

**Exotic Pest Survey for *Inula* spp. in Connecticut  
EASTERN REGION USDA APHIS CAPS WORK PLAN**

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**Name of State:** Connecticut

**Calendar Year:** 2004

### **Abstract**

The purpose of the project is to continue a statewide survey in 2004 for *Inula* spp., a potential new invasive exotic weed ranked as a primary target pest for the CAPS Eastern Region that may be entering the U.S. via Hosta shipments from the Netherlands, Michigan and other origins. A visual survey and educational outreach project is proposed for the remaining four Connecticut counties that were not surveyed during 2003 to complete statewide activities for this exotic pest.

### **Approach**

University of Connecticut personnel (Principal Investigator, assisted by a research technician) will serve as the cooperator. The cooperator will compile research and background information, provide educational outreach, conduct the survey, collect and compile survey results, maintain data in the NAPIS database, and submit summary reports. The cooperator will provide a vehicle for transportation for a portion of survey site visits when such vehicle is available from the department. The cooperator will also provide non-federal cost sharing at 47% of the total requested direct costs for this project.

### **Plan of Action**

Potential pathways will be investigated for *Inula* spp. via Hostas imported from the Netherlands or plants moved from Hosta nurseries in Michigan into Connecticut. Educational materials on *Inula* spp., including *Inula britannica* (common names are British Yellowhead, British Elecampane, or Yellow Starwort) will be compiled from literary references, Internet web sites and contacts with other cooperators between January and April 2004. These materials will be distributed to nursery producers and garden centers who grow or sell Hostas, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) personnel, Extension Educators and Specialists before and during the survey period.

A minimum of 24 nursery growers and/or garden centers in the four western Connecticut counties will be contacted and visited on site to find out if they grow or sell Hostas. Hostas at these nurseries will be inspected for the presence of *Inula* spp., including British Yellowhead. Areas adjacent to the nurseries or garden centers will also be inspected for the target weed. The visual surveys will be conducted between May and September 2004. Educational materials on *Inula* identification, biology, invasive potential and management options will be provided to the owners/operators of each business. This survey is proposed for a two-year period; eastern counties in Connecticut were surveyed during 2003. During each year, one half of the state will be targeted. During year 2, a minimum of 24 nurseries or other production areas in 4 counties (approximately 6 nurseries and garden centers per county) where Hostas are grown or sold will be surveyed. Wet meadows and wet woodlands in the vicinity of the nurseries will also be visually inspected. Suspect plant specimens will be collected and pressed by the Investigator. Positive identification will be

confirmed by University of Connecticut staff, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station staff or other trained individuals. A rapid response plan for new state and new county records for *Inula* spp. will be implemented by CAES staff, with assistance by University of Connecticut staff.

### **Objectives and Need for the Assistance**

The objectives of the proposed workplan are to continue a statewide survey in 2004 that began the previous year in Connecticut to conduct visual surveys and an educational outreach program for *Inula* spp., a potential new invasive exotic weed. *Inula* spp. is listed as a primary target for the Eastern Region that may be entering the U.S. via *Hosta* shipments from the Netherlands, Michigan and other origins. Funds are requested from USDA APHIS to complete statewide survey and outreach activities for this exotic pest in the remaining four Connecticut counties.

### **Results or Benefits Expected**

An exotic pest survey is proposed to best protect Connecticut's biosecurity and natural resources. The survey will target an exotic pest of national concern that may be a potential new invasive plant. Invasive plants threaten our natural areas, outcompete native plants, reduce biological diversity and may be economically prohibitive to control.

### **Quantitative projection of Accomplishments to be achieved**

Donna Ellis, the State Survey Coordinator and Principal Investigator, will develop and coordinate the survey work plan and the budget/financial plan. She will conduct the survey and educational outreach components and will supervise a research technician during the summer months. Ms. Ellis will also compile and enter NAPIS data and submit all required reports.

### **Geographic Location in Which Project is to Take Place**

Connecticut