

## **Invasive Pest, Plants and Weeds Workshop Planned for Wilkes-Barre**

Invasive species (plants, insects, and animals) are costing the United States more than \$138 billion each year, due to their economic impact on agriculture, forestry, fisheries, wildlife, ornamental landscapes, waterways, and the Nation's other natural resources. Invasive species impair biological diversity by causing population declines, species extinctions, shifts in predator-prey dynamics, shifts in species niches, changes in habitat, and reductions in ecosystem complexity.

**Exotic Invasive Plants** grow aggressively, spread quickly, and displace native plants. They are a major threat to our natural and cultivated landscapes.

On Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Penn State Cooperative Extension will offer a workshop titled "Invasive Pests, Plants and Weeds: Identifying and Controlling Unwanted Guests in Your Landscape". This full day program will be held at the Luzerne County Emergency Management Building on Water Street in Wilkes-Barre. Attendees must pre-register for the workshop which has a fee of \$25 to cover lunch and written materials.

Workshop attendees will learn how to identify and control invasive plants such as Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Mile-a-minute (*Polygonum perfoliatum*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Exotic Honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*), and others.

They will also learn about several invasive insects and diseases such as emerald ash borer, and sudden oak death that are at our borders and pose a major threat

to Pennsylvania's forests and landscapes

If you are a nurseryman, landscape contractor, grounds manager, forester, municipal roadside manager, or watershed and greenway volunteer that deals with invasive plants, weeds and insect or disease pests, then you should attend this program. Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator CEU's will be awarded to licensed applicators that attend this workshop.

To register for "Invasive Pests, Plants and Weeds" or request a flyer, contact Luzerne County Cooperative Extension at (570) 825-1701. Attendees must register before October 21, 2005. This workshop was developed in cooperation with the following partners: USDA Forest Service, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, PA Community Forestry Council, and Luzerne County Engineer's Office.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

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