

# Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council News



Please help us spread the word on invasive species challenges and solutions in Pennsylvania. Forward this newsletter to your professional networks and the Pennsylvanians you serve. Here's the [signup page](#). If you have a question or comment about an item in this newsletter or are interested in learning more about the Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council, drop me a line or visit the [council website](#). — [Kris Abell](#), Coordinator

## Pennsylvanians Report Over 1,400 Impacts in First Statewide Invasive Species Impacts Survey

The Governor's Invasive Species Council announced [results from the 2022 Pennsylvania Invasive Species Impacts Survey](#) on March 13. Conducted last fall, it was the first statewide survey to ask Pennsylvanians to report the impacts they're experiencing from invasive plants, insects, pathogens, and animals.

More than 600 Pennsylvanians described more than 1,400 negative impacts from invasive species on land and in waterways. While individual responses ranged widely, some recurring types of impacts include:

- Constricted access to lakes, trails, and community parks.
- Lost timber product and damaged grapevines, fruit trees, and nursery stock.
- Reduced sightlines and risk from dead trees along roads.
- Severely hampered forest regrowth, causing economic loss, loss of wildlife habitat, and loss of Pennsylvania's forest heritage.
- Takeover of wetlands and streambank plantings, impairing flood control, water filtration, and habitat functions.
- Loss of biodiversity and the decline of Pennsylvania native brook trout, crayfish, eastern hemlock tree, and other native species.

Many respondents reported spending their own time and funds trying to reduce the proliferation of invasive species. Over 380 people said that establishment of the [council's proposed statewide Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management \(PRISM\) program](#) would benefit them or they'd like to be involved with a PRISM in their region.

The council will use the results to increase knowledge of the impacts from invasives and build support for regional management to help Pennsylvanians. The survey will be conducted again in fall 2023.

## **Pilot-test of Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management Program to Launch in Northwest Counties This Summer**

The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council will conduct a small-scale pilot-test of a [Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management](#) (PRISM) program in northwest counties this summer.

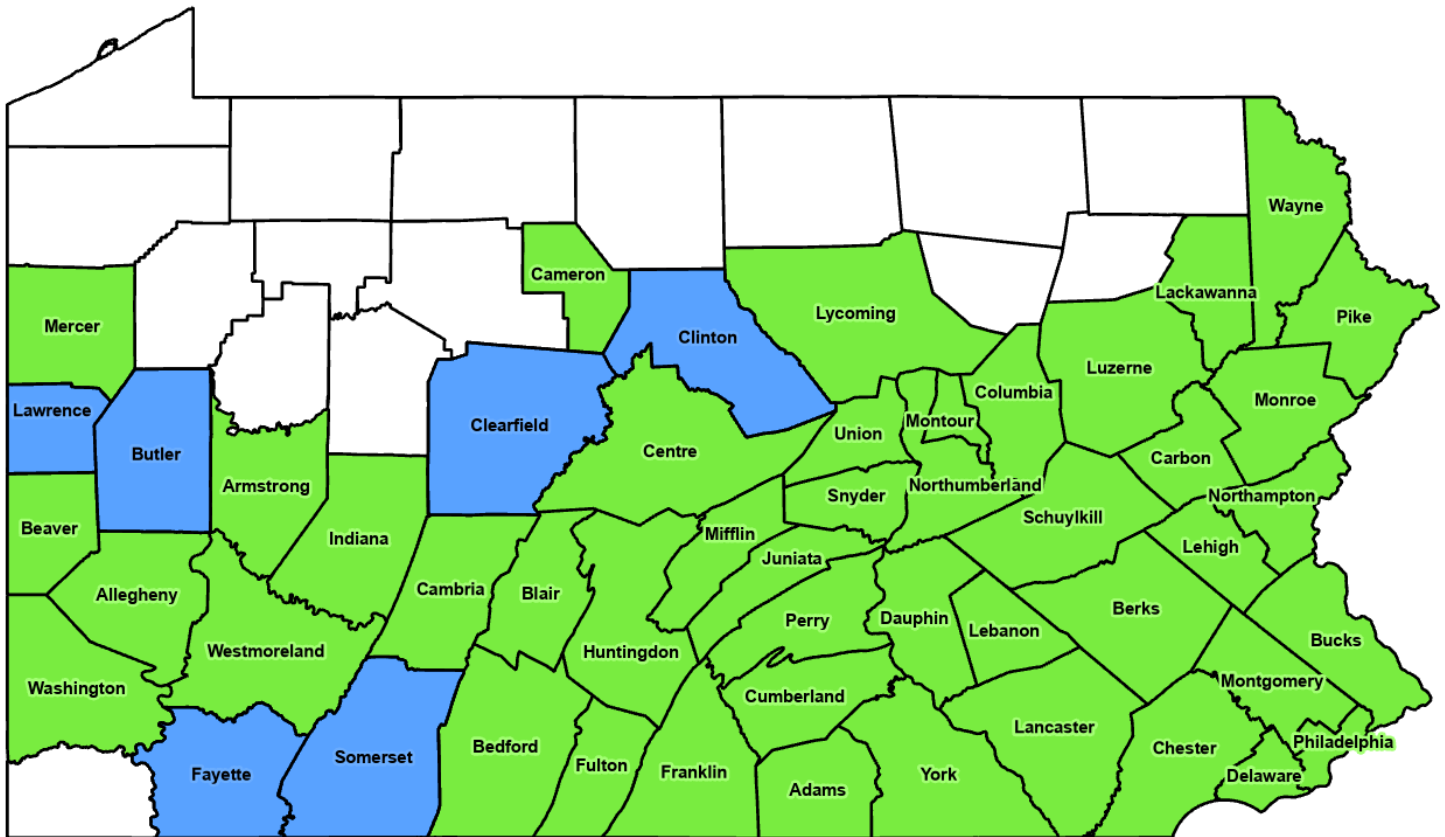
The pilot will include several key components of a full PRISM program, including building public-private stakeholder partnerships, developing a regionally targeted strategic management plan, conducting on-the-ground invasive species management, and performing educational outreach. The goal is to provide proof-of-concept to help secure permanent funding for a statewide PRISM program.

The program is anticipated to begin July 1 in Erie, Warren, McKean, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Forest, Elk, Clarion, Jefferson, Lawrence, Butler, and Armstrong Counties.

Conservation districts in the northwest region will be eligible to apply for grants from PACD to implement on-the-ground management and education and outreach. Information will be forthcoming on how stakeholders in the northwest region can participate to help make the pilot PRISM a success.

PACD received a \$210,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service to carry out the PRISM pilot-test.

# Six Counties Added to Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Zone, with Requirements for Businesses and Residents to Help Stop Spread



**2023 Pennsylvania Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine**

- Existing Quarantine
- Counties added to Quarantine in 2023



The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has added Butler, Clearfield, Clinton, Fayette, Lawrence, and Somerset counties to the spotted lanternfly (SLF) quarantine zone. Fifty-one counties are now under SLF quarantine requirements.

[Businesses](#) that move products, vehicles, or other conveyances are required to obtain permits to help ensure that SLF is not transported to counties not yet quarantined or to other states.

[Residents](#) should use home and travel checklists to inspect articles such as logs, vehicles, and outdoor items to keep SLF from spreading.

The Department of Agriculture developed the quarantine order to reduce the negative impacts of this invasive pest on Pennsylvanians' natural resources, businesses, jobs, properties, and enjoyment of the outdoors.



## Significant Defoliation from Spongy Moth Anticipated in 2023: Second Largest Spraying Ever Is Planned, Tips for Private Landowners



Parts of Pennsylvania, especially central counties, are in the midst of a spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) boom cycle this year, with heavy egg mass counts.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will treat roughly 300,000 acres in May. This is one of the largest treatments for spongy moth in DCNR's history.

DCNR will use aerial applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, subspecies *kurstaki*, which is a natural biological insecticide, and tebufenozide, an insect growth regulator.



Unfortunately, many areas are still left without protection. Private landowners should consider the possibility that their woods will be heavily impacted by spongy moth. [DCNR provides many tips on how private landowners can protect their woods.](#)

Spongy moth infestations can lead to defoliation, killing or weakening trees. Although spongy moths target many tree and shrub species, oak is their preferred food source. This is especially problematic since oak is a native species that provides food and habitat for hundreds of native bird and insect species.

## Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to Tackle Invasives in 10 High Biodiversity Areas

The [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) will launch a new initiative this spring to develop monitoring plans and management recommendations aimed at prevention and control of invasive species in 10 high biodiversity areas across Pennsylvania.

At each site, conservancy science staff will conduct field assessments to confirm the presence of rare species and habitats and identify any invasive species threats or vulnerabilities that the rare plant populations might face.

Using tools such as [iMapInvasives](#), staff will map invasive species locations that will serve as an important part of the monitoring plans for the sites. The conservancy and [Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program](#) project partners will then help monitor and steward these areas to control invasives and protect biodiversity.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will complete several invasive species risk assessments that will be useful to the Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council. New York has completed these assessments and prioritizations (see the [New York map online](#)). The conservancy will work with NatureServe, who partnered with New York on its invasive species prioritization. This work will help decision making regarding in focusing efforts and funding on invasive species control throughout Pennsylvania.

Conservancy staff are currently selecting the 10 high biodiversity sites. The aim is to choose sites in the six regions spanning the state that the council has identified for establishing [Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management](#).

Surveys will begin this spring and summer. The project is funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation. For more information, contact [Jeffrey Wagner](#), Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Director.

Join in Celebrating Pennsylvania Native Species Day 2023 on May 18



# PA NATIVE SPECIES DAY MAY 18

The Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council will celebrate the second annual Pennsylvania Native Species Day on Thursday, May 18. All organizations, government offices, farms, schools, and businesses are welcome to join in with their own activities.

Want to learn more about how you might celebrate Pennsylvania Native Species Day? Visit the [Pennsylvania Native Species Day web page](#), and watch our February 9 informational meeting on the [Pennsylvania SeaGrant YouTube channel](#).

Planning an activity? We'd like to list it on the Pennsylvania Native Species Day web page. Let council Communications Chair [Deb Klenotic](#) know.



## Burning Bush, Honeysuckle, Privet, and Starry Stonewort Added to Pennsylvania Banned Plants List



Burning Bush

European privet

Morrow's honeysuckle

Burning bush, starry stonewort, five honeysuckle species, and four privet species have been added to the Pennsylvania Noxious Weed list.

The Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee voted to add these species to the Noxious Weed List during their last two meetings on October 20, 2022, and January 19, 2023. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture placed notices in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on [November 12, 2022](#), and [February 4, 2023](#), making it official.

The action becomes effective 60 days after the Bulletin notice. However, a two-year delay in enforcement is in place for burning bush, privet, and honeysuckle to allow industry time to liquidate existing stocks.

Japanese privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*) and starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) were designated Class A noxious weeds. They're established in Pennsylvania but not widespread, and eradication of infestations is still feasible and intended.

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), five honeysuckle species (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. morrowii*, *L. standishii*, *L. tatarica*, and *L. x bella*), and three privet species (*Ligustrum sinense*, *L. vulgare*, and *L. obtusifolium*) were designated Class B noxious weeds. They're widespread in Pennsylvania and can't be feasibly eradicated.

Burning bush and privet are common nursery and landscaping plants. Banning their sale in Pennsylvania and drawing attention to these invasive species will help protect natural areas and assist in preserving biodiversity.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture asks people to report sightings of Class A noxious weeds by using the hotline 1-833-INVASIV or sending an email to [RA-plant@pa.gov](mailto:RA-plant@pa.gov). Class B noxious weeds or any other invasive plant can be reported to the [PA iMapInvasives database](#).

Noxious weeds are determined to be injurious to public health, crops, livestock, and agricultural land or other property and cannot be sold, transported, planted, or otherwise propagated in Pennsylvania.

## Wrap-up: Governor's Invasive Species Council Spring Quarterly Meeting, Thursday, March 16

About 50 council members and partners learned about results of the council's first [Pennsylvania Invasive Species Impacts Survey](#). The council will use the results to increase knowledge of the impacts from invasives and build support for regional management to help Pennsylvanians.

The council discussed recent research on the effectiveness of inclusive naming conventions and language in educational outreach about invasive species. Tim Campbell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Sea Grant Aquatic Invasive Species Liaison, and his colleagues at the University of Wisconsin have found inclusive language to be more effective than militaristic language in fostering constructive engagement in invasive species.

Sean Hartzell, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, reported on ongoing work on the [list of Invasive Species of Concern for Pennsylvania](#). White pine blister rust will be added to the plant pathogen list, and greenside darter will be taken off



the invasive aquatic animals list. Plain-language short descriptions of impacts and whether or not listed a species is an early-detection priority will be incorporated.

## Resources and Opportunities for Your Organization

### Apply now for Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz grants

The Great Lakes Commission is [requesting proposals](#) for activities for the 2023 Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz.

This annual event brings together state agencies and local volunteers to visit public and private boating access sites to deliver messaging about inspecting and cleaning watercraft and equipment to prevent the spread of AIS between bodies of water.

Tribal or U.S.-based local units of government, lake associations/watershed protection groups, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, universities/colleges, and conservation groups are eligible to apply for grants of \$4,000 to \$10,000.

Funding is intended to support activities that will expand the Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz to water bodies and access points that haven't yet been included in the annual event. Project activities are expected to take place from June 30 to July 9 or beyond.

Applications are due April 21, 2023. For more information, contact [Ceci Weibert](#).

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