

Invasive Species Management

The Problem with Invasive Plants

These are plants that can spread into natural areas, develop self-sustaining populations, and become dominant and disruptive in those ecosystems. Invasive plants out-compete native plants for light, water, and nutrients. They can eliminate entire native plant communities, thus reducing the food and habitat for wildlife.



Wavyleaf Basketgrass



Lesser Celandine



Mile-a-Minute

Invasive Plant Characteristics

- Grow fast and mature early
- Reproduce profusely by seed or other plant part
- Extensive roots or rhizomes to store energy
- Difficult to remove or control
- Spread quickly over large areas
- Have few natural predators or diseases



Common Eastern Bumblebee



Yellow-breasted Chat

Habitat Management and Invasive Species

Early successional habitat is in short supply in our region, causing a decline in many species of wildflowers, pollinators, and birds that depend on meadows and shrubby habitats. Creating early successional habitat means creating a disturbance. Invasive plants thrive in disturbed areas, making invasive species control a major challenge for habitat management. Natural Resource Managers control invasives by pulling, cutting, mowing, targeted herbicide applications, biological controls, and even with goats.

What Can You Do?

- Be aware and learn to recognize invasive species
- Remove invasive species from your landscape before they escape to natural areas
- Avoid introducing invasive species and plant native alternatives in your garden
- Check your hiking boots and clothes to avoid spreading invasive plant seeds
- Volunteer for a Weed Warriors or Conservation Stewardship Program at your local park



Eco-Goats Eating Invasive Plants



Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation



David Ludwig Memorial Fund



Community Partners who support habitat management in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area: