

21st Century Tools for Tackling Invasive Plants: Identify, Prioritize, Mobilize!

Elizabeth Farnsworth

**New England Wild Flower Society** 

### Focus on success stories!



## My own invasive story: Phragmites







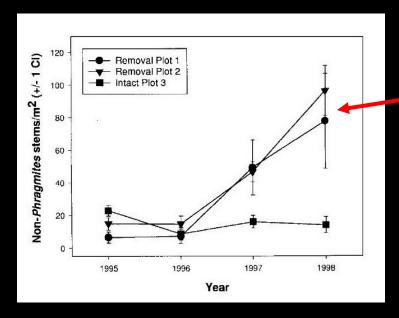
Laura Meyerson, Alyssa Mahoney

# What are the effects on tidal wetland community structure when *Phragmites* is removed?



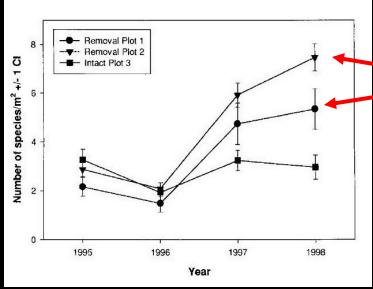
## Recovery of wetland vegetation





Removal plots





Removal plots

### YAY!



## What species come in?

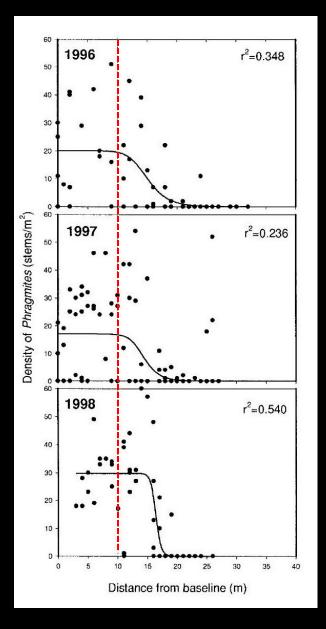




Year 2
Wild rice!
Yay!

Year 3
Cattails!
Hmmm!

## Does the *Phragmites* come back?



# Is it hopeless???

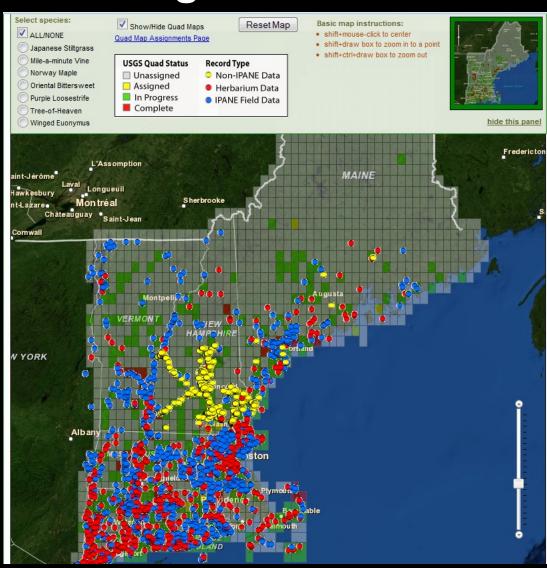


# We HAVE made progress in:

- Identifying most invasive species
- Targeting new potential invasives
- Improving the science
- Educating the public
- Restoring sites with volunteers



# **Identifying most invasive species**Regional atlases



IPANE mapping tool

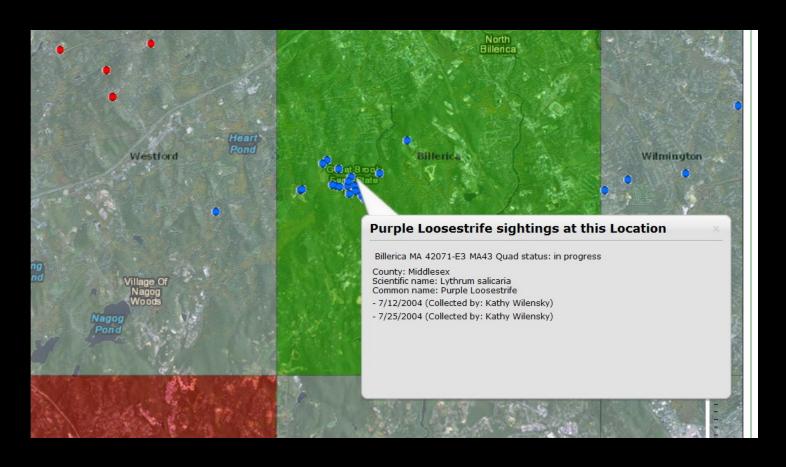
# Identifying most invasive species Purple loosestrife



Field data

Herbarium data

# Identifying most invasive species Regional atlases



Lythrum salicaria

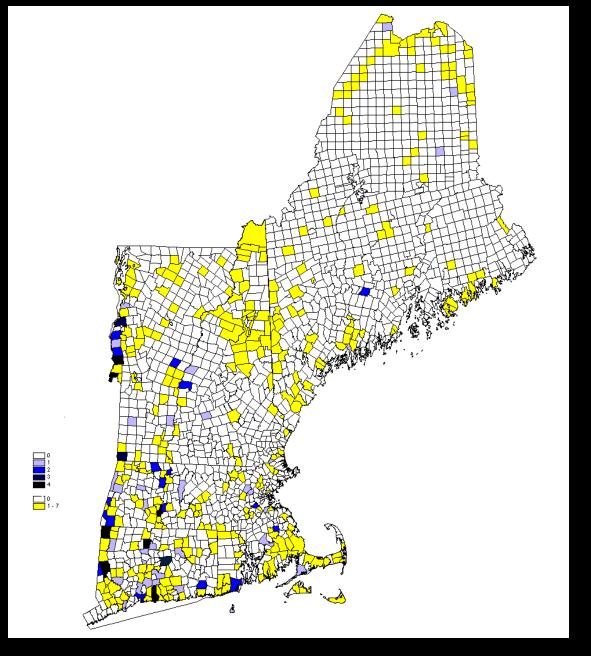
# Identifying most invasive species Impact indices

Environmental Management (2010) 45:759-778				769	
Table 3 Invasiveness-impact scores $(I_i)$ for the 61 alien and 2 cryptogenic* species observed in streamside vegetation of the John Day Riverbasin					
Invasiveness-impact category Species name	$I_i$ score	State noxious weed	NatureServe Impact rank	Cal-IPC rank	
Extreme invasiveness-impact					
Euphorbia esula L.	97	OR, ID, WA	High	High	
Bromus tectorum L.	68		High	High	
Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop.	61	OR, ID, WA	High	Moderate	
Melilotus officinalis (L.) Lam.	61		Medium		
Centaurea solstitialis L.	52	OR, ID, WA	High	High	
Aggressive invasiveness-impact					
Linaria dalmatica (L.) P. Mill.	47	OR, ID, WA			
Phalaris arundinacea L.*	44	WA	High		
Holcus lanatus L.	42		High		
Leucanthemum vulgare Lam.	42	ID, WA	Medium	Moderate	
Schedonorus phoenix (Scop.) Holub	42		High	Moderate	
Phleum pratense L.	42		Medium		
Cirsium vulgare (Savi) Ten.	41	OR, WA	Medium	Moderate	
Centaurea L.	39				
Cynoglossum officinale L.	36	OR, ID, WA	Medium	Moderate	
Strong invasiveness-impact					
Poa compressa L.	33		Unknown		
Poa pratensis L.	33		Medium	Low	
D	22	OD WA	7.7'		

Magee, T. K. et al. 2010. Environmental Management 45: 759-778

# Map data

- Clusters of invasive species at rare plant sites
- Major rivers
- Invasion frequency is correlated with rare species richness



# Targeting new potential invasives Characteristics of invasives

**Small seeds Plastic life histories** Multiple habitats Non-biotic pollination **Taxonomic novelty New ecosystem functions Polyploidy Small genomes** 

Pyšek et al. 2009. *Diversity & Distributions* 15: 891-903 Schmidt et al. 2012. *Ecological Applications* 22: 1512–1525 te Beest et al. 2011. *Annals of Botany* (doi:10.1093/aob/mcr277)

#### Phalaris arundinacea

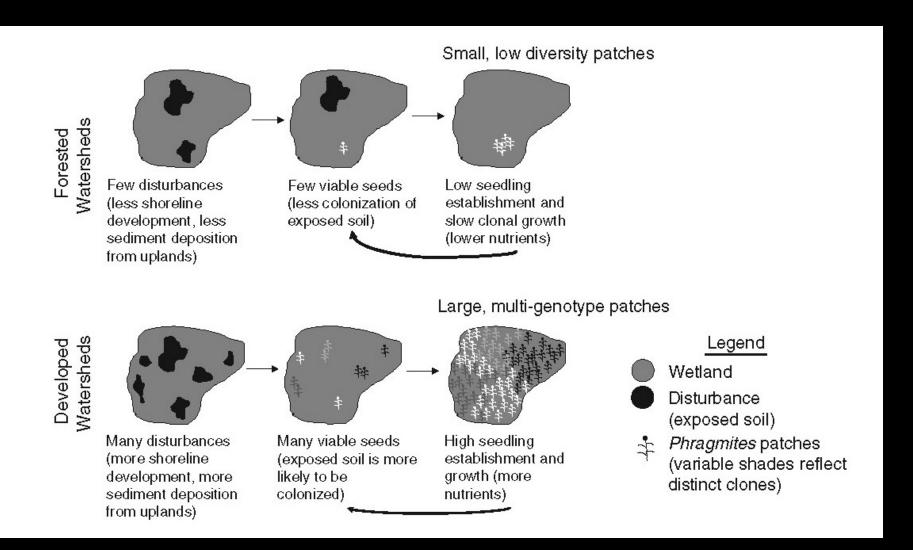


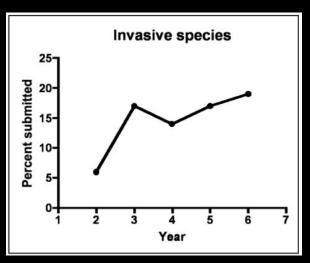
Reduced genome size



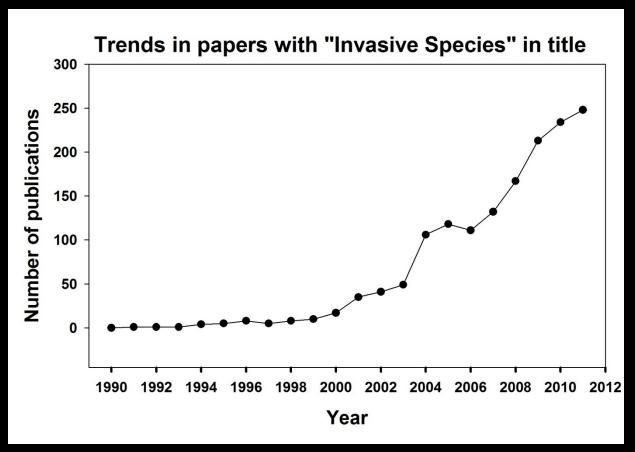
Lavergne et al. 2010. *Annals of Botany* 105: 109–116 Lavergne and Molofsky. 2007. *PNAS* 105: 3883-3888

#### Phragmites spread by seed & disturbance





Natural Areas Journal 2002-2006



**Science Citation Index** 

Rapid evolution **Allelopathy Demographic models** Community assembly & invasibility **Ecosystem ecology Plant-soil interactions Biotic homogenization** Responses to climate change

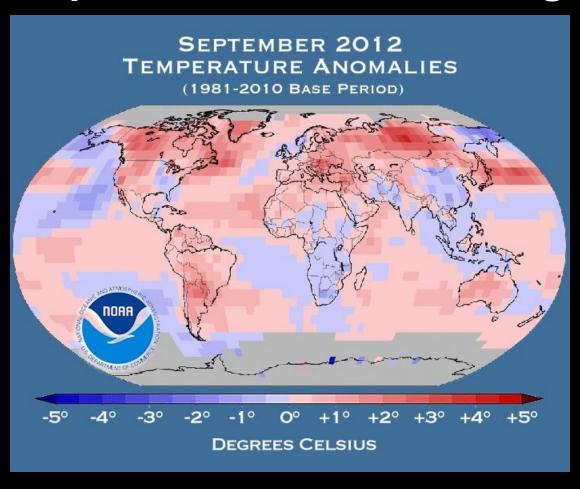
Calloway & Maron. 2006. TRENDS in Ecology and Evolution 21:369-74 Lockwood et al. 2007. Invasion Ecology. Blackwell Publishing, USA Davis, M. 2009. Invasion Biology. Oxford Press, UK



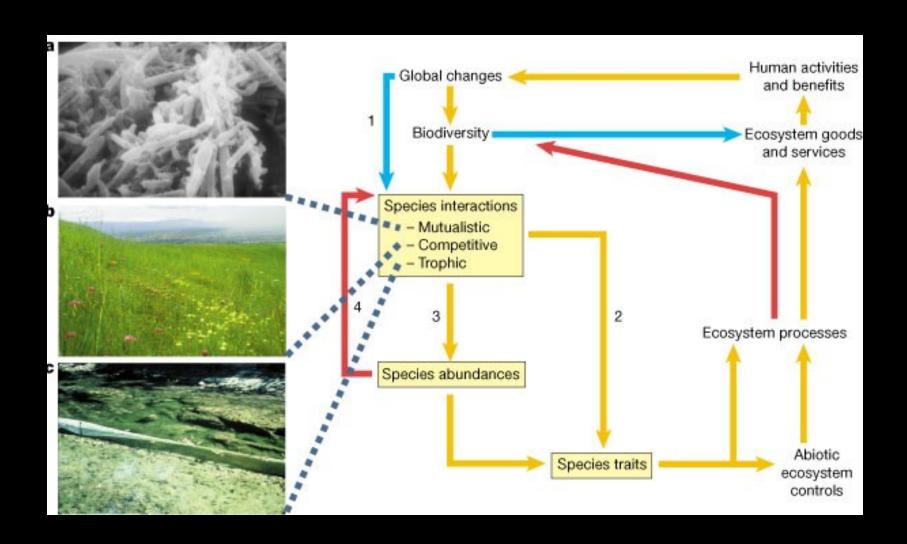
Less of a "controversy" than we think.

Invasion Biology: Paradigms Glossed. Anne Arbuthnot, 2012.

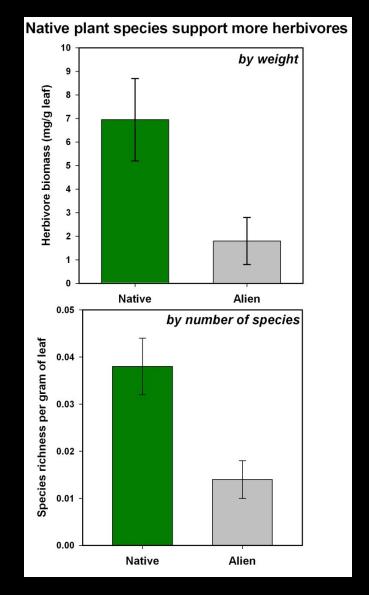
#### Multi-trophic interactions Responses to climate change



### **Multi-trophic interactions**



#### Herbivores



Tallamy, D. 2007. Bringing Nature Home. Timber Press, OR.

## Global Worming: Bottom-up



Microstegium vimineum

↑ N, pH





Kourtev et al. 1999. Biological Invasions 1: 237–245 Heneghan et al. 2007. Pedobiologia 50: 543-551

### Deer: Top-down

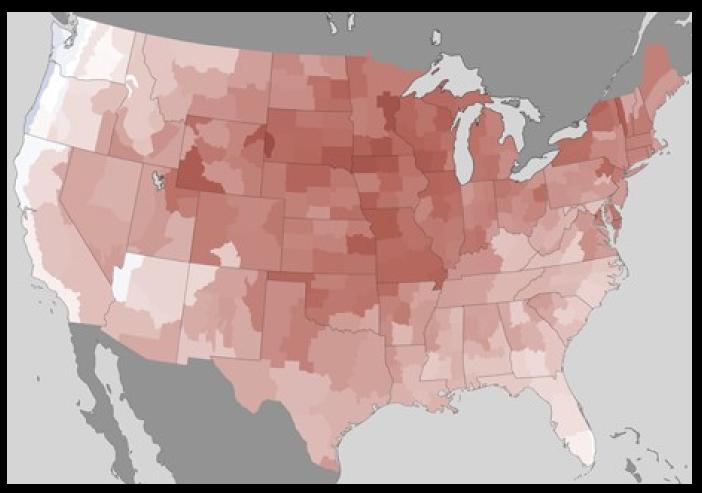


Seed dispersal Removal of competing vegetation

Williams & Ward. 2006. Natural Areas Journal 26: 383-390.

### Responses to climate change

2012 The hottest year on record in United States



**National Climate Data Center, 2013** 

# Responses to climate change in Concord, MA

Invasives track seasonal temperature variation better than natives

**Invasives shifted flowering time:** 

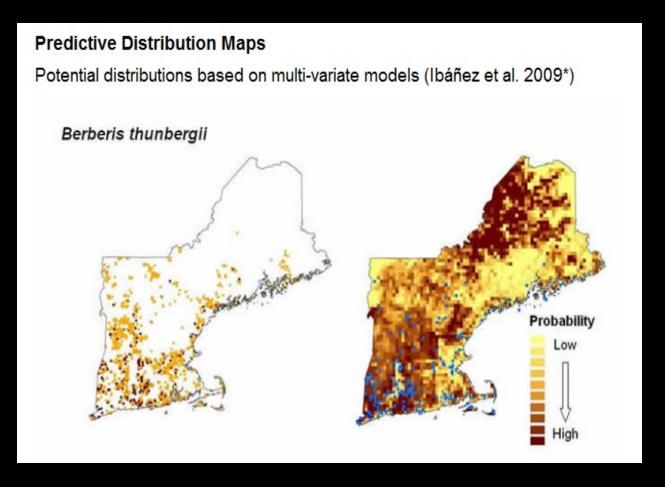
- 11 days earlier than natives and
- 9 days earlier than non-native non-invasives

# Management advantage?



### Responses to climate change

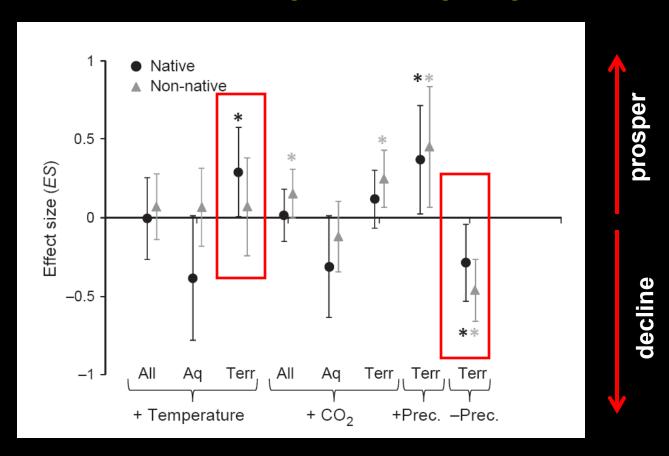
Models of present, potential and future species' ranges



Ibáñez, I., et al. 2009. Ecological Applications 19: 359-375.

#### Responses to climate change

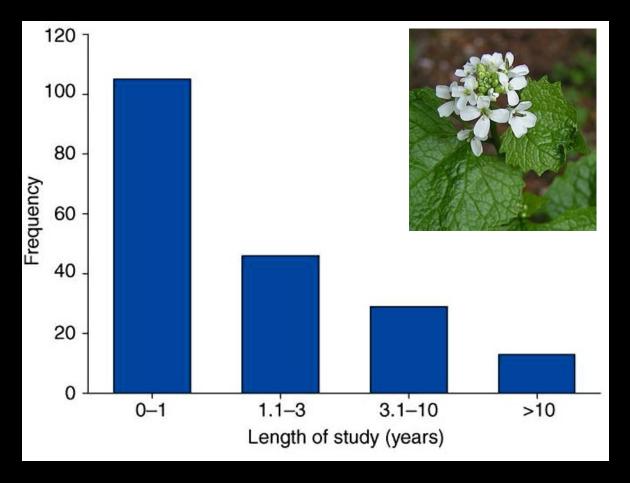
Are all invasives "poised to prosper?"



Sorte, C., et al. 2012. *Ecology Letters* doi: 10.1111/ele.12017.

## Need for long-term study

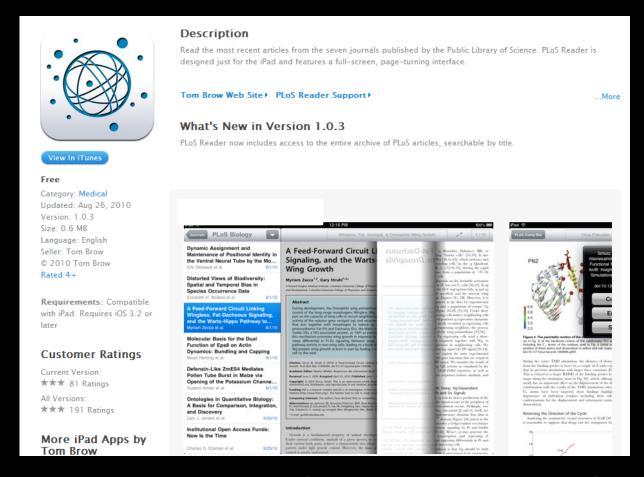
That's what pointy-headed academics are for...



Strayer, D., et al. 2006. TRENDS in Ecology & Evolution 21: 645-651.

#### But who has time/\$ for science???

#### Free scientific information!!!



Free journal apps, rss feeds, and tables of contents
NatureServe *I*-ranks

# Educating the public



Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry

NA-TP-05-04

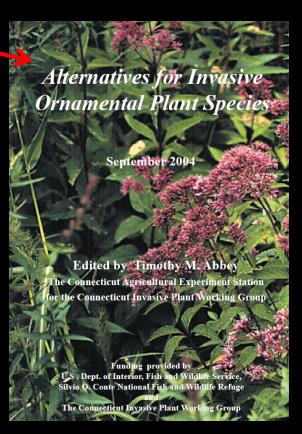
#### Invasive Plants Field and Reference Guide:

An Ecological Perspective of Plant Invaders of Forests and Woodlands



# **Fact sheets Alternatives** Go Botany!





### www.newenglandwild.org/gobotany



#### PlantShare

#### Connect with other plant fans!

Join our on-line community of plant enthusiasts! Find friends, collaborate on field surveys for plants, share your discoveries, get help identifying plants, make maps, and develop checklists of plants for particular sites you are exploring.

LEARN MORE

#### Advanced ID Tools

- For experienced botanists!
- Identify over 3,000 New England plants by using our Full Identification Key, including technical multiple-access and dichotomous keys to families, genera, and species. Also learn about subspecies and varieties native to our region.

LEARN MORE

#### **Teaching Tools**

- A useful teaching resource!
- Go Botany encourages informal, self-directed education in botany for science students and beginning and amateur botanists. Professors, teachers, and environmental educators can share curricula and teaching ideas.

LEARN MOR



#### Plant of the Day: PRUNUS VIRGINIANA choke cherry

Choke cherry may get its name from its astringent and rather unappetizing fruits. The flowers are borne on drooping racemes at the ends of branches, appearing with the leaves in late May and June. Its broad, egg-shaped leaves distinguish it from its look-alike, pin cherry ...

LEARN MORE

# Narrow to group





Home

Simple Key

PlantShare

Advanced ID Tools

Teaching Tools

nut

Search...

( p

Want help getting started?

If you're not sure what to do from here, take a look at this Help page for instructions.

GET HELP

Shortcut to Groups!

If you already know what group your plant is in, start with the clickable plant map to find your plant more quickly.

VIEW MAP

You are here: Simple Key

#### Which group best describes your plant?



#### Woody plants

Trees, shrubs, sub-shrubs, and lianas

- KEY CHARACTERISTICS Stems have secondary thickening (i.e., bark)
- EXCEPTIONS
   Some small, low-lying shrubs can be mistaken for herbaceous plants.
- VIEW A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT THIS GROUP

MY PLANT IS IN THIS GROUP





#### Aquatic plants

Plants with most of their parts submerged under water

- - Specialized leaves and tissues that can withstand flooding
- ① EXCEPTIONS
  - Some upland plants can be flooded temporarily but are not specialized for living under water
- VIEW A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT THIS GROUP

MY PLANT IS IN THIS GROUP







# Narrow to subgroup





Advanced ID Tools

Teaching Tools

Search...

### Want help getting started?

If you're not sure what to do from here, take a look at this Help page for instructions.

#### Shortcut to Groups!

If you already know what group your plant is in, start with the clickable plant map to find your plant more quickly.

You are here: Simple Key > Orchids and related plants

### Is your plant in one of these subgroups?





### Orchids

Plants in the family Orchidaceae

#### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Orchids have highly specialized flowers with colors and structures that attract (and sometimes fool) insect pollinators. Sacs, called pollinia, contain the pollen grains. It is easiest to tell orchids apart by their flowers, so it helps to observe a mature, flowering plant. The leaves have parallel veins and are often oval (narrow in a few species). Sometimes the veins are prominent enough to make the leaf look pleated (i.e., Cypripedium species). Notice whether the leaves all grow at the base of the plant, or whether some grow on the stem. Some orchids produce leaves with green-and-white or spotted color patterns. The seeds are tiny and dispersed by wind. Young embryos get a head-start by drawing nutrients from associated fungi (mycorrhizae).

#### (!) EXCEPTIONS

Orchid leaves can be confused with lily leaves, but orchid flowers -- with a large, modified lip -- are very different from all other monocots.



### Irises, lilies, and other "monocots"

Lilies, irises, aroids and others

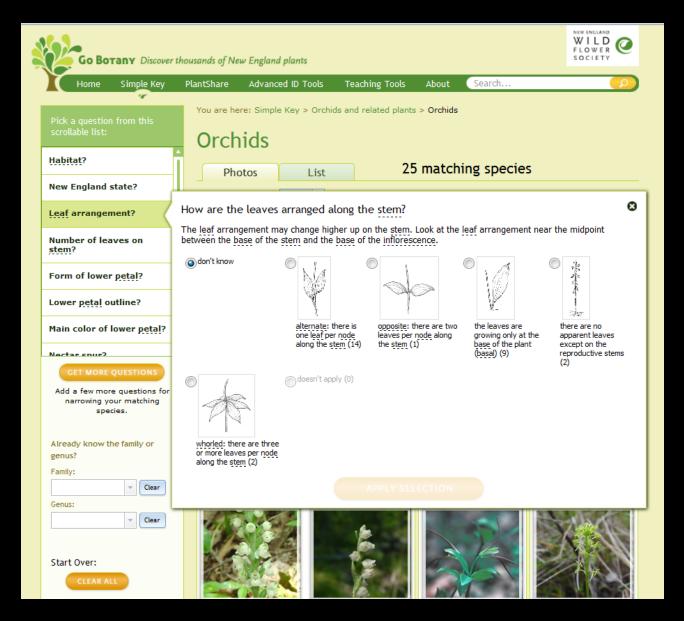
#### KEY CHARACTERISTICS

"Monocots" are a broad category of plants that include grasses, sedges, and orchids (all plants whose embryos have only one leaf). Here, we separate out these other categories and just include the remaining species. The leaves have Look

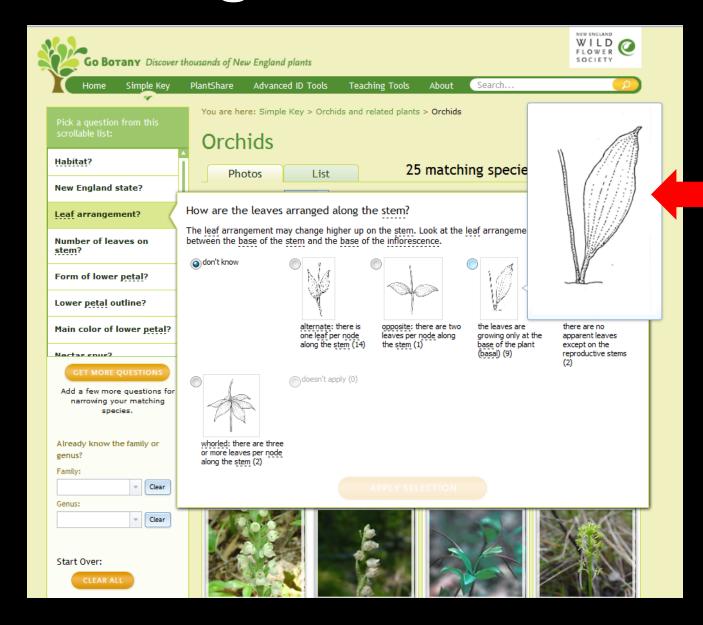
# Answer some questions



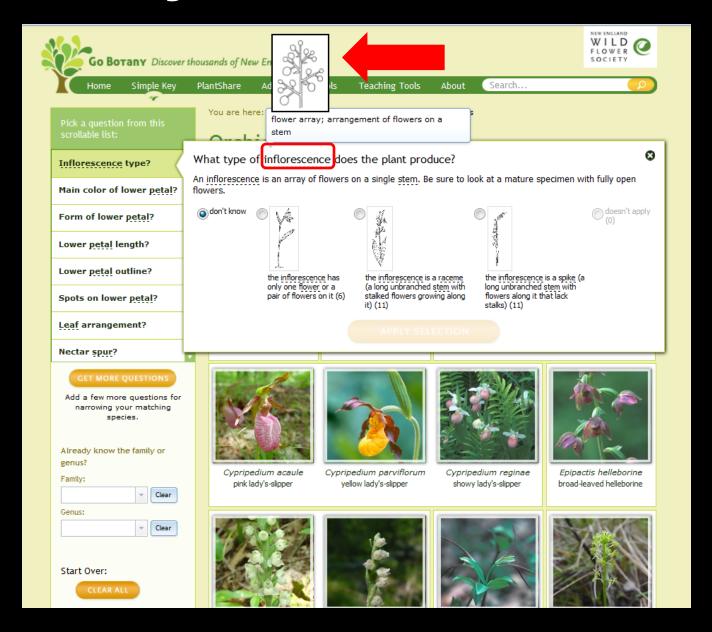
# Answer some questions



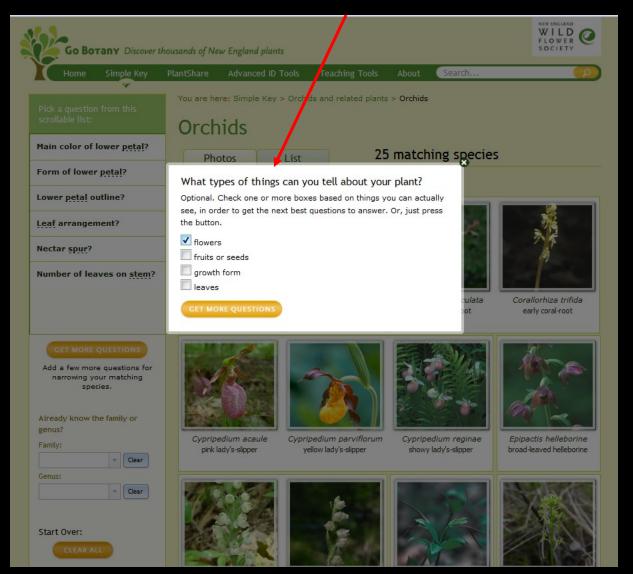
# Drawings of characters



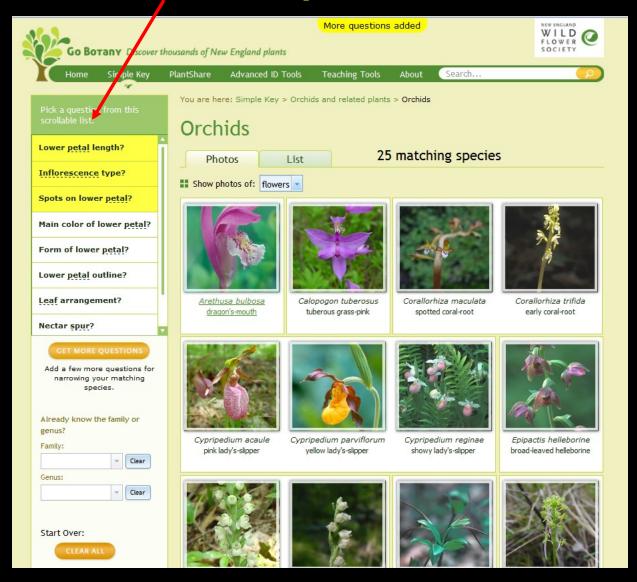
# Glossary – All terms defined



# Innovations The Whaddyagot feature



# **Innovations**Next best question feature



## **Taxon Information Page**



GO BOTANY Discover thousands of New England plants

Simple Key

PlantShare Full Key

Dichotomous Key

Teaching

Help Search...

( )

New England Distribution

Adapted from BONAP data

non-native
absent

Adapted from BONAP data



North America Distribution

♠ Enlarge

Native to North America? No

Sometimes Confused With

Calanteria acandona

You are here: Simple Key > Woody plants > Broad-leaved woody plants > Celastrus orbiculatus

## Celastrus orbiculatus Thunb. Asian bittersweet, Asiatic bittersweet







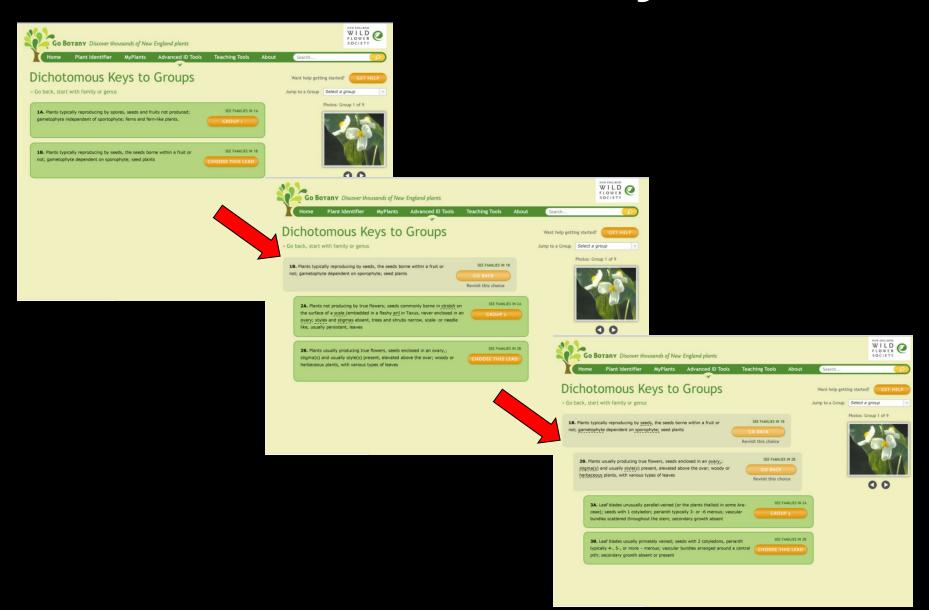
### Facts About

Asian bittersweet was introduced from its native East Asia in 1860 and now grows in much of the eastern United States. This aggressive vine tolerates both high sun and deep shade, and can quickly overtop and girdle trees. This species has long been regarded as an attractive ornamental. Its abundant clusters of yellow seeds surrounded by a fleshy red aril are often used to make festive wreaths and flower arrangements. Seeds are spread when the plants are later thrown away. Birds also relish the fruits and disperse the seeds far and wide.

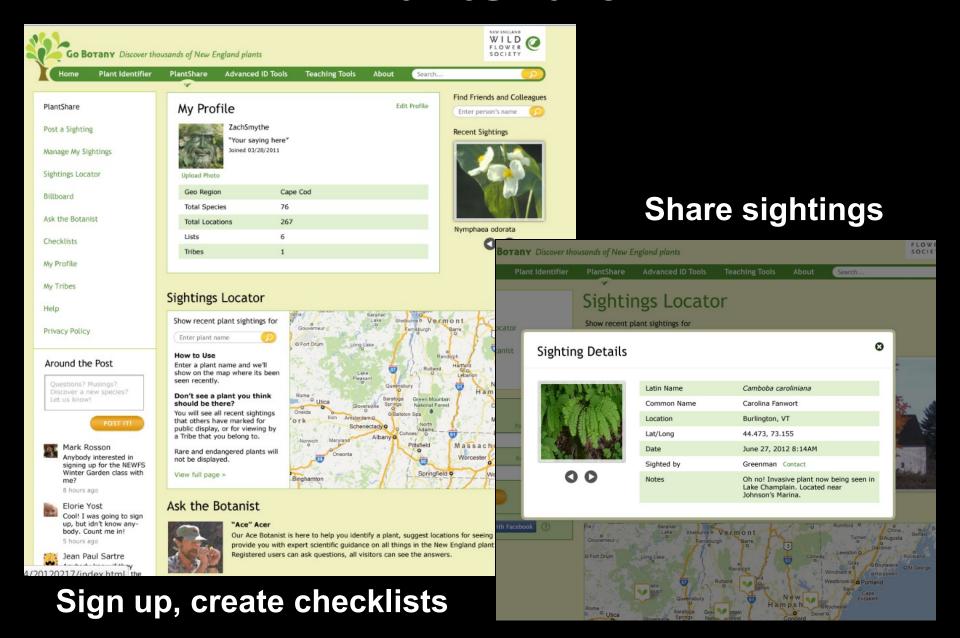
### Habitat

Anthropogenic (man-made or disturbed habitats), forest edges, forests, meadows and fields, shrublands or thickets

## **Dichotomous Keys**



### **PlantShare**



# Helping kids ID invasives



Jim Sirch

# Restoration with volunteers Can it work?

Pepperweed (Lepidium latifolium) in Salisbury and Newburyport



80% controlled with multi-agency and volunteer participation

### Mile-a-minute vine (Persicaria perfoliata) in Westford, MA



College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

#### CIPWG HOME

Home

About mile-a-minute

Species Identification

Similar Species Guide

State Contacts

Distribution Information

MAM Resources

Biological Control

Control Options

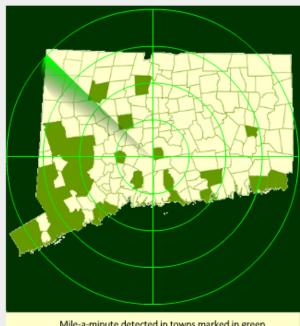
News Archive

\*For the Press

Other Invasive Species

-Online Reporting Form-

### Welcome to the CT mile-a-minute vine website!



Mile-a-minute detected in towns marked in green

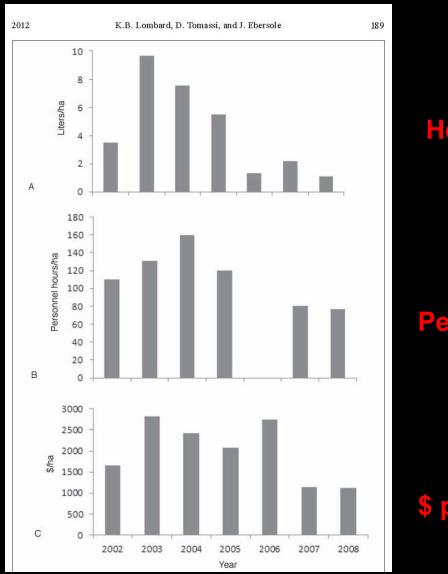
Volunteers recruit volunteers, significant reduction in 3 years

### Water Chestnut (Trapa natans) in Connecticut River tribs



**Consistency and continual monitoring** 

### Common reed (Phragmites australis) Barnstable, MA



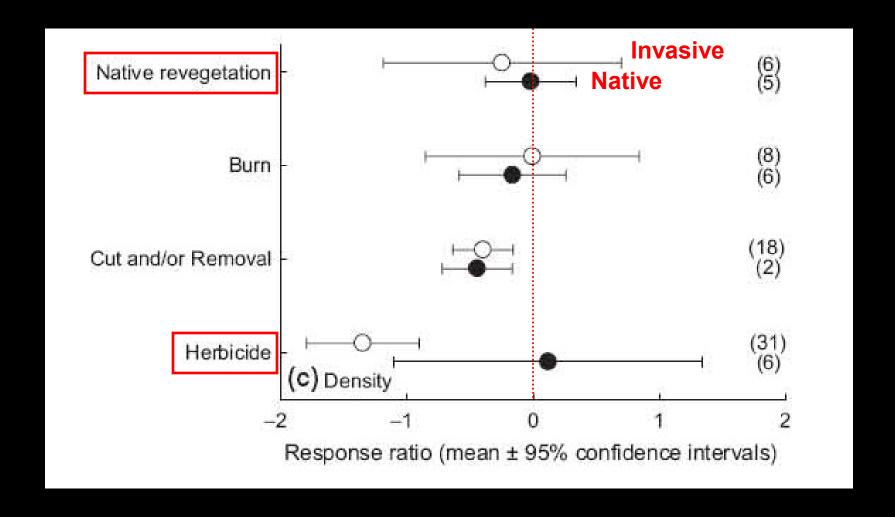
Herbicide

**Person-hours** 

\$ per hectare

Lombard et al. 2011. Northeastern Naturalist 19: 181-195

### Meta-analysis of invasive control outcomes



Kettenring and Adams. 2011. J. Applied Ecology 48: 970-979

# We HAVE made progress in:

- Identifying most invasive species
- Targeting new potential invasives
- Improving the science
- Educating the public
- Restoring sites with volunteers

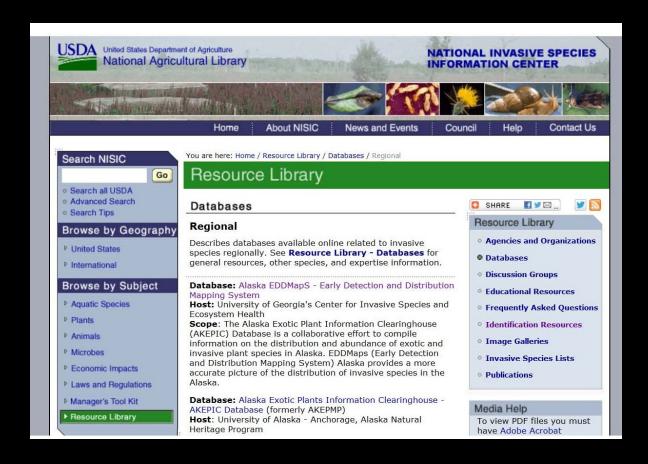


# What do we need to do?

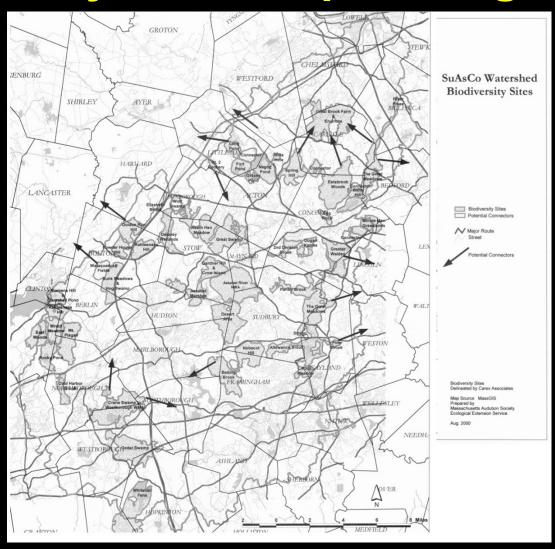


Step back and take a deep breath...

# What do we need to do? Management = Science. Share your science.



# What do we need to do? Systematic planning



# What do we need to do? Don't just yank stuff out. Put plants back in.



# What do we need to do? Understand:

Unexpected impacts of management
Technical options
Feasibility
Risks
Likelihood of success
Extent of interest

# What do we need to do? Know when to walk away. Invaded places DO provide good data. Novel ecosystems function, too.



# What do we need to do?

### Adopt a long-term view

What fostered the invasion?
Interactions change.
Plan for a changing planet.
Conserve proactively.
Think big.

# Nature can drive you a little nutty...





# Thanks to



### SuAsCo

Jim Sirch

CIPWG
Cynthia Boettner
Bill Brumback
Ted Elliman
Donna Ellis
Martha Hoopes
Laura Meyerson
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NE Natural Heritage Programs

**Harvard University** 





