



## Help map invasive plant species

*Early detection and mapping the distribution of invasive plants in the Commonwealth of Virginia is critical.*

While we see many invasive plant species spreading in our parks and other public spaces, documentation of that spread is essential for informing public policy, determining whether an escaped plant is becoming environmentally harmful, public education, and decisions on management and control of invasive plants. Data is sorely lacking, but Master Naturalists are well-positioned to address this information gap.

**EDDMapS** is a suite of applications and programs for reporting, mapping and managing data on invasive species. It is heavily used across the country by conservation organizations and natural lands managers for determining where to direct resources for the control of plants that threaten the health of our ecosystems.

Virginia's Natural Heritage Program, Blue Ridge PRISM, and Virginia Master Naturalists, with the invaluable support of EDDMapS managers, are teaming up to address a major gap in the protection of Virginia's biodiversity: data on the spread of invasive plants. This effort offers Master Naturalists opportunities for local leadership roles as well as for contributing important information while bird-watching, kayaking, or enjoying a hike.

**Watch this video** recorded during the recent VMN Statewide Conference & Training on EDDMapS to get an idea of the scope of the project and how to start your participation. Here is the recording of the **follow up Q&A**.

This is a great solo project. You can start in your own backyard!

Let Anne Clewell know of your interest in participating. In addition to the video there are several helpful handouts to share. Susan Gitlin McLaughlin, Certified VMN, Allegheny Highlands Chapter is the VMN Lead for this project.

*Chapter approved:*

CS Wildlife and Flora Monitoring,

Documenting Escaped Non-Native Plants with EDDMapS (DCR and Blue Ridge PRISM)

*Videos are eligible for VMN CE.*