



Nebraska Invasive Species Project

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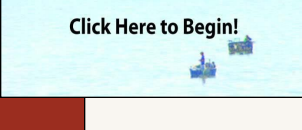
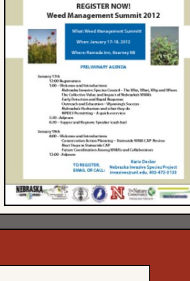


REGISTER NOW!

NE WEED MANAGEMENT SUMMIT!

JAN 17-18

RAMADA INN, KEARNEY



**PLEASE HELP US WITH
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
MANAGEMENT IN NEBRASKA.**

ONLINE SURVEY!

Happy Holidays from the Invasive Species Project!

[One person's invasive species is another's Christmas tree](#)

Statesman Journal—Out with the firs, in with the oaks. That's the idea behind the inventive opportunity for you to help restore native trees and plants and pick up a Christmas tree at the same time.



Please! Don't move fire-wood (or Christmas trees) this holiday season!!

[The invasive species biologist version of "The Night Before"](#)

Other News

[As you head out hunting...remember...unlikely stow-aways: seeds travel to far-way places on cars, trucks, and ATVs](#)

Weed Science Society of America spotlights research by Montana State University on the role vehicles play in the spread of invasive weed species.

When you take your four-wheel drive out for a spin this fall, you might be bringing home more than memories. Researchers at Montana State University have found that vehicles are routinely transporting invasive weed seeds.

Seeds can stow away on tires, bumpers, wheel wells or the underside of a vehicle and sometimes travel great distances before falling off in a new locale. As weed seeds sprout and grow, they can crowd out native plants, disrupt native ecosystems and wildlife habitats and reduce crop yields when they spread to nearby fields.

['Kudzu Bug' Threatens To Eat Southern U.S. Soybean Crops](#)

Huff Post Green: Kudzu – the "plant that ate the South" – has finally met a pest that's just as voracious. Trouble is, the so-called "kudzu bug" is also fond of another East Asian transplant that we happen to like, and that is big money for American farmers. Soybeans. "When this insect is feeding on kudzu, it's beneficial," Clemson University entomologist Jeremy Greene says as he stands in a field swarming with the brown, pea-sized critters.

"When it's feeding on soybeans, it's a pest." Like kudzu, which was introduced to the South from Japan in the late 19th century as a fodder and a way to stem erosion on the region's worn-out farmlands, this insect is native to the Far East. And like the invasive vine, which "Deliverance" author James Dickey famously deemed "a vegetable form of cancer," the kudzu bug is running rampant. *Megacopta cribraria*, as this member of the stinkbug family is known in scientific circles, was first identified near Atlanta in late October 2009.

[Alien rats take on prey's role](#)

BBC News—The rats, which are responsible for devastating the native pollinator populations, are attracted to the flowers for their nectar.

The results could mean that the decline of pollinating animals worldwide does not spell the end for all native plants. The results are published in a *Royal Society journal*. Almost 90% of the world's flowering plants are pollinated by animals.

Insect pollination alone is estimated to be worth £141bn (\$224bn) each year, and according to a report from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) bees pollinate over two-thirds of the world's crops. So the decline of the world's pollinating animals has unsurprisingly sparked concerns about lower yields and serious long-term food shortages among farmers and governments.

[Colorado and Wyoming Boat Inspection Programs deemed a success in Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention](#)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife's boat inspectors, in cooperation with other state-certified partners, checked more than 420,000 boats for aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in 2011. Quagga or zebra mussels were found on eight boats, which were decontaminated by the inspectors prior to entering Colorado waters. None of the eight infested boats had come from Colorado's lakes and reservoirs. The state's ANS program emphasizes educating Colorado boat owners about checking and cleaning their vessels before entering the state's waters. " [Read further about Colorado](#)

Wyoming's second boating season following passage of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) legislation in 2010 was deemed a success based on the numbers of boats inspected, AIS decal sales, and overall cooperation from boaters.

Beginning this spring in May, through Sept. 15, a total of 42,805 watercraft inspections were conducted at 33 different waters throughout Wyoming. According to AIS coordinator Beth Bear, the majority were standard inspections with very few high risk inspections or decontaminations. [Read about the Wyoming Program](#)

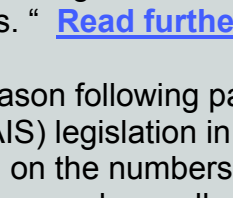
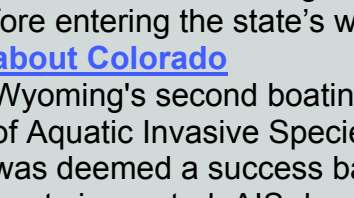
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READ ABOUT NEBRASKA'S PREVENTION PROGRAM IN OUR [LAST NEWSLETTER](#) OR IN [PRAIRIEFIRE!](#)



[Drought opens door to new invasive weed varieties](#)

Southwest Farm Press—Cattle raisers buying out-of-state hay could be setting themselves up for an invasive weed nightmare in years to come, an unexpected complication caused by the devastating drought across Texas. So warns Dr. Barron Rector, associate professor and Extension range specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

"Interstate highways across Texas are full of trucks bringing in out-of-state hay in response to the drought, but along with the hay comes the risk of spreading types of invasive weeds not common in Texas, and there is a real danger that many of these non-native weed varieties could start cropping up in the pasture next year or even in years to come if landowners are unaware of the danger," Rector says.

[Electric fish barrier getting more power](#)

Journal Sentinel— The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced late Monday that it will be cranking up the power on the electric fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in an effort to keep Asian carp from swimming up the canal and into Lake Michigan. In October the Army Corps announced it would turn up the voltage on the barrier because of fears that the barrier was not operating at a strong enough voltage to repel all sizes of migrating carp.

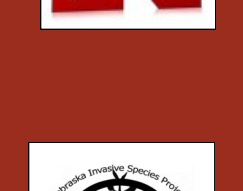
[Plant pests: The biggest threats to food security?](#)

BBC News—The threat posed to crop production by plant pests and diseases is one the key factors that could lead to "a perfect storm" that threatens to destabilise global food security.

Already, the biological threat accounts for about a 40% loss in global production and the problem is forecast to get worse, scientists warn.

BBC News has asked Dr Matthew Cock, chief scientist for Cabi, a UK-based agri-environment research organisation, to compile a list of the worst plant pests threatening crops around the world.

- QUICK CONNECTION**
- [Asian Carp Reality TV](#)
 - [Missouri](#)
 - [Plant Pests & Food Security](#)
 - [Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference](#)
Dec 4-7, Des Moines, IA
 - [North Central Weed Science/ Midwest Invasive Plant Network](#)
Dec 12-15, Milwaukee, WI
 - [Nebraska Weed Management Summit](#)
Jan 17-18, Kearney NE
 - Other great News Sources-
 - [National Invasive Species Info Center](#)
 - [Protect Your Waters](#)
 - [Science Daily-- Invasives](#)
 - [U.S. Forest Service Invasives News](#)



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