

PESTIMONIAL



News from the Outsmart Invasive Species Project
June 21st, 2012

Your mission, if you choose to accept it:

Adopt an Invasive Species

You know what they say: Keep your friends close,
keep your enemies closer.

How do detectives track down wanted criminals?
They learn absolutely everything they can about
them. From their regular haunts and habits, to their
known associates and aliases, and even possible
disguises. Like, how might they look with a
mustache?

So we say, why not use the same strategy to track
down invasive species?

Join the “Adopt an Invasive Species” mission, and
you’ll be assigned one of the Most Wanted invasive
species from our list as your primary target.

Just like a detective, you’ll soon get to know
everything about your prime suspect:

What habitat does it prefer?

What other plants does it grow near?

What does it look like in the spring versus summer?

With and without flowers?

OUTSMART UPDATE



Total reports: 161

What to look for now:

Pale swallow-wort



Not to be confused with black
swallow-wort...

As the local expert in your species, you'll soon be able to spot it anywhere - whether hiking a familiar trail or out exploring new terrain.

And your regular reports will help improve our understanding of the distribution of your species.

With a team of specialists in the field, each tracking a Most Wanted species, we'll have a veritable Outsmart dragnet across Massachusetts!

Up to the challenge? E-mail us to receive your assignment - mug shot included - or let us know if you already have a suspect in mind:

Outsmartinvasivespecies@gmail.com

Want to help improve the Outsmart app? We want YOU for our research study

If you're reading the Pestimonial, you probably know a thing or two about invasive species. Here at the Outsmart Invasive Species Project headquarters, we've been wondering just how much you know, and what we can do to help you learn more.

Our curiosity has led us to a few questions:

How does the type of training people have on how to identify invasive species affect their success when using the Outsmart app?

How to distinguish?

Compared to pale swallow-wort flowers, black swallow-wort flowers have more triangular petals and, as the name suggests, are darker in color. Both are considered invasive.

Pale swallow-wort flower



Photo: John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy

Black swallow-wort flower



Photo: Jennifer Forman Orth, Invasive Plants in Massachusetts

If one person receives face-to-face training, and another watches a video tutorial on a smartphone, who will identify more species correctly?

And how well do people do at identifying species using only the text and pictures provided in the Outsmart app?

We have our hunches, but we want evidence! So we're putting our hypotheses to the test in a research study this summer. That's where you come in...

Research study dates:

We're looking for volunteers to come out to our research site in **Hadley, Massachusetts**, on any Saturday or Sunday from July 7th through August 19th.

You just need to come on one day, for only an hour or two. Each volunteer will receive some type of training on plant identification, and then set out in search of invasive species using the Outsmart app along a marked trail.

Just like a scavenger hunt!

We'll provide free refreshments, and as extra thanks, all participants will be entered in a raffle to win gift cards to iTunes and Google Play.

July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						7
8						14
15						21
22						28

August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5			8	9	10	11
12			15	16	17	18
19			22	23	24	25
			29	30	31	

If you're interested in taking part, just send an e-mail to outsmartinvasivespecies@gmail.com and let us know which date you are available. We'll provide the details about where to meet and what to bring, and find out what time works best for you.

It'll be a fun way to improve your identification skills with help from our team.

Best of all, you'll be contributing important data on behalf of environmental conservation, and helping to improve the Outsmart app for all of our participants. The better the app, the better our understanding of the invasive species that threaten native flora and fauna in Massachusetts.

Your participation will make a huge difference.

Thanks in advance for your help, and keep up the great work!

The Outsmart Invasive Species Project Team

Receive the Pestimonial by e-mail: [Outsmart listserv](mailto:Outsmart_listserv@list.umass.edu)

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EDDMapS
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



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AND
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