

Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) Contract Number: 16-012

Final Report, December 15, 2016

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County led the collection and sharing of research-based information on invasive terrestrial plants for the Lower Hudson PRISM organization.

A initial review was conducted for the terrestrial plant species identified as the “LHPRISM Focal Species List for Surveying in 2016”. Utilizing the existing LHPRISM.org web site, and the “Information Exchange” tab, all the existing information was verified, new pages were created for missing species, and fact sheets were discovered and linked where information was missing or minimal. A subsequent review and update was conducted for the remaining terrestrial plants on the LHPRISM Information Exchange tab. The result is that the Information Tab (<http://www.lhprism.org/content/information-exchange>) is now a robust portal to fact sheets from credible sources including: Go Botany; Invasive.org; IPANE; USDA Weed of the Week, PCA Alien Plant info, Least Wanted and Weeds Gone Wild ; NYIS; and GISD.

Cornell University staff was apprised of this LHPRISM project. Their support for following activities (such as creating additional materials) was requested. Existing materials from CU and Cornell Cooperative Extension attendees were gathered and included in the LHPRISM.org portal where appropriate. Cornell’s Woody Plant Database information was especially helpful for information on vines, trees and shrubs (www.woodyplants.cals.cornell.edu).

A task force of ten CCE Dutchess Master Gardener volunteers analyzed the ‘New York State Prohibited and Regulation Invasive Plants’ list and selected a subset of plants which consumers might purchase and plant for ornamental purposes. The goal – create a presentation “*CCEDC Ornamental Alternatives to Invasive Species*”.

The ornamental and cultural characteristics of the targeted invasive plants were analyzed. Recommendations were made to replace those characteristics with non-invasive alternative plants. Choices were not limited to native species but the bulk of the suggested alternatives are in fact, natives. A list of proposed ornamental alternatives for each invasive was created as the basis for the educational presentation. Invasive plants which would not be likely to be purchased for ornamental purposes for example, Garlic Mustard, were not included in this project.

Educational materials were created from that analysis.

- For each category (vines, trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and grasses) a set of slides were created with identified target invasive plants and the ornamental alternatives.
- Each alternative slide includes the common and botanical name, height and spread, ornamental characteristics, cultural requirements and attributes, native status and at least one photograph.
- Sources for the information were mainly Cornell’s Woody Plants database, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plants database, the USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Service Plants Database and the Biota of North America Program North American Plant Atlas

- Display boards were created based on this and CCE Putnam's Best Management Practices project.
- The materials were presented at a "Train the Trainers" on November 14. Attendees included LHPRISM partners and their volunteers, and Cornell Master Gardener Volunteers from the seven Lower Hudson Counties. Instructors from CCE Dutchess, CCE Rockland and the New York Botanical Garden trained 37 people with the assumption that they will use the materials to teach others throughout the region.

Additionally, a set of 5 durable portable large visual display boards were created and printed for the training. They are large (31" x 23"), sturdy, weatherproof and suitable for indoor and outdoor events such as community events and farmers' markets.

Two sets have been made available for each county, one set for LHPRISM leadership and one for the New York Botanical Garden's use. The content is:

1. Overview of the problem; DEC Prohibited / Regulated designations; Expert organizations.
2. Plant Identification: Branching patterns, Leaf characteristics, Bark; Fruit; Flowers.
3. LHPRISM focal areas examples for vines, trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and grasses.
4. Ornamental alternative desired attributes and examples of alternatives of each type of plant.
5. Best Management Practices: Manual, Mechanical, Biological and other methods.

All materials created have been provided to LHPRISM leadership for their future use. Examples are included in this report.

Respectfully submitted

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