

What are some of the current invasive plants being controlled by IPC, Inc. and the PPC?

Invasive Plant Control, Inc. and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy are currently working on an 80 acre restoration of the historic landscape and natural areas in the Panther Hollow Watershed in Schenley Park. Invasive plant challenges include garlic mustard threatening old stands of trillium, May apple and Solomon’s seal; Norway maple which has rapidly eliminated many species found in the original sugar maple-basswood community and Japanese knotweed which has spread along all the stream banks and wetland areas, choking out moist meadow species such as Joe-pye, ironweed, Syllphium cup-plant and seed-box.

What are some invasive plant management projects on the horizon?

Invasive Plant Control, Inc. and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy are currently working with city, county, state and federal partners through the newly formed CWMA, Three Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (TRISC). One of the driving forces behind this coalition is to respond early to eliminate mile-a-minute vine in the western half of the state where it has only recently established a foothold.

For additional information about the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy visit their website at www.pittsburghparks.org.

You can also find this interview online at www.invasiveplantcontrol.com

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The goals of PTI are:

- ▶ to prevent, manage, or eradicate invasive plants through a coordinated program of public/private partnerships, and
- ▶ to increase public awareness of the adverse impacts of invasive plants.

PTI grants are financed by funds from federal agencies, which must be matched by cash or in-kind contributions from state, local, and private partners on at least a 1:1 basis. Proposal submission is invited and encouraged nationwide. All proposals are reviewed by a national steering committee composed of weed management experts from government, industry, academia, and non-profit organizations. Preproposals for next year will be due at the end of October 2006. To learn more about the PTI, visit <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.cfm>

Making the Most of the Plentiful Kudzu



Kudzu flower jelly, kudzu baskets and sculptures, kudzu tea, kudzu art exhibits, kudzu hay, kudzu herbal remedies, deep-fried kudzu and kudzu quiche...the list goes on and on. There is even a kudzu documentary, and numerous books have been published on the vine that is arguably the poster plant for invasive exotic pest plants in the South. It reportedly covers over 7 million acres of the deep South, but you can still purchase seeds and root crowns on the Internet, in spite of the fact that the vine is prohibited by both the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I was recently bestowed with a jar of kudzu blossom jelly from North Carolina, as yet unopened. I guess if we can't beat it, we may as well eat it!
— KB, Ed.

