

December 5, 2024

A brief list of what invasive species to watch for that are in areas on the fringe of Mississippi Valley:

Tier 1 species of concern – exist in areas nearby and could enter our area.

- Water Soldier (aquatic plant) – In the Trent-Severn Waterway, and in a lake near Gananoque. Creates dense floating mats of vegetation.
- Starry Stonewort (aquatic plant) – In the great lakes. St. Lawrence River, and the Trent-Severn Waterway. *This plant will be worse for boats and lake usage than the Eurasian watermilfoil. *
- European Water Chestnut (aquatic plant) – has been found at Wolfe Island in the St. Lawrence (Kingston area), and location in the Ottawa River and Rideau River. Control strategies are being undertaken to reduce the spread. This is a floating plant that creates dense mats of vegetation, and produces a hard seed with sharp barbs.
- Round Goby (fish) – Spotted in Smith's Falls. This fish is a bottom feeder and will eat other fish eggs and fry.
- Spotted Lanternfly (insect) – populations in NY state. Will impact orchard and vineyard plants among other host plants.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (insect) – known in the GTA. An aphid like insect that will kill hemlock trees.
- Wild pigs (animal) – this includes escaped domestic pigs as well as wild boar. (potential to exist anywhere pigs are farmed).

Tier 2 species –already exist in our area.

- Yellow Iris (shoreline plant) – Reported sightings include the City of Ottawa, Kingston area and other areas within eastern Ontario.
- Phragmites (aquatic-terrestrial plant) – found near wetlands and shorelines throughout eastern Ontario, predominantly along major highways.
- Garlic Mustard (terrestrial plant) – Found in eastern Ontario. It likes shade and forest habitats, and will grow in dense colonies.
- Periwinkle (terrestrial plant) – present in flower beds within our cottage country and is sold in garden centers. It tolerates shade well and can produce a dense ground cover within forest habitats smothering native plants.
- Lilly of the Valley (terrestrial plant) – present in flower beds within our cottage country and is sold in garden centers. It tolerates shade well and can produce a dense ground cover within forest habitats smothering native plants.
- Invasive snails (aquatic invertebrate) – In eastern Ontario and western Quebec lakes. They are likely more commonly distributed in our area than we know. One reason for being under reported is because other species draw more attention in outreach campaigns.

Other local invasive species that the lake community are likely more familiar with:

- Zebra mussels (aquatic invertebrate)

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- Spiny waterflea (aquatic invertebrate)
- Eurasian Milfoil (aquatic plant)
- Emerald ash borer (insect)
- Spongy Moth (insect)

There are many other species of concern but I think the above list would be a good start to having invasive species education page(s) for the readers of your newsletter.

Resources for species images and ID information:

Province of Ontario Resources:

<https://www.invadingspecies.com/>

<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/> - Source of the *Grow Me Instead* booklet which aims to educate gardeners on choosing local native species over potentially invasive imported ornamental plants.

National Resources:

<https://canadainvasives.ca/invasive-species/>

<https://inspection.canada.ca/en/plant-health/invasive-species>

Ways to report sightings/view distributions of invasive species:

<https://www.eddmaps.org/>

<https://inaturalist.ca/>