shearer from this committee
- All committee members are invited to observe the IISC June Council Meeting, which will be held virtually on June 4 at 10am, at the link below:
 - <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m4c8d90d8d40a12fe0239bfab8bfe1636>

2. Recommendations for Council - Japanese Chaff Flower - *Achyranthes japonica* - 20 minutes

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

[Japanese Chaff Flower](#)

- Chris provided a high level review of the species:
 - Relatively new to Illinois, but fast spreading
 - 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
 - Capable of tolerating a wide variety of ecosystems
 - Primarily spread by animals via small barbed fruit, water, and humans
 - Reproduces through seed - short-lived seed bank with a very high germination rate
 - Dominates the understory layer, as it can reach over 2 meters tall
 - Grows so densely it can restrict wildlife movement
 - Deer do feed on it
 - It is difficult to detect when not flowering; fall flowering plant
 - Rapid movement, even displacing japanese stiltgrass
 - Has exploded within the last twenty years, especially in Southern Illinois
 - This is not just a Southern Illinois problem - it is rapidly moving north
- Given the information reviewed in the assessment, does the species exhibit qualities that would support designation as an invasive species in Illinois? **Yes**
- Does the information above support the species being a priority for statewide eradication if found in Illinois? **So widespread and fast-moving, it's not likely to be a candidate for complete eradication.**
 - Should the species be regulated? **Yes**
 - If so, what level of regulation is suggested?

Paul made a motion to regulate the species through the Exotic Weed Act and although not a candidate for complete eradication, recommends that it should be encouraged in certain areas. Dave seconded the motion. All committee members present voted in the affirmative.

Following the recommendations made for Japanese Chaff Flower, the committee discussed the possibility of developing awareness materials that could be shared widely to help spread the word about the species we are assessing, but also on species of concern that have not been assessed. One idea was to develop a "Weeds to Watch" list. It was also suggested that a committee member may have knowledge of species that they could present to the committee in 15 minutes, which have not yet been fully reviewed, but would make good candidates for awareness campaigns. Kellie shared that an analysis of awareness initiatives across the country was prepared for the committee back in 2021 and could be updated for review.

Follow-up Item: This will be added to the September agenda. Kellie will update the presentation of various awareness initiatives so the committee can decide which strategy/format meets our needs. A proposal can be drafted for council consideration in December. Kellie asked that the committee send examples of awareness materials they have found to be informative, visually appealing, and effective.

3. **New Species Review - Field Bindweed - *Convolvulus arvensis*** (Mark Jirik) - 20 minutes

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

Field Bindweed

Mark presented an overview of the field bindweed assessment:

- Over 80 common names - many of which can be confused with other species
- Already regulated in many other midwest states, and document or listed across the country
- Grows in a wide range of habitats, primarily occurs in disturbed areas

- Found almost everywhere in the US except the southeast
- Invasive primarily in agricultural areas; also invasive in moist natural areas
- Less pervasive in shaded understory
- Well adapted to many different habitats and climates; tends to do better in dry soils
- Can be a threat to restoration efforts in prairie, grassland, and riparian settings
- Long-range dispersal of the seeds is likely because they remain viable in the digestive tract of birds for as long as 144 hours
- Disturbance plays a significant role in the establishment and spread of the species
- Field bindweed is a perennial vine that remains in the soil bank for a long time.
- It will flower within 6 weeks after emergence. Can reproduce by seed and vegetatively.
- Thrives in most agricultural settings where there is little competition, repeated disturbance and high light. Can also survive dry or moderately moist soils with long periods of drought.
- It takes nutrients and water that would otherwise be available to desirable species.
- It is considered a pest across the US since it twines around plants and eventually topples them.
- It can contaminate nursery stock
- Controlling and attempting to eradicate the species can be expensive and time consuming
- Field bindweed is not being used, produced, and/or sold in Illinois.
- Permanent eradication is rarely realistic so continued remediation and management are needed.
- Herbicides can be effective for suppression but not eradication.

Kim suggested that since it is self-incompatible that this be added to the section about reproductive strategies.

Follow-up Item: The committee should review the assessment before the September meeting so that recommendations can be made for the council.

4. Assessment Timeline - 5 minutes

- June 2025
 - Make recommendations for Japanese Chaff Flower
 - Present assessments for Field Bindweed (Mark Jirik)
- September 2025
 - Make recommendations for Field Bindweed
 - Present assessments for Common Reed (Dave Kopsell) and Winter Creeper (Michelle Beloskur)
- December 2025
 - Make recommendations for species Common Reed and Winter Creeper
 - Present assessments for Porcelain Berry (Kim Shearer) and Burning Bush (Chris Plane)
- March 2026
 - Make recommendations for Porcelain Berry and Burning Bush
 - Evaluate the next round of species for review and recommendation to the council

Note: We did not assign a committee member to complete the assessment for European Wand Loosestrife - *Lythrum virgatum* so it is not currently on the timeline.

Upcoming Meetings (ZOOM)

- September 3, 2025, 1-3pm - **TAKE NOTE:** This date was changed
- December 2, 2025, 1-3pm

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](#)