

**BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AND NOXIOUS WEEDS
ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
Cooperative Agreement Number 05-8209-0195**

[Accounting Codes 552-8703-325 (Biological Control) and 552-8703-455 (Noxious Weeds)]

Year 2005
State Connecticut
Agency The University of Connecticut

I. Activities. Progress made toward accomplishment of calendar year 2005 work plan objectives during the period July 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

A. Cooperator Donna Ellis
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B. Member name, if applicable, of National CAPS Committee: N/A

C. All objectives established for the period July 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 have been met. Please see the individual surveys below for details of actual accomplishments.

Educational Outreach – Donna Ellis

Teaching

Master Gardener Training Program: March 28, 30, April 7, 12, and 17, 2006; taught five full-day classes on exotic invasive plants to the 2006 class of Master Gardeners at five Cooperative Extension System locations in Connecticut.

Refereed Publications

Li Y, Z. Cheng, RW. Smith, D. Ellis, Y. Chen, X. Zheng, Y. Pei, K. Luo, R. McAvoy, H. Duan, C. Thammina and D. Zhao. 2005. Gene transfer approaches to neutralize invasiveness of exotic ornamental plants. *Journal of Crop Improvement* (In press)

Ellis, D.R. 2005. Beetle Farmers Control an Invasive Plant. *Connecticut Journal of Science Education* 43(1):9-11.

Curriculum Developed

The Connecticut Curriculum for Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Connecticut Curriculum. 2005. A new IPM curriculum was developed during 2005 for grades 2-3. Twenty-one lessons in 6 units with a wide range of supplemental materials were developed to teach children in the lower primary grades, 4-H members and other youth about IPM, how to protect the environment, and how to reduce pesticide use. The

curriculum was developed by R. Ashley, D. Ellis, D. Schimmel, and C. Kusmer (graphic design by S. Schadt and K. Noonan).

Ashley, R., D. Ellis, D. Schimmel and C. Kusmer. 2005. The Connecticut Curriculum for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Grades 4 and 5. (In Press)

Conference Abstracts

Ellis, D.R. and C. Kusmer. 2005. IPM Curriculum: Innovative, Practical Methods to Teach Challenging Concepts. National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Eastern Area Convention, Hartford, Connecticut.

Fact Sheets

Corrigan E. and D.R. Ellis. 2005. Mile-a-minute Vine Pest Alert. 1 page.

Other Publications

Ellis, D.R. Beetle Farmer Summary 2005. 2 pages.

Newspaper Articles

“Botanists Do Battle With Invasive Weed.” Article written by Eugene Driscoll for the News-Times on October 18, 2005. Based on a volunteer work party organized by E. Corrigan and K. Nelson to control mile-a-minute vine in Connecticut.

“A Sort of Summer School.” Article written for The Sound on July 14, 2005. Based on the purple loosestrife biological control Beetle Farmer program and a high school class that participated.

“Beetles Used to Control Loosestrife.” Article written by Peter Marteka for the Hartford Courant on July 12, 2005. Based on the purple loosestrife biological control Beetle Farmer program.

“Experiment Employs Natural Enemy.” Article written by Michael Gannon for the New Haven Register on July 10, 2005. Based on the purple loosestrife biological control Beetle Farmer program and a high school class that participated.

“Pest Alert: Mile-a-minute Vine Discovered in Westport.” Article written by Elizabeth Corrigan and edited by D. Ellis for the Westport News on July 8, 2005. Based on the recent occurrence of mile-a-minute vine, a new invasive plant in Fairfield County.

Technical Reports

Ellis, D.R. 2005. USDA APHIS PPQ Eastern Region: Connecticut, Biological Control and Noxious Weeds Semi-Annual Accomplishment Report (reporting period 1/1/05-6/30/05). (Submitted 07/28/05). 10 pp.

Ellis, D.R. and V.L. Smith. 2005. USDA APHIS Eastern Region Homeland Security/Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS): Connecticut. Semi-Annual Narrative Progress Report for Calendar Year 2005 (reporting period 1/1/05-6/30/05). (Submitted 07/29/05). 17 pp.

Ellis, D.R. 2005. DEP 319 Project-2005/2006, Quinebaug Watershed IPM/ICM Summary Report: 12/01/05-2/28/06. (Submitted 3/12/06). 2 pp.

Ellis, D.R. 2005. DEP 319 Project-2005, Quinebaug Watershed IPM/ICM Summary Report: 9/01/05-11/30/05. (Submitted 12/01/05). 3 pp.

Ellis, D.R. 2005. DEP 319 Project-2005, Quinebaug Watershed IPM/ICM Summary Report: 6/01/05-8/31/05. (Submitted 9/01/05). 5 pp.

Presentations

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group semi-annual meeting, Windsor, CT, November 29, 2005 (D. Ellis, Co-Chairperson). Organized and conducted meeting for the general membership. National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Eastern Area Convention, Hartford, CT, October 21, 2005. Workshop presentation entitled, "IPM Curriculum: Innovative, Practical Methods to Teach Challenging Concepts."

Guest Lecturer, University of Connecticut course AGNR 198 (Plant Science Introductory Course), October 19, 2005. Presentation on Integrated Pest Management.

Workshop sponsored by Guilford Conservation Commission, Guilford, CT, October 15, 2005. Workshop entitled, "Invasive Plants – Identification and Management."

West Hartford Garden Club, West Hartford, CT, October 6, 2005. Presentation on invasive plant identification, management, and alternatives.

Guest Lecturer, University of Connecticut course SAPL 041, Plant Pest Control, October 5, 2005. Presentation on invasive plants and biological control.

Cornucopia-Fest 2005, Storrs, CT, October 2, 2005. Question-and-answer sessions on Integrated Pest Management, the new IPM curriculum, invasive plants, and purple loosestrife biological control.

New England Invasive Plant Summit, Framingham, MA, September 16-17, 2005. Presented short paper entitled "Beetle Farmers – The Latest Trend in Biocontrol," and a poster entitled "Giant Hogweed and Mile-a-minute Vine: Distribution and Management." Also led a discussion group on educational outreach and presented a display on invasive plants. E. Corrigan also staffed the exhibit and poster displays.

Chester Garden Club, Chester, CT, September 13, 2005. Presentation on invasive plant identification and management.

Plant Science Day, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT, August 3, 2005. D. Ellis and E. Corrigan staffed exhibit on invasive plants and answered questions during day-long event.

Advanced AP Environmental Science teachers field demonstration, Storrs, CT, July 28, 2005.
Led campus tour and field demonstration on invasive plants.

Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Field Day, Clinton, CT, July 13, 2005.
Staffed exhibit on invasive plants and answered questions during day-long event.

Master Gardener Summer Tour, Storrs, CT, July 7, 2005. Presentation and tour on invasive species.

Poster Displays

Informative poster displays on 1) the Beetle Farmer Program (developed by D. Ellis); 2) Giant Hogweed and Mile-a-minute Vine (developed by D. Ellis, E. Corrigan and T. Mervosh); and Phragmites (developed by D. Ellis, P. Capotosto, T. Mervosh and D. Roach) were presented at numerous exhibits, professional society meetings, and other public events during the reporting period.

D. All objective have been met.

E. No cost overruns.

F. N/A

G. NAPIS database submissions: Presence/absence data for giant hogweed were submitted following the conclusion of surveys. NAPIS data for *Galerucella* beetles introduced into wetlands for purple loosestrife biological control were submitted in October.

Target Pest (Common Name if Available)	Date of Submission
<i>Galerucella</i> sp. (purple loosestrife beetles)	10/27/05
Giant hogweed (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>)	10/27/05-1/17/06

II. Individual Survey Activities

A. BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROGRAM FOR PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Survey Methodology. Recruitment and training of new beetle farmers who are rearing and releasing their own colonies of *Galerucella* beetles occurred during the reporting period from January to June. Target groups of beetle farmers were identified and contacted through the educational outreach component of the project, and these groups were encouraged to adopt a local wetland site for biological control. Through workshops, field demonstrations, and other interactive programs, the beetle farmers learned about the rearing process and were encouraged to raise their own *Galerucella* beetles locally. All introductions of biological control agents into new wetland locations were made in accordance with Federal and State release permit specifications and conditions set forth by the Connecticut State Entomologist. A consent letter

was obtained from each property owner prior to the release of biological control agents on state, town, or privately owned land.

During the summer months, existing biological control study sites were visited and examined visually to determine whether *Galerucella* populations have become sufficiently established to designate the sites as field insectaries, and also to determine if biological control of purple loosestrife is underway.

Rationale Underlying Survey Methodology. The purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) biological control program continued during 2005 with greater emphasis on 1) increasing the production and distribution of the biological control agents *Galerucella californiensis* and *Galerucella pusilla*, 2) initiating and maintaining field insectaries where the biological control agents will or have become established, and 3) enhancing the educational outreach component of the program by identifying target groups (“Beetle Farmers”) to engage cooperators to participate in local rearing and release projects. The program has evolved from a concentration on applied research and long term monitoring of study sites where the biological control agents have been released to a targeted focus on educational outreach.

Since the purple loosestrife biological control program was initiated in Connecticut in 1996, each year the demand for biological control agents always exceeds the supply available for release. At the current time there are a limited number of wetlands in the state that have been designated as field insectaries where sufficient *Galerucella* beetle establishment had occurred and these organisms are of a satisfactory population to collect and use for rearing programs. Availability of the beetles becomes a limiting factor in the success of the purple loosestrife statewide program. This shortfall not only limits the initiation of new release and monitoring sites but also limits the number of ongoing study sites where supplemental releases are needed to allow the biological control agents to become established.

Shipments of *Galerucella* beetles from the USDA were phased out in 2004. State cooperators must now find other options to continue biological control programs for this invasive species. One option to increase production and distribution is to collect and rear the biological control agents locally. In Connecticut, from 1999 through 2003 more than 160,000 *Galerucella* beetles were reared at the University of Connecticut Department of Plant Science Research and Teaching Facility and a total of 300,000 beetles were released statewide. Local field insectaries are an important source of the natural enemies to collect and redistribute throughout the state. A successful field insectary, however, may require 5 to 10 years before the biological control agents become sufficiently established to collect and redistribute to other locations. Beginning in 2004, the emphasis of the purple loosestrife biological program in Connecticut shifted from long-term monitoring studies to an enhanced outreach education component. With the redirection of this program toward public education, greater numbers of volunteers are being recruited to learn about the biological control program, rear *Galerucella* beetles, find new local release sites in their areas where purple loosestrife has become invasive and control is desired, and release these beneficial insects into the wetlands.

Survey Dates. 1 January 2005 through 31 December 2005. Educational materials on purple loosestrife, invasive plants, and biological control information were compiled in the spring of

2005 and were disseminated throughout the project period. Selection of sites where the biological control agents were introduced was determined based on each Beetle Farmer's location and whether they had a site for the introduction or required assistance with site selection. Decision making was based on input from Beetle Farmers and previous purple loosestrife field reports. Educational outreach programs, including workshops and other training sessions, occurred throughout the project period, beginning in March with four Beetle Farmer workshops. Rearing and introduction of the biological control agents began in April and continued through July. Locality data where the biological control agents were introduced into a new wetland site were compiled and submitted to the NAPIS database once the releases occurred in the summer and all appropriate data were obtained from the Beetle Farmers.

Taxonomic Services. Identification of *Galerucella* beetles, purple loosestrife or other plants and/or insects was confirmed by Donna Ellis.

Benefits and Results of Survey. The new generation *Galerucella* beetles that were reared by Connecticut Beetle Farmers emerged in July, upon which time the volunteers released the new beetles into wetlands where purple loosestrife control is needed. During the past two years that the Beetle Farmer program has been underway in Connecticut, more than 350 volunteer Beetle Farmers, including teachers and their students, Scouts and Scout leaders, citizens, and families learned about the biological control program for this invasive plant and received training via Beetle Farmer workshops and other programs. The Beetle Farmer program was truly a cooperative effort this year. One hundred and fifty Beetle Farmers were trained during 2005, and they reared 238,000 *Galerucella* beetles for purple loosestrife biological control in 16 new wetlands. In just two years, the Beetle Farmers have reared and released 538,000 *Galerucella* beetles into 36 new wetlands where purple loosestrife control was needed. Our state totals now stand at 838,000 biological control agents released into 76 Connecticut wetlands since the purple loosestrife biological control program began in 1996.

The 150 participating Beetle Farmers in 2005 were Connecticut citizens and/or were affiliated with a number of organizations, including the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Covenant Village of Cromwell, East Rock Park, Environmental Planning Services, Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Northwest Park, Quinnipiac River Watershed Association, Simsbury Land Trust, Tootin Hills School Cub Scouts, and White Memorial Conservation Center.

Many educational institutions participated during 2005, including Connecticut Junior Republic, East Granby Middle School, Harris AgriScience Center, Latimer Lane School, Loomis Chaffee School, Manchester Community College, North Branford High School, Thomas Edison Middle School, Tolland Middle School, and the University of Connecticut.

Galerucella beetles were released in the towns of Bloomfield, Cromwell, Danbury, East Granby, Litchfield, Manchester, Meriden, New Haven, Norwalk, Simsbury, Somers, Tolland, West Hartford, Windsor, and Vernon. Counties represented by these towns are Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, and Tolland Counties. Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission members and other municipal staff assisted greatly in approving the new sites for 2005. The Beetle Farmer program continued to attract the attention of news media and the

public, with various articles published in newspapers and magazines and presentations that occurred at public events throughout Connecticut and the region.

The new Beetle Farmer electronic list serve (BEETLE-L) continues to be well received. The list serve is one of the communication vehicles we use to exchange pertinent and timely information on the Beetle Farmer program, biological control updates, and general invasive plant information. The list serve, initiated in April 2005, now has more than 200 subscribers.

A Beetle Farmer poster was recently developed and is now available for downloading on the purple loosestrife biological control section of the University of Connecticut Integrated Pest Management (IPM) website (www.hort.uconn.edu/ipm/ipmbio.htm). Two distribution maps were created that show Connecticut towns and counties where purple loosestrife biological control is underway, and they are also posted on the IPM website.

Although biological control is a patient process, with an average of seven years required before significant control occurs in a wetland dominated by purple loosestrife, feeding damage by the *Galerucella* beetles is beginning to be observed at many locations in just the one or two years since the biological control agents were introduced at these sites by the Beetle Farmers. Impacts by the biological control agents will become more evident with time as the beetles become established and increase in population.

Summaries of biological control activities (release information, graphs and tables of monitoring results and plant inventories) from selected sites were produced and provided to cooperators and others upon request. Project results were presented at professional society meetings, meetings with conservation organizations, and via other educational outreach programs (please see “Educational Outreach Activities”). Results obtained from the project will enhance the national program through implementation of biological control release strategies in Connecticut. Greater emphasis on educational outreach strives to encourage and engage cooperators to rear and release the biological control agents in areas where purple loosestrife management is needed.

The impact of the biological control agents on reducing the spread of existing purple loosestrife infestations, preventing new occurrences of this aggressive plant, and improving associated plant species diversity and abundance in Connecticut wetland ecosystems will significantly enhance the quality of these important habitats. Results from this project will be utilized to further develop biological control methods for broader application by cooperators with an interest in managing purple loosestrife on federal, state, municipal or private wetlands not only in Connecticut but throughout the United States as well. Management of purple loosestrife through introductions of biological control agents and establishment of field insectaries, followed by judicious documentation of project results, publication in peer-reviewed journals, newsletters and technical reports, and presentations at meetings may serve as a model for other invasive plants.

B. NOXIOUS WEED (GIANT HOGWEED) SURVEY PROGRAM

(Prepared by Elizabeth Corrigan and Donna Ellis)

Survey and Educational Outreach Methodology. Visual surveys were conducted by Elizabeth Corrigan (Botanist and Special Payroll Technician), the Project Coordinator, Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) members, and other project cooperators between May and October 2005. The delimiting surveys occurred in the 18 towns in seven counties (Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New London, Tolland, and Windham Counties) where giant hogweed was found during previous survey activities from 2001 through 2004 or reported by the public during educational outreach activities. Surveys extended from each existing infestation to surrounding areas. Surveys also occurred in New Haven County, where giant hogweed has not yet been confirmed. Educational outreach activities were ongoing during the 2005 calendar year.

Rationale Underlying Survey Methodology. Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) Sommier & Levier, is a Federal Noxious Weed that was recently confirmed in Connecticut. A survey, management, and educational outreach project was proposed for Calendar Year 2005 with a goal of continuing to build upon work that was accomplished from 2001 through 2004 in Connecticut. The visual survey will further delimit the existing infestation, which by 2004 had spread to 18 towns in seven of the eight Connecticut counties since it was first reported in 2001, and provide additional distribution data on this invasive non-native weed in Connecticut. Property owners and state agencies affiliated with sites where giant hogweed is detected were provided with management options and encouraged to control these invasive plants. Educational outreach programs are continuing throughout Connecticut to alert and inform the public about the environmental and public health hazards of giant hogweed. Management recommendations are emphasized.

Giant hogweed is a biennial or perennial herbaceous plant that reaches up to 15 feet in height. Leaves grow up to 5 feet wide and the hollow stems of the plant are 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Large numbers of small white flowers are borne on the umbel-shaped inflorescence that extends 2.5 feet across the top. The sap of giant hogweed, a poisonous plant, causes large painful blisters on human skin. Eye contact may result in blindness. Giant hogweed has negative impacts to the environment as well, displacing native flora on riverbanks and in disturbed sites such as waste areas and along railroads.

Giant hogweed was first reported from Litchfield County, Connecticut during APHIS surveys conducted in 2001. Surveys and outreach education continued from 2002 through 2004, with giant hogweed now reported from 18 towns in seven counties. Some towns have multiple sites where this noxious weed has been confirmed. Although 2002-2004 activities were successful in beginning to alert the public about the environmental and health hazards of this Federal Noxious weed, additional delimiting surveys and educational programs are needed to continue these efforts so that we can further determine the extent of giant hogweed population in Connecticut that continues to expand each year.

A delimiting survey, management, and educational outreach project was conducted for giant hogweed in 2005. Surveys for giant hogweed in Connecticut are necessary to further determine the distribution of this invasive plant in Connecticut. Results from the delimiting surveys can be used to develop management recommendations and encourage property owners to control this invasive plant, preferably before seed production occurs. Educational outreach and media communications are being provided to landowners where giant hogweed is found in the state, to

the public, to garden clubs and to state agencies. This information, which includes giant hogweed identification and management options, will detail negative impacts of the Federal Noxious Weed to discourage the public from growing or allowing its spread in Connecticut and the region, and to encourage its removal.

Survey Dates. Survey preparation and preparation of educational materials occurred beginning in the spring of 2005. Visual delimiting surveys, collection and mounting of specimens, discussing management recommendations where giant hogweed is found, and conducting educational outreach occurred from May through December 2005. Confirmation and deposit of plant voucher specimens in the George Safford Torrey Herbarium was completed by 31 December 2005.

Taxonomic Services. Specimens of the suspect invasive plant that were found during the survey period were collected. Confirmation of plant specimens were made by E. Corrigan (Botanist), D. Ellis (University of Connecticut), L. Mehrhoff, (Invasive Plant Atlas of New England), or others affiliated with the University of Connecticut or Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group. Voucher specimens will be deposited in the George Safford Torrey Herbarium at the University of Connecticut.

Benefits and Results of Survey. Visual surveys were primarily conducted by Elizabeth Corrigan. Donna Ellis, Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) members, and other project cooperators from May through September. The delimiting surveys occurred in the 18 towns in seven counties (Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New London, Tolland, and Windham Counties) where giant hogweed was found during previous survey activities from 2001 through 2004 or reported by the public during educational outreach activities or via phone or email inquiries. Surveys extended from each existing infestation to surrounding areas. Additional surveys occurred in New Haven County, where giant hogweed has not been confirmed to date.

Work continued to locate and document new occurrences of Giant Hogweed in Connecticut. Sites reported from previous surveys were revisited to determine whether plants have spread to other areas and to assess success of eradication efforts. Educational outreach was a strong component of the 2005 work. Eradication of plants continued with the assistance of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Windsor.

Six occurrences of potential giant hogweed were reported this year, all of which were field inspected. Three reports were positive, two of which were from Litchfield County (Salisbury) and one from Windham County (Hampton). The Litchfield County plants, growing in gardens on adjacent properties, were traced to the same avid gardener responsible for another population of plants growing roadside in a nearby town (Cornwall, River Road site) where she intentionally scattered the seeds because “the plants were interesting.” The source of the Windham County occurrence was unknown, but seeds may have disseminated via wildlife or they may have traveled downstream in the nearby Little River. Four reports of giant hogweed proved negative: plants from two Litchfield County (Washington and Goshen) reports were identified as *Angelica atropurpurea* (Angelica) while two New Haven County potential occurrences were *Heracleum lanatum* (Cow Parsnip). Both species are native to Connecticut.

Thus far, 23 confirmed occurrences of giant hogweed have been reported in the state. Plants are being controlled at all of the sites, and plants at two sites have been completely eliminated.

At some of the previously reported known sites where giant hogweed has persisted for years, plants were observed to have remained close to the original site of introduction and have not spread into new areas. One site, however, is of concern because plants spread into the adjacent forest, 100 feet or more uphill from the core population, most of which had been eradicated over the past few years.

In addition to informing individual property owners on a case-by-case basis about the dangers of giant hogweed and methods of control, adaptation of The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Giant Hogweed educational brochure for Connecticut is being finalized and the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) web-site was updated with current information. Eradication efforts by Dr. Todd Mervosh and individual property owners have been successful. Some populations have been eliminated while others are showing significant signs of decline.

Survey results will contribute delimiting data on the distribution and range of giant hogweed in Connecticut. Survey summaries and educational materials are being made available to the public to help them learn how to identify and control this invasive species. Providing management recommendations for giant hogweed may help reduce the spread of this troublesome plant in Connecticut and throughout the region. Efforts will also continue to develop a core of volunteers from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group or other affiliations who will assist with public inquiries of giant hogweed in the state.

Specimens of the suspect invasive plant that were found during the survey period were collected. Confirmation of plant specimens was made by Elizabeth Corrigan, Donna Ellis, Les Mehrhoff, (Invasive Plant Atlas of New England), or other scientists or Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group members. Voucher specimens were deposited in the George Safford Torrey Herbarium at the University of Connecticut.

A delineated map was created showing the current range of giant hogweed. The map shows each town where plants have been confirmed, and has been posted on the CIPWG website (www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg). Educational information on giant hogweed was compiled and distributed during the project period to property owners, garden clubs, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection staff, Connecticut Department of Transportation staff, other state agencies, and the public.

A list serve for invasive plants (CIPWG-L) created by Donna Ellis in January 2005 at the University of Connecticut continues to grow in the number of subscribers. The list serve provides an avenue for exchange of information on invasive plant issues. More than 500 people have subscribed to the list serve to date.

All objective have been met and there were no cost overruns.

Presence/absence data for giant hogweed were submitted to the NAPIS database by the CAPS State Survey Coordinator following creation of voucher specimens and confirmation of identification. No new county records have been confirmed to date.

Additional noxious weed activities focused on new populations of mile-a-minute vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*), which were reported recently by Elizabeth Corrigan in Bridgewater (Litchfield County) and New Milford (Fairfield County). A Mile-a-minute Vine Pest Alert was developed and disseminated to town residents, town staff members, and was posted on the CIPWG website. The pest alert was also included in the September 2005 issue of *Connecticut Clippings*, the trade publication for the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Numerous phone calls and emails from town residents followed the distribution of the pest alert, and site visits were made by Elizabeth Corrigan to identify the plants that were reported.

In August 2005, following a number of communications between Elizabeth Corrigan and Bruce Villwock with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT), the CT DOT treated an incursion of mile-a-minute vine along a section of state road frontage and two properties contiguous to the roadside population. We were very appreciative of the CT DOT's efforts as part of the Rapid Response plan underway for mile-a-minute vine.

On October 17, Elizabeth Corrigan and Kathleen Nelson (CIPWG member) organized a work party in New Milford to begin control of a large population of mile-a-minute vine. Twelve volunteers hand-pulled the prickly vines and filled 58 large, industrial-size plastic bags, which were subsequently hauled away by town staff. The Danbury New-Times published an article on the outstanding work done by the volunteers to control this invasive plant.

*Submitted by Donna Ellis and Elizabeth Corrigan
31 March, 2006*

**Giant Hogweed in Connecticut
2005 Update
Towns, Counties, Acreage of Original Population**

<u>Town</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Acreage (Square Feet) of Original Population</u>
Trumbull	Fairfield	800
Wilton	Fairfield	225
Bloomfield	Hartford	site 1: 600
Bloomfield	Hartford	site 2: 200
Granby	Hartford	60
Simsbury	Hartford	100
Somers	Hartford	9
Canaan	Litchfield	400
Cornwall	Litchfield	site 1: 400
Cornwall	Litchfield	site 2: 43,560
New Milford	Litchfield	100
North Canaan	Litchfield	site 1: 200
North Canaan	Litchfield	site 2: 120
North Canaan	Litchfield	site 3: 120
North Canaan	Litchfield	site 4: 90
North Canaan	Litchfield	site 5: 150
Salisbury	Litchfield	site 1: 9
Salisbury	Litchfield	site 2: 105
Thomaston	Litchfield	60
Warren	Litchfield	site 1: 500
Warren	Litchfield	site 2: 180
Washington	Litchfield	site 1: 1
Washington	Litchfield	site 2: 625
Washington	Litchfield	site 3: 18
Clinton	Middlesex	9
Griswold	New London	100
Coventry	Tolland	100
Brooklyn	Windham	9
Canterbury	Windham	400
Hampton	Windham	25
	TOTAL	1.125 Acres