

# Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council News



Issue 1: Sept. 30, 2021

Populations of invasive plant, insect, and fish species are expanding across Pennsylvania. Some species, such as the emerald ash borer and spotted lanternfly, are widely known, but there many other invasive scourges, all affecting farming, businesses, human health, ecosystems and natural areas, and outdoor experiences.

Created by the Governor's Office, the [Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council](#) develops, implements, coordinates, and advises on statewide efforts to manage invasive species through research, policy, prevention, control, and outreach.

The council includes representatives from seven state agencies, local governments, academic institutions, industry trade associations, environmental and agricultural organizations, county conservation districts, and more.

Welcome to the first issue of our quarterly newsletter. Our goal is to inform planning and actions by organizational leaders, policy makers, educators, and other decision makers by providing regular updates on Pennsylvania's leading invasive species efforts.

Please help us spread the word on statewide work underway to address invasives: Consider sharing this issue or the [newsletter signup web page](#) with your networks. If you have any questions about PISC or the newsletter, please [contact me](#).

—Kris Abell, Coordinator, Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council

## Barberry among new additions to list of plants illegal to propagate or sell in Pennsylvania



Japanese barberry

Japanese barberry and two other invasive species will be added to the list of plants that are illegal to propagate or sell in Pennsylvania on October 6, 2021.

The Department of Agriculture Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee placed a [notice](#) in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on August 7 officially adding the following species to the [Noxious Weed List](#) as Class B noxious weeds:

- *Berberis thunbergia*, Japanese barberry
- *Microstegium vimineum*, Japanese stiltgrass
- *Alliaria petiolate*, garlic mustard

This becomes effective 60 days after notice.

Most notable is the addition of Japanese barberry, a popular nursery and landscaping plant. Until the Department of Agriculture develops a process to apply for permission to sell sterile varieties, both sterile and nonsterile varieties are banned.

However, the first two years of enforcement generally will be incremental, to allow for outreach to plant merchants, landscape professionals, and other states and enable the industry to work toward compliance.

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. Class B noxious weeds are widely established and cannot feasibly be eradicated.

## New "PRISM" framework would set up regional management of invasive species in Pennsylvania

The need for extensive partnership yet the flexibility to respond rapidly at the local level when a species is becoming a threat is a critical gap in Pennsylvania's current management of invasive species.

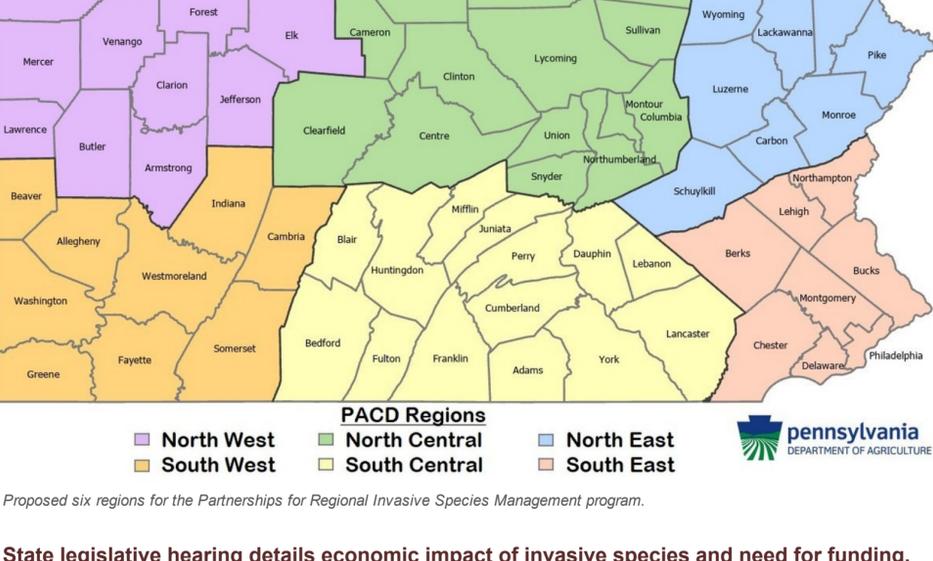
To fill this gap, a Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council (PISC) committee has developed a plan for Pennsylvania to adopt the "Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management" (PRISM) framework, used by other states.

Host organizations would develop and coordinate partnerships in six regions in Pennsylvania. Each region would:

- Have the independent ability to establish its priorities, objectives, and strategic plan
- Be informed by PISC initiatives
- Report progress to the Department of Agriculture, which would administer the program

Many states have already implemented some form of the PRISM program. For example, [New York's PRISM program](#) has eight partnerships, each led by a local organization under contract with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and funded through a real estate transfer tax.

PISC is reaching out to stakeholders to secure state funding to support implementation of a PRISM program in Pennsylvania. For more information, or if you'd like to help in this effort, please contact [Kris Abell](#).



## State legislative hearing details economic impact of invasive species and need for funding, "PRISM" approach to management

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, chaired by Senator Gene Yaw, held the state legislature's first ever hearing on the economic impacts of invasive species on August 24. [Watch a video of the hearing](#), read [highlights \(PDF\)](#), or read the [complete testimonials \(PDF\)](#).

Key takeaways include:

- Invasive species are pervasive statewide, cause millions of dollars in damage to Pennsylvania's agricultural and forestry industries, and degrade the quality of our recreational assets.
- Many types of invasive plants, insects, and aquatic animals require immediate attention.
- Efforts to address invasive species include eradication, management, and prevention. All efforts must include local involvement and public outreach and education.
- Dedicated state funding is essential to control and management of invasive species.
- Pennsylvania should consider funding and implementing a Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) model to prevent and minimize the harm caused by invasive species.

State government approaches to invasives were detailed by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Timothy Schaeffer.

The impacts of invasive species in rural Pennsylvania were discussed by Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center Director Dr. Jayson Harper, Kane Hardwood Resource Manager Thomas Kase, and Crawford County Conservation District Watershed Specialist Brian Pilarcik.

Analysis of and recommendations for policy approaches to combat invasives were provided by Shippensburg University Professor Dr. Sara Grove, Pennsylvania Sea Grant Director Sarah Whitney, McKean County Conservation District Outreach Director Jody Groshek, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Section Chief Josh Thiel.



Before: Mills property, Lancaster County, in 2011, with trees toppled by invasive vines.  
After: Mills property after invasive removal and planting of forbs and shrubs for habitat.

## New easy-to-remember way to report invasive species in Pennsylvania: 1-833-INVASIV

Think you've sighted an invasive species new to an area? Report it!

All Pennsylvanians have an important role to play in the fight against invasive species, by submitting reports of known or suspected invasive land plants and insects and fish and aquatic invertebrates and plants, such as algae.

Early detection help enables regulatory agencies better control known invasive species and respond rapidly to new ones.

There's a new, easy-to-remember phone number for reporting invasive species sightings: 1-833-INVASIV.

If you see an [aquatic invasive species](#), a [Class A noxious weed](#), or an unusual invasive insect, such as the Asian longhorn beetle, take a photo, note the specifics of your location, and call in a voicemail report to 1-833-INVASIV.

Information given on plants and insects that have active control programs at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Fish and Boat Commission is entered into a database and followed up on.

Someone from these agencies will call you back to verify the identity of the species and location details; and tell you how to submit the photo, which is important to verify the identity of the species.

Created by the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council, the new phone number adds to the many online options to report invasive species:

- To report invasive insects: email the Department of Agriculture at [badbug@pa.gov](mailto:badbug@pa.gov).
- To report invasive plants: email the Department of Agriculture at [RA-plant@pa.gov](mailto:RA-plant@pa.gov).
- To report aquatic invasive species: use the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission reporting form](#) or Pennsylvania Sea Grant [iPhone app](#).
- To report all types of invasive species: use the [PA iMapInvasives database](#).

Please share this information with your organizations and networks to increase early detection of invasive species statewide.

## Resources and opportunities for your organization

### New mobile tool available to reduce aquatic invasive species at public lakes

The Pennsylvania Lake Management Society (PALMS) offers organizations a new tool in their fight against aquatic invasive species: the "CD3" mobile station boaters can use to clean, drain, and dry their own watercraft and trailers and dispose of debris.

The CD3 station offers a suite of self-serve resources, including an air blower, wet-dry vacuum, hand tools, and lights to help boaters remove and then dispose of water, weeds, and debris -- including leftover bait.

It serves as an educational kiosk as well. The station is waterless, solar powered, and trailered for mobility statewide.

CD3 is free for use at lakes with public access. PALMS will be organizing a rotation schedule for organizations interested in hosting the CD3 station at public boat launches throughout the state. If you're interested in hosting the station, [contact PALMS](#).

This resource is made possible by a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Statewide Public Access Grant. The station is the first of its kind funded by the commission and the first trailered unit in Pennsylvania.

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