

# → Invasive Plant Alerts ←



*Black Swallow-wort*

Summer is prime time to finish pulling Garlic Mustard, before its seeds spread further. It is also a critical time to dig up or cut back the **Black Swallow-wort (BSW)** that has invaded Newton neighborhoods and public spaces.

Have you seen this vine popping up everywhere? Greenish bluish leaves, somewhat glossy, in pairs opposite to each other, little purple flowers, forming long seed pods? It loves to climb but also will mass on the ground if it has nothing to climb on. This is **Black Swallow-wort**, an invader from Europe in the milkweed family. Monarch butterflies mistake it for our native milkweed and lay their eggs on it — but the Monarch larvae die. Each seed pod releases hundreds more seeds on white fluffy fibers, carried by the wind to start new infestations.

Dig **Black Swallow-wort** out, or at least cut it back and get all the seed pods off — and put them in your trash not into yard waste! Here is a flyer with more details: [https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/swallowwort\\_flyer.pdf](https://newtonconservators.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/swallowwort_flyer.pdf)

You can find detailed information, about this and the other major plants invading Newton, at the new Newton Conservators Invasive Plant section of the website (under Resources). Click here to reach the Gallery of invasive species: <https://newtonconservators.org/black-swallow-wort/>

## Can you help us pull?

Our invasive plant pulls have continued all spring, but were not publicized widely to comply with cover restrictions. Now we welcome broad participation and will promote our remaining scheduled sessions, shown below. We will post these as Events on our website, and schedule more sessions for the late summer and fall. For more information contact Katherine Howard at [katherineh998@gmail.com](mailto:katherineh998@gmail.com). Thank you!

- **June 12, Saturday, 9:30:** .....Hemlock Gorge (meet at Ellis St. lot)
- **June 19, Saturday, 9:30-11:30:** ....Dolan Pond, Knotweed (meet at Webster Park entrance)
- **July 10, Saturday, 1-3:** .....CSP, BSW (Kiosk at Beacon St. entrance)
- **July 11, Sunday 1-3:**.....Crystal Lake, BSW, Bittersweet (pocket park opposite 1401 Centre St.)
- **July 17, Saturday, 9:30:** .....Hemlock Gorge, BSW (meet at Ellis St. lot)
- **July 18, Sunday, 1-3:** .....Hemlock Gorge, BSW (meet at Ellis St. lot)

## A new Invasive Species in Newton?



*Autumn Olive*

Autumn Olive (*elaegnus umbellata*), a small shrubby tree, was recently found in one of our parks. It is on Mass Audubon's top-ten list, but was thought to be not prevalent in Newton. It has narrow tapered leaves with silvery undersides, an overall silvery appearance, creamy fragrant flowers, and red berries in fall. If you see it here, please contact Katherine Howard at [katherineh998@gmail.com](mailto:katherineh998@gmail.com). Thank you!