



Do invasive species affect your well-being or livelihood? (Help your community by taking our anonymous survey!)

By Timothy Ives, SLELO Program Specialist



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County is currently administering a survey to learn if invasive species impact the lives and businesses of the people in the Saint Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) Region. The SLELO Region contains Jefferson, Lewis, Saint Lawrence, Oswego, and Oneida counties.

If you have been impacted by the poison ivy type of rash caused by wild parsnip or dreaded walking barefoot on a shell ridden beach, you have felt the impact of invasive species. Invasive species are defined as plants, animals, organisms, and pathogens that are not native to this region and upon introduction can cause harm to our environment, economy, and general health. Invasive species can hurt native populations of fish, wildlife, and plants by negatively affecting their habitat and health. They can also cause severe disruptions in the ecosystem of many native species. These invasives can also hurt many businesses through damage to crops, clogging of boat slips and waterways, and even potentially causing injury to children, employees, or clients. Many home and business owners spend money on invasive weed control on an annual basis.

The impact is also felt by recreationists when their favorite areas are overrun or damaged by the spread of these invasive species. An example is Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia or VHS. VHS is a viral disease that affects many freshwater fish and has reduced fish populations. This can hurt anglers, fisheries, and fishing guides due to the large decrease in fish stock for them to catch.

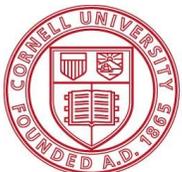


Japanese Knotweed (Image by Randy Westbrook, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org)

Further examples of invasive species are Round Goby, Zebra Mussels, Water Chestnut plants, Emerald Ash Borer, European Starling, Swallow-wort, and the poisonous Giant Hogweed.

The purpose of the survey is to determine the effect of these invasive species on the well-being and livelihood of the people in the SLELO Region. If you or anyone you know from the SLELO region would like to participate in the anonymous survey, please visit <http://bit.ly/2tUC8o2> or scan the QR code above.

More information about invasive species can be found on our website at <http://ccejefferson.org/gardening/invasive-and-nuisance-species>, or contact Timothy Ives at 315-788-8450 or tmi4@cornell.edu.



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