

Stewardship Network Notes

9 June 08

Wetland invasives

Wetland invasives include:

- reed canary grass---native but many genotypes and species, opportunistic, and the nonlocals are invasive
- phragmites--the native occurs rarely; the invasive species is not native
- purple loosestrife--being controlled with some success by the introduction of a beetle into areas where it occurs which kills it (very sorry; I've forgotten the mechanism of death)
- glossy buckthorn--often confused with cherry
- water millfoil--an increasing problem because of the nutrients in run-off from lawn fertilizers

Eradication vs control

home owners can approach complete eradication, and may hope to restore a balanced ecology. Managers of large parcels seek control to prevent invasives from taking over..

Control strategies

- wetlands are burnable
- remove seed heads
- control succession
- plant natives where the invasives have been removed in order to provide competition for future invasives.
- use a cover crop where the invasives have been removed, again to provide competition to invasives re-entering the site, and to give the natives a chance to take hold

Remember that the good-bad distinction is regional, as every invasive is a well-behaved native somewhere.