

A Friendly Notice about Invasive Plants

It appears your property may contain
Swallow-Wort



Invasive plants are aggressive non-native species that reproduce rapidly, outcompete native species, and can negatively impact agriculture, industry, recreation, forestry, human health, and the environment. Invasive plants may be introduced unintentionally, as hitchhikers on clothing, gear, or equipment, or unknowingly, often for ornamental purposes.

This notice is part of the early detection, response, and monitoring plan for the **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program** whose mission is to protect the region from the negative impacts of invasive species.

For more information contact the
Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
518-576-2082, P.O. Box 65, Keene Valley, NY 12943
www.adkinvasives.com

SWALLOW-WORT SPECIES

(*Cynanchum spp.*) Origin: Europe

THE PROBLEM: Swallow-wort species can form extensive patches that rapidly crowd out native vegetation. A member of the milkweed family, swallow-wort is known to impact monarch butterflies which mistake it for native milkweed and lay their eggs on the plant. When hatched, the larvae are unable to develop and survive. Swallow-wort is able to spread long distances by its wind dispersed seeds. The plant is poor forage for deer and other wildlife.

HOW TO IDENTIFY: The swallow-worts are perennial, twining herbaceous vines. The leaves are oval shaped with pointed tips and occur in pairs along the stem. The small 5-petaled star shaped flowers are dark purple or pale pink, borne in clusters, and emerge in June-July. The fruits are slender tapered pods, 2-3 in. long. Plants have underground stems that sprout new plants and grow in clumps, forming extensive patches.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Excavation of small infestations or foliar spray of triclopyr-based herbicides once the plants are in flower are effective means for control - follow regulations. Stay out of patches that are actively dispersing seeds.

Observer name: _____

Phone #: _____

Date species was observed: _____

Comments: _____

Thank you for your help in the fight against
invasive species!