



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
 F. Philip Prelli, Commissioner  
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Marketing & Technology Bureau, (860) 713-2503  
 Jessey Ina-Lee, Editor  
 Wednesday, January 21, 2009

## NOTES from the DEPARTMENT . . .

### MILE-A-MINUTE VINE: A NEW INVASIVE PLANT SPREADING IN CONNECTICUT

Dr. Todd L. Mervosh, Weed Scientist, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Valley Laboratory, Windsor

As its name implies, 'mile-a-minute vine' grows rapidly. Not nearly that fast, but its growth rate can be up to 6 inches per day, which is how this annual species can reach lengths of 25 to 30 feet by the end of the growing season. It definitely "grows like a weed!" Unfortunately, this non-native invasive plant has been spreading in Connecticut for nearly a decade, despite the efforts of many people to control its populations wherever they are found.

Mile-a-minute vine (MAM) is native to eastern Asia, including Japan, Korea, China, India and Indonesia. The scientific name for MAM, a member of the Polygonaceae (buckwheat or smartweed family) is *Persicaria perfoliata* (formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*). Other common names for mile-a-minute vine include mile-a-minute weed, Asian tear-thumb and devil's tear-thumb, referring to the sharp barbs on its stems that can cut a person's hands.

MAM has triangular leaves arranged alternately on long, thin stems with barbs. In most cases the leaves are distinctly shaped like equilateral triangles. Circular ocreae (cup-like sheaths) surround the stem at each node. Clusters of green berry-like fruits (~5 mm diameter) start to form in mid summer. As the fruits ripen, they turn a shiny, metallic blue color. Each fruit contains one spherical black seed 2 to 3 mm in diameter. MAM is sensitive to frost; its vines die following the first hard frost of autumn.

MAM seeds have a hard seed coat and remain viable in soil for 4 to 7 years, with germination staggered during this period. Seeds begin germinating in early spring and emergence continues throughout the growing season. After initial seedling development, the stems start to grow rapidly, with the vines climbing trees and covering shrubs and other low vegetation. Long-distance dispersal of MAM seed is facilitated by animals (including many bird species, squirrels and chipmunks) that eat the fruit. The seeds generally remain viable after passing through their digestive systems. Fruits can also float in water for several days, so MAM seeds can be deposited along river banks miles downstream.

MAM was first detected in the United States in the 1930s at a nursery site in York, Pennsylvania (southeastern PA). Since then, MAM infestations have occurred in many states in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. It is a serious invasive plant problem in natural areas,

including meadows, stream banks, forested edges and open woods. Also, MAM has become a major weed of agricultural production such as Christmas tree and nursery fields. MAM grows up and over trees and shrubs, forming dense mats that can smother the plants below, thus explaining why some people refer to MAM as the "kudzu of the North." The plants are similar in that both have rapidly growing, climbing vines, but MAM is an annual species compared to kudzu, a perennial in the legume family.

MAM was first reported in Connecticut in 2000. This original Connecticut population was discovered in Greenwich, at the very southwestern corner of the state near the New York border. Since that time, mile-a-minute populations have been found in several towns in the western part of Connecticut, including Stamford, Westport, Fairfield, New Milford, Bridgewater, Monroe and Newtown. The most recent MAM population to be found is in Quinnipiac River State Park (town of North Haven). This sizable infestation was discovered by Peter Picone of the DEP Wildlife Division in August 2008. The North Haven site is also the furthest east that a MAM population has been reported in Connecticut. So unfortunately, this weed continues to spread into new areas of Connecticut.

In 2003, The State of Connecticut, upon recommendation by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council, approved an official list of 81 plant species that are classified as invasive or potentially invasive [Conn. General Assembly, Public Act 03-136 (2003)]. Of the plants on that list, more than 60 species are now prohibited or banned, making it illegal to "move, sell, purchase, transplant, cultivate or distribute" these plants [Conn. General Assembly, Public Act 04-203 (2004)]. Mile-a-minute vine is one of the prohibited invasive plants in Connecticut.

Many people have been working diligently to eradicate or at least control infestations of MAM in Connecticut. These efforts include hand-pulling, mowing, and/or herbicide application. The key to a MAM control program is to prevent the weed from producing viable seeds. Thus, MAM plants should be eliminated before the fruits have formed.

Because MAM is an annual with a shallow root system, hand pulling of seedlings and young vines is relatively easy as long as gloves are worn to protect hands from the sharp barbs. In open areas, repeated mowing or cutting of vines before flowering will weaken plants and prevent production of fruits and seeds. But low-growing vines may not be cut by a mower.

**MORE INVASIVE PLANTS ON PAGE 3**

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES U.S.D.A.**

**January 20, 2009**

Prices To Retailers, Sales To Volume Buyers,  
USDA Grade A and Grade A, White Eggs In  
Cartons, Warehouse, Cents Per Dozen

EXTRA LARGE	119-123
LARGE	118-122
MEDIUM	85-87

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, CT, January 19, 2009

Live animals brought the following average  
prices per cwt.:

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	20.00	22.00
61-75 lbs.	26.00	30.00
76-90 lbs.	32.00	34.00
91-105 lbs.	36.00	44.00
106 lbs. & up	45.00	48.00
Farm Calves	50.00	60.00
Started Calves	28.00	32.00
Veal Calves	77.50	100.00
Open Heifers	72.50	85.00
Beef Heifers	46.00	52.00
Feeder Steers	75.00	87.50
Beef Steers	35.00	49.00
Stock Bulls	70.00	92.50
Beef Bulls	42.00	57.00
Replacement Heifers	1000.00	1025.00
Feeder Pigs each	2 @	15.00
Sheep each	67.50	95.00
Lambs each	57.50	117.50
Goats each	65.00	132.50
Kid Goats each	40.00	47.50
Canners	Up to	45.75
Cutters	46.00	48.00
Utility Grade Cows	49.25	53.25
Rabbits each	6.00	17.00
Chickens each	5.00	18.00
Ducks each	9.00	22.00

Provided by Middlesex Livestock Auction.

**NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

MONDAY, January 19, 2008

Bulk/High/Low Dressing

**SLAUGHTER COWS:**

Breakers	75-80% lean		
	47.00-50.00	50.00-50.50	45.00-47.00
Boners	80-85% lean		
	44.00-47.00	47.00-49.50	42.00-44.00
Lean	85-90% lean		
	40.00-44.00	44.00-46.50	37.00-40.00

**SLAUGHTER BULLS: Yield Grade 1-2**

1125-1880 lbs	58.00-63.50
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**SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn**

Choice and Prime 2-3

50-60 lbs	146.00-162
60-70 lbs	143.00-160.00
70-80 lbs	146.00-164.00
80-90 lbs	142.00-158.00
90-110 lbs	138.00-150.00
110-130 lbs	125.00-128.00

**SLAUGHTER GOATS: All goats are Selection 1, sold by the head, on estimated weights.**

Kids: 40-60 lbs	58.00-75.00
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**FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

**NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5lb	9.00	11.00
APPLE CIDER, 4-1 gallons	15.00	15.00
APPLES, Cortland 96ct xfancy	21.00	22.00
APPLES, McIntosh, US#1 100ct	16.00	17.00
APPLES, McIntosh 80 ct xfancy	19.00	20.00
APPLES, Red Delicious, bu, no grade	14.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10lb bag	5.00	6.00
CABBAGE, Red Organic 40lb	38.00	38.00
CELERY ROOT, 20lb organic	20.00	20.00
POTATOES, Russet 90ct US1	12.00	12.00
POTATOES, Round White Chef 50lbs US1	12.00	12.00
POTATOES, Round White 10/5lbs	13.00	13.00
SQUASH, Acorn Organic 35lb	32.00	32.00
SQUASH, Butternut 1-1/9 bu lg	18.00	20.00
SQUASH, Butternut Organic med	32.00	32.00
SQUASH, Delicate Organic 35lb	37.00	37.50
TOMATOES, 11lb on vine Greenhouse	21.00	21.00
TURNIPS, purple top ,25lb	12.00	12.00

**SHIPPED IN**

ARRUGULA, 3lb bag FL	14.00	14.00
ASPARAGUS, 11lb Green lge PERU	28.00	28.00
AVOCADOS, 8ct FL	13.00	13.00
BEANS, Wax bu FLA	25.00	26.00
BROCCOLI, bunched 14's CAL	17.00	18.00
CABBAGE, Green 50lb med.lge NY	9.00	10.00
CLEMENTINES, 5lb SP	4.50	5.00
CUCUMBERS, 1-1/9bu med FLA	38.00	40.00
GRAPES, 18lb bagged Thompson, CHILE	27.00	29.00
LETTUCE, Iceburg 24's CAL	24.00	25.00
ONION, Red med 25lb NY	7.50	8.00
ORANGES, Navel 7/8bu US1 , 88ct CAL	19.00	22.00
PEPPER, Green lge 1-1/9bu FL	18.00	20.00
RASPBERRIES, 12 - 1/2pt Organic MEX	57.00	57.00
ROMAINE, 24's CA	19.00	23.00
SPINACH, Baby 4lb AZ	9.00	10.00

Above quotations are based on Boston Terminal Prices

60-80 lbs	66.00-84.00	
80-100 lbs	98.00-111.00	MKT
100-120 lbs	105.00-118.00	SCRD
Yearlings: 120-140 lbs	92.00-102.00	COD MKT
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	74.00-88.00	SCRD
130-180 lbs	98.00-122.00	MIXED COD
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs	124.00-152.00	POLLOCK
150-250 lbs	158.00-170.00	POLL MED

**NEW HOLLAND, PA HOG AUCTION**

Mon January 19, 2009

Hogs sold by actual weights, prices quoted by  
hundred weight.

Percent Lean	Weight	Price
49-54	220-270 lbs	47.00-51.00
	270-300 lbs	45.00-48.00
	300-350 lbs	48.00-52.00
45-49	220-270 lbs	43.00-47.00
	270-300 lbs	42.00-45.00
	300-350 lbs	44.00-48.00
40-45	220-270 lbs	39.00-43.00
	270-300 lbs	38.00-42.00
	300-350 lbs	40.00-44.00
Sows: US 1-3	300-500 lbs	45.00-50.50
	500-700 lbs	50.50-55.50
Boars:	300-700 lbs	12.00

	0.8	172	182
	3.1	122	142
	0.2	123	123
	2.4	134	149
	0.5	103	130
	0.4	100	100
	0.0	42	42
	0.0	37	37
	0.0	32	32
	0.0	114	114
	0.0	132	132
	0.0	80	80
	0.0	25	25
	0.2	337	337
	1.5	270	270
	3.3	137	146
	0.0	151	151
	0.1	134	134
	0.0	108	108
	3.0	122	126
	1.2	96	96
	0.6	374	416
	0.4	262	294
	4.6	38	40
	0.2	95	95

**METROPOLITAN AREA U.S.D.A.**

**NEW YORK PRICES WHITE EGGS TO RETAILERS**

For 1 dozen,  
Grade A eggs on:  
**January 20, 2009**

EXTRA LARGE	127-131
LARGE	125-129
MEDIUM	94-98

Above quotations based on  
CARTON sales to retailers.

**NEW BEDFORD WHALING CITY SEAFOOD DISPLAY AUCTION**

SEA SCALLOPS LANDINGS &  
PRICES IN 1,000 LBS  
DATE 1/20/09  
SPECIES SEA SCALLOPS  
LBS MIN HIGH

U/10 ELEPHANT TRUNK	9.6	825	830
U/12	0.1	740	740
10/20	10.9	725	725

**NEW BEDFORD - WHALING CITY SEAFOOD DISPLAY AUCTION**

FISH LANDINGS & PRICES IN  
1,000 LBS & \$/CWT  
DATE 1/20/09

SPECIES	MIN	HIGH	LBS
HADDOCK	0.1	122	122
HADD SCR D	0.1	116	116
JIG LGE COD 1/	0.0	182	182
MKT	0.7	133	133
SCR D	0.1	112	112
GILLNET LGE COD			

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### FOR SALE

1-R. CT. Christmas Tree Growers, CT. Sheep Breeders and CT. Beekeepers Associations Special Insurance Packages available through Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency--Toll Free 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323 or [ddonahue01@comcast.net](mailto:ddonahue01@comcast.net). Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

2-R. Farm Insurance for all types of farming at very competitive rates. 1-800-554-8049, 1-877-267-8323 or [ddonahue01@comcast.net](mailto:ddonahue01@comcast.net), Blumenthal/Donahue Insurance Agency. Farm Commercial Auto Coverage now available.

3-R. CT Grown Mesh Bags - The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has CT Grown Mesh Bags for sale. These bags are super strong and exceptionally attractive. The dimensions are 16" l x 5" w x 12" h. They are being sold by the case (40 per case) for \$156.16. For more information or to order, please call (860)713-2503.

4-R. Gallagher High Tensile and portable electric fencing for farms, deer control, gardens. Sonpal's Power Fence (860) 491-2290.

5-R. Tents for Sale: The Department of Agriculture will be ordering more Connecticut Grown Tents. These will be sold on a cost-share basis so the tents will be available for around \$200-\$225 (price to be determined). If you'd like one or more of the tents or if you have questions, please contact Rick Macsuga at (860) 713-2544.

6-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm (860) 376-2227.

9-R. Rough sawn lumber, fence boards, trailer planks, stakes, custom and portable sawing available. (203) 788-2430.

17-R. Curtis 7'-6" powerangle snow plow set to fit JD 460 quick attach front end loader. New \$1,750. Insulate 2-bowl antifreeze livestock waterers - \$150 each. (203) 996-9342.

### WANTED

13-R. John Deere 3940, 50, 60 or 70 corn chopper wanted. Running or parts. Prefer 3960. Also wanted, 1 or 2 point sub soiler. (860) 875-0280.

14-R. Belt thrower wanted for New Holland baler. Must be hydraulic powered. Evenings (860) 859-0343.

16-R. Wanted: Farmers for the CT Farm-to-School - The Farm-to-School Program is a statewide effort designed to incorporate CT Grown fresh fruits and vegetables into local schools cafeteria meals and snacks. This project is intended to be twofold: to support local farms and to offer more nutritious school meals as a result of buying local, fresh, produce. If you are interested in selling to one, several, or to a whole school district of schools (through a wholesaler or direct), call Jane Slupecki at (860) 713-2588 or at [Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov](mailto:Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov)

15-R. New Holland Baler #273 wanted in working condition. Call (860) 274-8159.

### MISCELLANEOUS

7-R. Farm/Land Specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

8-R. Horse properties, Farms and Land. Ralph's the man specializing in all types of Real Estate. With a lifetime of agricultural and business experience he is the best choice to represent both buyers and sellers and make your dreams come true. Call Ralph Winn with Century 21 Alaimo & Corrado at (860) 648-6902 or [www.winwithWINN.com](http://www.winwithWINN.com).

10-R. We have buyers for land/farms suitable for horses. Can we sell yours? Check our track record at [www.HorseCountryRealEstate.net](http://www.HorseCountryRealEstate.net). Patti Brooks 860-442-4237

### INVASIVE PLANTS FROM PAGE 1

Several herbicides will control MAM, but an adequate concentration of surfactant is necessary in the spray solution to ensure retention of spray on the waxy surface of MAM leaves. Otherwise, spray droplets may run off the leaf surfaces and greatly reduce herbicidal efficacy.

In 2007 with the support of Mad Gardeners, Inc., an organization based in New Milford, we established demonstration plots at a MAM-infested site to evaluate various chemical and non-chemical treatments for their efficacy. The herbicide glyphosate (Roundup) was more effective than triclopyr (Garlon 3A) in controlling MAM. However, glyphosate resulted in a "brown out" situation in which all emerged vegetation in the plot was killed, whereas triclopyr was more selective in that grasses and sedges were not injured. Other herbicides that controlled MAM included oxyfluorfen (Goal 2XL [pre-emergence (PRE) and early post-emergence (POST)] and imazapic (Plateau) [PRE and early POST]. Oxyfluorfen has been used successfully to control MAM in Pennsylvania (Goal 2XL - special local need registration for MAM control in non-crop areas) and a similar registration for oxyfluorfen has been approved in Connecticut. Imazapic is effective at very low doses, and is registered for use in pastures and conservation reserve areas. Besides hand pulling and mowing, the other non-herbicide treatments (tilling of the soil, covering ground with landscape fabric or 4" layer of mulch) were not very effective at preventing MAM emergence. I will continue to conduct experiments on MAM control, including evaluations of some organic (non-synthetic) herbicides such as vinegar (acetic acid), and natural fatty acid or oil-based sprays.

In addition, Donna Ellis of the University of Connecticut, Dr. Carole Cheah of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and I plan to initiate a mile-a-minute biological control project in 2009 at the site of the MAM infestation in Quinnipiac River State Park (North Haven). With the cooperation and support of state and federal regulatory agencies, we propose to release a weevil species (*Rhinoncomimus latipes*) that has already been approved for biological control of MAM in several other states, including Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This weevil feeds specifically on MAM and has been successful in reducing MAM populations in these states. We will monitor the weevils and their effects on MAM for multiple years at our study site. The optimal situation would be the establishment of a weevil population that keeps mile-a-minute vine populations in check and prevents this invasive plant from becoming a serious state-wide problem.

Remember the keys to identification of mile-a-minute vine: triangular leaves, sharp barbs on thin stems, cup-like ocreae at the stem nodes, and bluish-colored fruits in clusters. Of course, for control purposes it is best to eliminate MAM before the fruits are produced.

For more information and photos of MAM and other invasive plants, please visit the website for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group ([www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/)) and the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England ([www.ipane.org](http://www.ipane.org)).

If you discover MAM plants, please submit a report on either of these websites, or contact Donna Ellis (UConn-Storrs) [[donna.ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:donna.ellis@uconn.edu) / 860-486-6448], Todd Mervosh (CAES-Windsor) [[todd.mervosh@po.state.ct.us](mailto:todd.mervosh@po.state.ct.us) / 860-683-4984], or Kathleen Nelson (Mad Gardeners - New Milford) [[knelson151@sbcglobal.net](mailto:knelson151@sbcglobal.net)].

For more information, refer to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station web site: <http://www.ct.gov/caes> or call (203) 974-8500 (New Haven) or (877) 855-2237 toll-free (statewide).

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The Joint Venture Grant Program will accept applications from January 1, 2009 through January 31, 2009. This is a competitive program; applicants are not guaranteed funding. Awards will be announced in February 2009.

Get the application and guidelines at the Department of Agriculture website: [www.ctgrown.gov](http://www.ctgrown.gov) - go to Programs and Services and scroll down to the grants section to Connecticut Grown Program Joint Venture Grants.

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February 25-26, 2009 Sturbridge, MA  
 Pre-Conference Workshops – February 24  
 Save on Registration until February 6th  
 Register Now at [www.harvestnewengland.org](http://www.harvestnewengland.org)

This conference is an excellent opportunity for agricultural producers to learn from some of the finest experts in the field about a diverse range of marketing topics.

- Over 20 workshops, including a “Best of New England Farmers Panel, and workshops on Food Safety, Paid vs. Free Media, Agritourism Development, Branding and Virtual Marketing, Culinary Tourism, Alternative Energy, Cutting Edge Market Trends, Agricultural Cooperatives, Website Development and more!

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**Two Pre-Conference Workshops on February 24th including:**

- New England Farmers' Market Managers Workshop
- Challengers & Rewards of a Winter Farmers' Market
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- Food Safety & Farmers' Markets: Getting Your Market Ready & Understanding the Issues

- Market Managers Exchange: What's on Your Mind?

**Expanding Regional Agritourism, One Farm at a Time**

- The Farm as “Product”: Enhancing the retail environment on your farm; growing your product lines; new product development; marketing; merchandising and sales.

- The Farm as “Venue”: Your farm as a destination – THE place for visitor activities and events – food and wine programs, tours and trips, accommodations; making your site visitor-friendly; designing your activities with the customer in mind.

- The Farm as “Environment”: Best Practices for Agritourism: environmental stewardship and agricultural authenticity, aesthetics; employing your natural assets and conservation practices for business success.

- The Farm as (a learning) “Place”: Employing landscapes, history, culture and more for programs and activities that attract people of all ages and interests.

- Assessing the Farm Experience: Knowing your enterprise(s) and what you can offer; how to expand on both.

The 2009 Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference and Trade Show is brought to you by Harvest New England and your six New England State Departments of Agriculture. More information can be found at [www.harvestnewengland.org](http://www.harvestnewengland.org)

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