



Volume 3
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Winter 2010

Unwanted Invaders

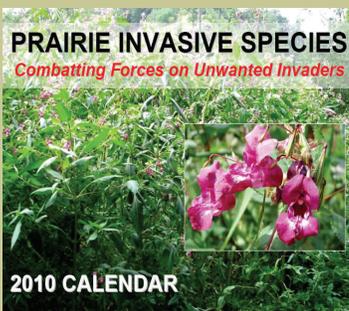
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Contact the ISCM for your free copy today!

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Protecting Manitoba's Trees from Emerald Ash Borer

By Kyla Maslaniec, Forest Health Extension Technician, Manitoba Conservation

A tiny green invader from Asia is attacking ash trees in North America. Emerald ash borer is a beautiful iridescent green insect that kills ash trees. It was first detected in North America in 2002, in Michigan and Ontario. Since then, it has been found in Quebec and 12 more states in the U.S.

Millions of ash trees have been lost in Michigan alone, and that state is at risk of losing all of their ash trees. Manitoba would face a similar threat if EAB was to become established here. Ash trees are a major component of river bottom forests and have been planted extensively in our communities and rural shelterbelts as a replacement for elms lost to Dutch elm disease.

To prevent such devastating losses, the province has introduced new legislation and programs to stop the spread of invasive forest pests into Manitoba. *The Forest Health Protection Act* (FHPA), was proclaimed in May of 2009, and will help the province to prevent accidental introductions of invasive pests like the emerald ash borer.

Under the Act, the movement of ash material is prohibited from federal EAB regulated areas of Ontario and Quebec. The Act also

gives the province the ability to respond to detections of new invasive forest pests. Forest products can be seized, trees removed or destroyed, areas quarantined, and "Forest Threat Response Zones" established, where restrictions can be made on the movement and treatment of certain tree species and forest products.

Public education is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of invasive forest pests. Manitoba, along with the federal government, is actively promoting a "Do Not Move Firewood" campaign, as firewood is known to be a pathway for the spread of EAB and other invasive pests. The province will also be attending several trade shows and public events to raise awareness about the threat of invasive pests.

Orange-coloured firewood collection bins have been set up at the major points of entry into the province on the eastern and western borders. Signs have been erected at these locations as well, warning the public about moving firewood. These bins are checked regularly, and any wood collected is inspected for the presence of invasive pests.

An ash inventory was completed in 2009, to determine the potential impacts of EAB in this province. The province will also be monitoring for EAB in 2010 by establishing trap trees in certain communities and inspecting high risk areas.

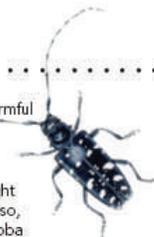
HELP PROTECT MANITOBA'S TREES

Do Not Move Firewood

With your help, we can protect Manitoba's beautiful trees and forests from harmful exotic pests like the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Long-horned beetle.

Do **not** transport firewood into Manitoba. Buy it locally. If you're visiting the province and have firewood with you, please dispose of it in the bright orange bins located along the main highways entering Manitoba. And also, remember that it is illegal to transport any firewood into or out of Manitoba across the Canada-U.S. border.

To learn more, please call the Tree Line at 204-945-7866, or the Manitoba Conservation toll free number at 1-800-214-6497, or visit: manitoba.ca/conservation/forestry/alerts/alerts.html



Manitoba

We can protect Manitoba's forests from harmful invasive forest pests, but it will take a coordinated effort between governments, municipalities, non-government agencies and the public.

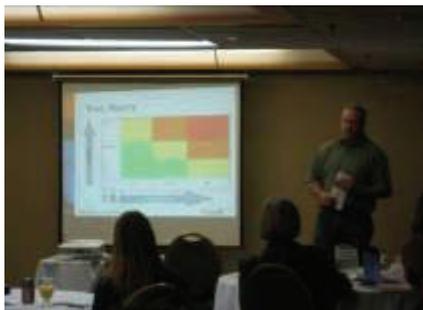
To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/forestry/index.html>

Risk Analysis for Manitoba: ISCM's 2nd Annual AGM & Workshop

Article & Photos By: Sandi Faber Routley, ISCM Invasive Species Technician

The Stakeholder's Workshop was kicked off with a welcome and introduction by ISCM Coordinator Cheryl Heming. This was followed by the workshop 'Risk Analysis for Manitoba', facilitated by Cory Lindgren of Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Doug Cattani of Manitoba Agriculture and Rural Food Initiatives.



Risk Analysis Workshop with Cory Lindgren.



Attendees of the Stakeholder's Workshop.

Topics discussed included an Introduction to Risk Analysis and the Federal Approach, Provincial considerations and Use, Introduction to the Canadian Weed Risk Assessment, and Weed Risk Assessment Demonstration.

This model for Risk Analysis in Manitoba

will be used to determine priorities for the ISCM Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) program. The priority species will be listed in an ISCM 'watch list'. This workshop was funded through the federal **Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program**.

After lunch, a keynote presentation was given by Patricia Rawlek and Greg Hensel of the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA). They outlined the organization and its mandate in North America, and gave an update on the 2009 NAWMA conference recently held in Kearney, Nebraska. It was a very informative presentation, and judging by the amount of questions afterward, it greatly peaked the interest of the stakeholders present. The AGM wrapped up Friday afternoon with the ISCM's annual business meeting.



ISCM's Display at the AGM & Workshop

ISCM Past Events

By Kristin Pingatore, ISCM Mapping Technician

Volunteer Monitoring session, Wednesday December 2, 2009 in Winnipeg.

Dr. Randy Westbrooks spoke on the topic of creating a volunteer network to aid in early detection, rapid response and monitoring of invasive species in Manitoba. He pointed out that there are many organizations already in place and with basic training in invasive species ID, they could aid scientists in identifying new invaders. Other organizations could provide volunteers for events such as weed pulling. Building bridges to connect these organizations to the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba should be the first step in establishing such a network.

Dr. Westbrooks was very well received by all in attendance, including a number of new faces in the group, undergraduate students from the University of Manitoba's Department of Environment and Geography. ISCM is planning on going forward with the first steps of establishing a volunteer network, at the discretion of the Early Detection and Rapid Response Committee, including applying for grants to cover staff salaries and logistics for the project.

North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner's Weed Forum, January 12, 2010 in Mandan, North Dakota.

Staff from ISCM attended a weed forum put on by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture directed at the State's weed supervisors. The event provided great insight into the methods of our neighbours to the south, as well as a look at what chal-

lenges they are facing. For example, a lawyer in the department addressed questions pertaining to state laws and regulations that the weed board members had submitted before the event.

One of the hot topics of the day was the spread of Emerald Ash Borer – which despite not being a weed, is a very serious threat to the state now that the species has been located in Minnesota. The Department of Agriculture used a session during the forum to promote awareness among the weed supervisors, so that any warning signs they see while out working don't go unchecked. By the end of the day, ISCM had established a number of contacts and even joined in their membership in order to keep abreast of news coming from North Dakota, which could affect Manitoba.

ISCM Weed Management Plans

By: Kristin Pingatore, ISCM Mapping Technician

Weed Districts and Municipalities need a strategic plan of approach to identifying and combating weeds in their regions. Thanks to funding support from the provincial **Agricultural Sustainability Initiative**, ISCM has a Weed Management Plan (WMP) Template to help get the ball rolling.

What is included in a weed management plan?

It begins with developing and stating the District or Municipality's weed management policy, which then form the basis of their goals and objectives for the plan. Includes a review process, which requires that the plan be reviewed and changed on a regular basis as conditions change. It is also important to

include a description of the region – geographically and in terms of land use & economy. This information aids in determining what species are best focused on and whether they need to be controlled or eradicated.



Weed Supervisors collecting GPS data during an ISCM Workshop. Photo by ISCM.

Once the goals and objectives figured out, list the resources available for use. This includes monies, staff, equipment, and access to control agents. Before a plan of attack on weeds can take place, it is important to know what species are present, where they are and the size of

infestation. A baseline survey of weeds in the district's landscape is key to figuring this out. What may also be important is the details surrounding the infestation, such as how the species arrived, and any special considerations that a site requires (e.g. Cattle can't be moved to another pasture, which affects what control agents can be used on the site).

Finally, the plan should also incorporate provisions and documents regarding health & safety, best management practices or protocols, administration, contacts, and maps of the region.

The WMP Template is a constantly evolving project that seeks to give our partners the best outline possible for creating their weed management plans. In April 2010, the template will be available for download at:

www.invasivespeciesmanitoba.com. For further information about weed management plans, please contact the ISCM (204)232-6021 or info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com.

Manitoba Biodiversity Network

By Sandi Faber Routley, ISCM Invasive Species Technician

Various agencies and individuals held an informal meeting, September 2009, in Winnipeg to discuss the formation of a local network to celebrate the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The Manitoba Biodiversity Network, or Bio-Net for short, was established out of this meeting. The slogan is "Biodiversity – Your life support system" (with the logo yet to be finalized).

Bio-Net includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Assiniboine Park Zoo, Zoological Society of Manitoba, Living Prairie Museum, Fort Whyte Alive, Invasive Species Council of Manitoba, Manitoba Museum, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre and the University of Manitoba, as well as a number of private citizens. Cheryl Heming (Coordinator) and I are representing the ISCM.

It is estimated that the World's Biologi-

cal Diversity exceeds 100 million species, including many yet to be discovered. The number of micro- and macroflora and fauna in Manitoba may be over half a million species. The common goal of Bio-Net is to increase awareness and appreciation of both Manitoba's, and the World's Biodiversity.

Every 2-3 months, Bio-Net members meet to discuss local IYB activities planned for 2010. A campaign to submit 52 articles on varying topics of local biodiversity is also underway. Upcoming events and articles will be posted on Nature North at www.naturenorth.com. Nature North is an online nature magazine that is dedicated to celebrating the biodiversity of Manitoba.

The designation of 2010 as the IYB by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity was fueled by the unprecedented loss of biodiversity across the planet, which is estimated at 1000 times the natural rate as a result of hu-



man activities, and expected to rise further as a result of the impacts of climate change.

The official launch of IYB 2010 took place on January 11, 2010 in Berlin, Germany. Ten thousand participants are expected to celebrate the IYB in October at the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. The closing ceremonies- coinciding with the launch of the 2011 International Year of Forests- will take place in Ishikawa, Japan in December.

Details on the worldwide celebration of IYB 2010 and the international events scheduled can be found on the Convention of Biological Diversity website at www.cbd.int/2010/welcome.

TALE OF A WANDERING SPIDER

By Dr. Robert E. Wrigley, Curator,
Assiniboine Park Zoo

In early May, 2009 a story was released by the Russell Banner's Terrie Welwood about a highly venomous spider -- the Brazilian Wandering Spider -- from tropical America, which arrived in a box of bananas at an IGA grocery store in Russell, Manitoba. Through the efforts of a number of people, the 2.5-cm-long spider with long legs and red hairy fangs made its way to the Assiniboine Park Zoo. Considering that the fear of spiders (arachnophobia) is almost universal, it is remarkable that a chain of individuals cared enough about this little wandering stowaway to ensure that no harm came to it after surviving its over-4000-km trip from the tropics.

The spider appears to have started its journey by hiding in a load of bananas in Guatemala, and then being transported to Manitoba. The box of bananas was ultimately shipped to the IGA in Russell, where one night it left its refuge to search for prey. A cleaning-staff member (Collaus Summer) discovered the spider and succeeded in trapping it in a container. He handed it over to the Produce Manager (Bev Doubleday), who then in turn gave it to the Major Pratt High School 12th-grade biology class for study. Using the resources of the internet, the students took up the challenge of identifying it, and they came to the startling conclusion (based on its size and striking red fangs) that it was a venomous Brazilian Wandering Spider (a species of *Phoneutria*; Greek name for "Murderess"), the bites of several species of which have resulted in the deaths of small children and seniors in Amazonia. Although the bites of these spiders are highly sensationalized as the most-venomous and painful in the world, venom is often not released, or is delivered in such small doses that it is insufficient to kill most human victims.

Amid stories in the media, the spider was passed on by one of the students (Cameron Davidson) to two Manitoba Conservation staff (Grant White and Barry Verbewski), and with the recommendation from a Canadian Wildlife Service officer (Richard Laboissiere), they delivered the spider on May 8 to the Assiniboine Park Zoo for safe-keeping. It was set up securely in a terrarium for public viewing in the Tropical House by zookeepers (Val

Norquay and Gary Ruczak) experienced in maintaining spiders. Until its identification could be confirmed, it was treated as a potentially dangerous specimen. When offered a cricket as food, the spider instantly captured and then devoured the insect, so the spider appeared to be in good health after its long journey.

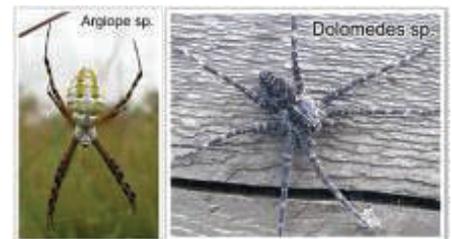


A photo of the wandering spider which arrived at Assiniboine Park Zoo. Photo credit: Darlene Stack

Zoo Curator Dr. Robert Wrigley contacted Dr. Terry Galloway at the Entomology Department at the University of Manitoba, who recommended he speak to Canadian spider specialist Dr. Robb Bennett with the British Columbia provincial government. Dr. Bennett acknowledged that spiders are easily misidentified, and while this specimen might be a *Phoneutria*, it was far-more likely to be a harmless species of wandering spider called *Cupiennius*, a species of which also has the red hairs on the large fangs. These spiders have been known to be transported in fruit to other North American cities (e.g., Tulsa in March, 2008), where they are usually misidentified by local spider experts as the venomous *Phoneutria*. Other large stowaway spiders (e.g., wandering and black-widows) have been turned over to the Zoo and the J.B. Wallis Museum of Entomology (University of Manitoba) over the years, mainly deriving from shipments of produce. This Manitoba specimen will be submitted to a professor at the University of California at Berkeley, who is preparing a paper on accidental shipments of exotic creatures. The huge volume of cargo being transported around the world generates frequent opportunities for invasive pests to reach new continents, where they often cause enormous damage to native ecosystems and national economies (e.g., agriculture, forestry).

Manitoba is host to about 700 species of spiders, which occupy almost all terrestrial habitats and some aquatic ones as well. They play major roles as predators of insects and other small organisms, and serve as food for songbirds and many other kinds of animals. All Manitoba spiders carry venom to immobilize and digest prey, but none is dangerous to humans, although the bite of a few species can be painful and cause a local irritation or mild allergic reaction. The public is encouraged to leave spiders alone to carry out their natural lives, and to not destroy them out of needless fear.

In the autumn, many people are alarmed to discover an impressively large spider (with two bumps on the abdomen) in a web around the home, resulting in a call to the Zoo, a university, Manitoba Museum, or Insect Control (City Of Winnipeg). This is usually the Jewel Spider (*Aranaeus gemmoides*), the females of which have a respectable head-body length of up to 15 mm. One of western Canada's largest orb-weaver spiders, it is docile and only bites if repeatedly provoked. David



The garden spider (*Argiope* sp.), above left, and the dock spider (*Dolomedes* sp.), above right, are two common species of spiders in Manitoba. Photo credits: Nature North.

Wade from Insect Control noted that by September, the female has mated with the smaller male, and is looking for a secluded site to deposit her egg case, which may contain 800 fertilized eggs. It appears that houses are a preferred site for stashing the egg case. The female dies and the cold-hardy eggs overwinter, then hatch with the warming days of spring. On a sunny day, each tiny spiderling releases a strand of silk and parachutes away on the wind, to renew the species' cycle of life.

Upcoming Invasive Species Events

March 2010

- Mar 4-7 Mid-Canada Boat Show, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg. WSD & DFO booth on aquatic invasives.
 Mar 9-10 Red River College Earth-a-Thon, RRC, Winnipeg
 Mar 17 Whiteshell Cottagers Association AGM, Club Regent, Winnipeg
 Mar 17 Municipal Weed Issues Meeting, Carberry Community Hall, Carberry
 Mar 18-21 Home Expressions Home & Garden Show, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg
 Mar 19 ISCM EDRR Committee Meeting, 10-2 PM, Tupper Bldg, Portage La Prairie
 Mar 25-26 National Invasive Species Working Group Forum, Ottawa
 Mar 28-31 Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference, Sheraton Hotel, Seattle, Washington, USA

April 2010

- April 6-9 MWSA Spring Training Seminar, Russell
 Apr 14 Meeting of Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Brandon
 Apr 23 ISCM Executive Meeting, 10-2 PM, Tupper Bldg, Portage La Prairie

May 2010

- May 8 3rd Annual Gardening Saturday, Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg. Keynote speaker: Des Kennedy.
 May 22 International Biodiversity Day

June 2010

- June 1-4 Weeds Across Borders 2010 Conference, Plant Invasions, Policies and Politics, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA
 June 5 International Trails Day

September 2010

- Aug 29 - Sept 2 17th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS), San Diego, California, USA
 Sept 27-30 North American Weed Management Association 2010 Conference, Pueblo, Colorado, USA

SAVE THE DATE

The ISCM, Manitoba Weed Supervisor's Association (MWSA) and Integrated Vegetation Management Association (IVMA) are hosting the:

North American Weed Management Association Annual Conference September 2011

More details to follow in the Spring Newsletter!

Mark your
Calendars!

Coming
September, 2011...



**NAWMA's 19TH
Annual Conference**
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Hosted by:

Invasive
Species
Council of
Manitoba

Integrated Vegetation
Management Association
for Manitoba and
Saskatchewan

Manitoba
Weed
Supervisors
Association



Who we are...

The Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM) is a non-profit organization providing a centralized and coordinated province-wide leadership body adopting a collaborative approach to invasive species in Manitoba.

Vision...

Maintain a healthy, bio-diverse landscape through the prevention, early detection, and education and awareness of invasive alien species management practices in order to eradicate or limit further spread.

ISCM Executive Board* 2010

Cheryl Heming
ISCM Coordinator

Doug Cattani
MAFRI

Glen Campbell
Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

John Johnston
Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association

Ron Moss
Agri-Environment Services Branch

Jane Thornton
MAFRI

Linda Christianson
Manitoba Conservation

Garth Ball
Manitoba Conservation

Bill Gardiner
MAFRI

Wybo Vandershuit
Riding Mountain National Park

Julie Sveinson Pelc
Nature Conservancy of Canada, -Manitoba Region

Wendy Ralley/ Candace Parks
Manitoba Water Stewardship

Lisette Ross
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

*Other Executive members to be confirmed.

The ISCM would like to thank our funding sources and partners, without whom we would not exist:

- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Agri-Environment Services Branch (formerly Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration)
- Assiniboine Watershed Network
- Centric Productions
- City of Winnipeg
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Dow Agrosiences Canada
- ECO Canada
- Evergreen-Unilever Aquatic Stewardship Grant Program
- Integrated Vegetation and Management Association Manitoba/ Saskatchewan
- Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program A Government of Canada initiative
- Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI), Agriculture Sustainability Initiative
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives
- Manitoba Conservation
- Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project
- Manitoba Urban Green Team, Province of Manitoba
- Manitoba Water Stewardship
- Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association
- Nature Conservancy of Canada-Manitoba Region
- Rural Development Institute, Brandon University
- Service Canada Summer Jobs, Government of Canada
- Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, Manitoba Conservation



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STOP THE SPREAD



LEAFY SPURGE

Euphorbia esula

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LEAFY SPURGE IN MANITOBA IS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND \$19 MILLION PER YEAR!

UNWANTED PLANTS

Origin

Native to Europe, leafy spurge was introduced to North America from ships or as a seed contaminant in the early 1800s.

Status

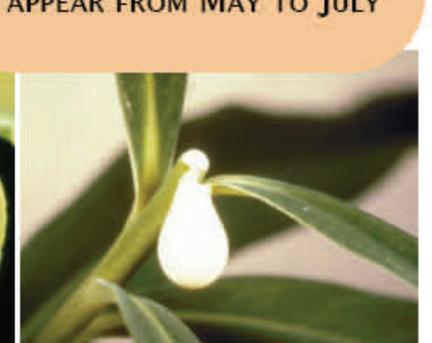
Leafy spurge has no natural enemies so it has spread quickly and now occupies approximately 340,000 acres of prairie in Manitoba.

Impacts

Leafy spurge is capable of dominating habitats. Infested pasture supports fewer livestock because the plant displaces preferred forages. It spreads through seed and root fragments, which often grow 26 feet into the ground and 15 feet wide. Uncontrolled, it will double in size every 5-10 years.

Where to Look

Infestations are most common in rangelands and pastures where cultivation is absent. It is also common in roadside ditches, wasteland, and abandoned areas. It can still be seen in home gardens.



LOOK FOR:

- ◊ SECRETES A MILKY LATEX SAP WHEN DAMAGED.
- ◊ LOWER LEAVES ARE SMOOTH GREEN AND NARROW (2-7.5 CM LONG).
- ◊ FLOWERS ARE ARRANGED IN NUMEROUS SMALL CLUSTERS AROUND GREEN TO YELLOW HEART-SHAPED BRACTS AND APPEAR FROM MAY TO JULY

PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD IN MANITOBA

Leafy spurge is one of the most difficult noxious weeds to control in Manitoba, no single treatment will work. Herbicides are effective if used at the proper time (spring or fall). Hand pulling is ineffective unless patch is very small. Mowing regularly (2-4 weeks) during the early flower stage can prevent seed development.

Report a Sighting!

E-mail: info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com

Phone: (204)232-6021



Funding for this project was provided in part by the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program, a Government of Canada initiative.



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Photo Credits: Stem and flowers: W.M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International; Stem showing sap: N.E. Rees, USDA Agricultural Research Service; Close-up of leaf and beetle: USDA APHIS PPQ Archive; Banner Photo: ISCM