

**“Spread the word,  
not the weeds.”**



Partnership For  
Regional Invasive  
Species Management

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition - 2007

## **PURPOSE**

The mission of the St. Lawrence – Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership For Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) is to protect the natural and cultural integrity of aquatic and terrestrial areas from invasive species. SLELO PRISM includes Jefferson, Oswego, Oneida, St. Lawrence, Lewis, Franklin, and Clinton counties outside of the Adirondack Park Blue Line.

## **WHAT IS AN INVASIVE SPECIES?**

The term "invasive species" is used to describe organisms that aggressively compete with, and displace, locally adapted native species. Invasive species can impact biodiversity, agriculture, recreation, and human health.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

SLELO PRISM functions as a collaborative effort between principal and cooperating partners throughout the area. Some partners include:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 6
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Albany Office and 1000 Islands Region
- New York State Department of Transportation, Region 7
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- The Nature Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited
- Lake Bonaparte Conservation Club, Inc.
- Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Fort Drum Military Installation
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust
- Sea Grant New York

SLELO PRISM partners share these goals:

PREVENTION – Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM.

EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE – Rapidly detect new and recent invaders and eliminate all individuals within a specific area.

COOPERATION – Share resources, including funding personnel, equipment, information, and expertise.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, and research.

CONTAINMENT – Contain established infestations to prevent invasive species from spreading.

SUPPRESSION – Reduce the density but not necessarily the total area of established infestations.

LARGE-SCALE CONTROL – Combine resources and methods to contain, suppress, or eradicate infestations.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES – Site specific management practices to reduce the introduction of invasive species or control invasive species once they are established.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) – A science-based management system that uses all suitable methods in a compatible manner to manage invasive species populations.

RESTORATION – Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

EDUCATION – Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species and IPM.

**SLELO PRISM is concerned with all invasive species, but is focusing on these five plant species:**

**BLACK & PALE SWALLOW-WORT**  
(*Cynanchum louiseae* & *C. rossicum*)

Swallow-worts, also known as “Dog-strangling Vines,” are perennial, twining vines growing up to 6 ½ ft. in length. Native to Eurasia, these species are adapted to a variety of habitats. Swallow-worts grow rapidly, and once established, can completely smother native vegetation. Swallow-worts are also known to be extremely toxic to livestock and monarch butterfly larvae. Related to milkweeds, their wind-dispersed seeds can spread over long distances.



**GIANT HOGWEED**  
(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



Giant hogweed is a toxic plant which, upon contact with the skin or eyes, causes painful blisters, UV sensitivity, and/or blindness. It is a noxious herbaceous biennial or perennial that grows up to 15 feet tall. Although often found in open fields and along roadsides, it has been recently observed along streams in natural areas. Giant Hogweed is native to central and southwest Asia.



**PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE**  
(*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple loosestrife is an herbaceous perennial wetland plant native to Eurasia. Because of its perceived beauty, this plant was, and continues to be sold in the nursery trade. A prolific seed producer, an individual mature plant may produce up to 1 million seeds in a season. It forms homogeneous stands outcompeting and replacing native wetland plants which provide wildlife habitat.

**EUROPEAN FROGBIT**  
(*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

European Frogbit is an herbaceous aquatic plant native to Eurasia. Frogbit does not root in the substrate and can quickly form dense floating mats in wetlands and other slow moving water systems. Like Eurasian water milfoil, frogbit can reduce the growth of native submersed aquatic plants and has the potential to impact recreation.



**JAPANESE KNOTWEED**  
(*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

Japanese knotweed is a perennial herb with bamboo-like stems. It typically grows in thickets 3-6 feet tall, but can grow up to 15 feet tall. As the name implies, it is native to Asia. It thrives in disturbed areas, however, once established, it spreads rapidly creating monocultures. Japanese knotweed threatens natural areas by changing the habitat, shading out native vegetation, reducing species diversity and impacting wildlife habitat.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
or REPORT A SIGHTING  
CONTACT:**

**Jefferson County  
315-788-8450**

**Lewis County  
315-376-5270**

**Oneida County  
315-736-3394**

**Oswego County  
315-963-7286**

**St. Lawrence County  
315-379-9192**

**SLELO PRISM web site:**  
<http://media.cce.cornell.edu/hosts/counties/jefferson/agriculture.asp>



**Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension**

Photo credits: Swallow-wort (Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis Co.); Giant Hogweed (© USDA APHIS Archives, USDA APHIS, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)); Purple Loosestrife (© Barry A. Rice / The Nature Conservancy); European Frogbit (© Dave White, Lake Champlain Sea Grant); Japanese Knotweed (© Jil M. Swearingen, USDI National Park Service, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org))



**Funding for this brochure provided  
by Sen. Jim Wright.**