

WATCH FOR INVASIVE DOG STRANGLING VINE – KEEP IT OUT OF THE WATERSHED

Dog strangling vine is actually an invasive exotic milkweed. Once it gets a start in a new area, it spreads by wind-blown seeds and can completely take over from all the other herbaceous plants. *Some forest areas in southern Ontario are dog strangling vine, wall to wall.*

This invasive is widespread in the Ottawa area and spreading to other parts of eastern Ontario. Plants have been identified in Kingston. To date we have no record of it in the Salmon River watershed. And we don't want it here.

It can be controlled but success requires finding the earliest invaders and digging them out and destroying any seeds on them.

If every member of the Friends of the Salmon River would learn to inspect their lands for this plant, remove any invaders and inform FSR of the location, we could prevent a very damaging invasion.

How to recognize the plant and how to deal with it are detailed below. Questions or reported occurrences can be sent to gmerriam@xplornet.ca - 613 335 3589 or to moorepartnersusan@gmail.com - 613 379 5958.



Appearance

2 metres high with dark, twining, shiny oval leaves, 5-10 cm long.

5-lobed purple flower.

Pods with parachute seeds appear in autumn.

Easy to identify in late fall when plants are bright yellow.

Where found

Ravines, hills, waste areas, fence rows, streamsides, shores, in sun & shade, all soils

Effect on natives

Forms dense patches, destroys all other plants, by shading and changing soil acidity.

Monarch butterflies lay eggs on it by mistake and eggs die.

How to control

Dig out plants. Soak seeds. Place in green or black bag in sun for many weeks.

Then compost plant remains.

A beetle is being studied for possible biocontrol.