

**Illinois Invasive Species Management  
Terrestrial Plants Committee  
September 3, 2025  
1:00 - 2:30PM  
ZOOM**

**Working Committee:**

|                |                       |                        |                          |              |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Chris Evans    | <del>Kelly Neal</del> | <del>Kim Shearer</del> | Mark Jirik               | Cathy Ward   |
| Kellie Schmidt | Paul Marcum           | Chris Plane            | Michelle Beloskur        | Dave Kopsell |
| Evan Barker    | <del>Philip Cox</del> | Andrew Mathis          | <del>Andrea Kramer</del> |              |

**Observers:**

Melissa Custic, IISC President  
Jen Larson, USFS  
Mackenzie Manicki, Wisconsin DNR  
Greg Spyreas, Illinois Natural History Survey

**Agenda**

**1. Welcome, Committee Updates - 40 minutes**

● **Welcome New Committee Members**

- Andrew Mathis, Illinois Department of Agriculture
- Andrea Kramer, Chicago Botanic Garden (replaces Heather Decker) - will join us in December
- Updated Committee Roster -  [Terrestrial\\_Plants\\_Committee\\_Members.pdf](#)

● **Exotic Weeds Act Rule-Making Update - Rule Making Process**

- The act is moving through the Rule-Making process. First round comments were due to IDNR by June 9. Landscape Illinois submitted comments to IDNR regarding consideration for low fertility cultivars and a process for breeders to submit data for review.
- The committee discussed IDNR's response to comments submitted by Landscape Illinois. The department stated they do not support exemptions for cultivars.
- The committee reviewed the exact language in the act which reads: "The Department, by rule, shall exempt varieties of any species listed in the rule that can be demonstrated by published or current research not to be an exotic weed"
- The committee discussed that we are in a difficult position given that the rules have not been finalized, IDNR has now stated this position through the response to Landscape Illinois, and the Japanese Barberry assessment has been submitted with recommendations to exempt cultivars.
- It was suggested that we request direct feedback from IDNR on how the Japanese barberry recommendation will be received. If they are not amenable to the cultivar exemptions, the committee may choose to revisit these recommendations.
  - Chris confirmed that IDNR may not have reviewed the final Japanese barberry assessment since he batches the final assessments at the end of each calendar year and submits. This assessment will not go to IDNR until December.
- As a recommended next step, Kellie, Chris Evans, and Melissa Custic (as IISC President) will pursue conversation with Phil Cox and Nathan Grider, to get clarification.
- This topic will be revisited in December.

● **MIPN Group to address low fecundity cultivars**

- Michelle reported that this group met again in July, but since then has been working more at the subcommittee level. They have compiled current research, assessment processes from the states that address cultivars, regulatory information, etc.
- The group would like to develop a low-fecundity cultivar screening tool or assessment protocol.

- The subcommittee is gathering information from key individuals in industry and cultivar research who are in a position to comment on which traits can feasibly be included in such a tool/assessment.
  - They are interested in traits that can be used to demonstrate that a cultivar meets the criteria for low-fecundity and can be exempted from regulation.
  - This work will be valuable in the committee's ongoing discussion of how to make recommendations when low fertility cultivars may be involved in an assessment.
- IISC Council Meeting - Sept 17 at 10am (virtual) - link below if you would like to observe  
<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m3a047d6398d85575522c7b8b3835d71c>

## 2. Approval of June Minutes - 5 minutes

 Terrestrial\_Plants\_Committee\_Meeting\_June2025.pdf

Chris asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dave made the motion to accept. Michelle seconded the motion. All in attendance approved the minutes.

## 3. Recommendations for Council - Field Bindweed - *Convolvulus arvensis* - 20 minutes

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

 Field Bindweed

- Quick summary of the species assessment
  - Field Bindweed is one of the most persistent and damaging weeds in agricultural settings, and it's well established across Illinois.
  - It causes major economic losses in agriculture, threatens restoration areas, and is virtually impossible to eradicate due to its deep root system and long-lived seed bank.
  - Control of Field Bindweed is difficult and resource-intensive; it requires a multi-year integrated approach using herbicides, tillage, crop rotation, grazing, and competitive plantings.
  - Seeds persist for decades, so ongoing monitoring and retreatment are necessary.
  - Doesn't have a great impact on natural areas, but has been an issue in young restoration projects.
  - It can impact the secondary sale (if it's in the root ball or nursery plant material, you're essentially selling bindweed).

- Given the information reviewed in the assessment, does the species exhibit qualities that would support designation as an invasive species in Illinois?

Chris asked for a motion to designate bindweed as an invasive species. Dave made the motion. Michelle seconded the motion. All committee members in attendance voted in the affirmative.

- Does the information above support the species being a priority for statewide eradication if found in Illinois? No
  - Should the species be regulated? This species is so widespread, regulation through the noxious weed act would place an undue burden on landowners.
    - Evan made the motion that this be regulated through the Exotic Weed Act, Mark seconded the motion. All attendees present voted in the affirmative.
  - If so, what level of regulation is suggested? See above.

## 4. New Species Review - Winter Creeper (Michelle Beloskur) - 20 minutes

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

## Winter Creeper

- Regulated in three states (IN, MD, NY)
- New York specifically exempts a couple of cultivars
- Thrives in both disturbed and relatively undisturbed habitats
- It is primarily a problem for forested ecosystems; spreads rapidly and replaces spring ephemerals and groundcovers
- Forms dense monocultures; climbs trees, blocks light, increases storm vulnerability
- Ecological impacts include loss of biodiversity, reduced native plant richness, altered forest structure
- Not harmful to livestock but can host pests including crown gall, black bean aphid, and euonymus scale
- Widely available for sale as an ornamental with over 50 cultivars available
- An evergreen perennial that reproduces vegetatively
- High germination rates; rapid growth rate
- Negative impacts on wooded areas
- Research conducted in Ohio, Kentucky, Kansas, and Minnesota, suggests invasive populations genetically identical to the cultivar Coloratus

### Next steps:

- Committee to review assessment fully so recommendations can be made in the December meeting.
- Kellie and Chris Plane to create a survey for industry to learn what is being sold, how much, what cultivars, etc. This data will be presented at the December meeting.

## 5. **New Species Review - Common Reed** (Dave Kopsell) - 20 minutes

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

### Common Reed

*For the sake of time, this agenda item was moved to the December meeting (Reminder: Schedule for end of the meeting.)*

## 6. **Communication / Awareness Building** (Kellie Schmidt) - 15 minutes

### Terrestrial Invasive species communication.docx

- In June, it was suggested that the committee review how other states are handling communication and awareness building around species of concern, prior to regulatory action being taken.
- One idea was to create a “Weed to Watch” list which would be species that we haven’t assessed yet, but are on our radar because of MIPN’s work and how they are being treated by other Midwest states.
- The committee is limited by resource constraints and the council does not have a way to facilitate this content (no social media, no budget, no website for hosting content)
- Extension is already doing this type of communication - <https://extension.illinois.edu/invasives/invasive-plants>
  - Could the committee provide a list of plants of concern and a possible creative ideas - it would go out under the Extension brand, not IISC
  - Does Extension have the bandwidth?
- What is a reasonable timeline for this work? Should it be done by a subcommittee?

*For the sake of time, this agenda item was moved to the December meeting*

### Assessment Timeline

- December 2025
  - Make recommendations for Winter Creeper
  - Present assessments for Common Reed (Dave Kopsell) and Porcelain Berry (Kim Shearer)
- March 2026
  - Make recommendations for Porcelain Berry
  - Present assessment for Spotted knapweed (Cathy Ward) and Burning Bush (Chris Plane)

- 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)**

- December 2, 2025, 1pm

**COMMITTEE RESOURCES:**

**Link to Google Drive Folder**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ClodPtQJi5-7mIXtEssuX\\_qfiY4cGFY?usp=drive\\_link](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**