

## **MAD GARDENERS, INC, MILE-A-MINUTE CONTROL PROJECT: 2012**

### **The Team:**

- Kathleen Nelson, Field Supervisor – 297 field hours
- Dana Slaughter, Volunteer – 60 field hours
- Dan Brown, Volunteer – 15 field hours
- Angela Dimmitt, Volunteer
- Tom Nelson, Volunteer
- William Mandeville: 5<sup>th</sup> Student intern, Invaluable team leader, available only for July - 105 hours.
- Kevin Jones: 2<sup>nd</sup> Student intern. Team leader for much of the summer – 230 hours
- Jean-Luc Plante: Student intern – 195 hours
- Taylor Pasquance: Student intern – 192 hours
- Sara Alese: Student intern, June only – 67 hours
- Shaughn Peck: Student intern – 143 hours
- Cody Ferlow: Student intern – 137 hours

**Field hours:** Field work began on June 5 and ended October 17.

Student intern field hours include some hours for work other than field work.

Volunteer field hours do NOT include the many hours spent on planning, record keeping, evaluation, fundraising, and educational activities.

Student interns:	1,068 hours
Volunteers:	382 hours
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,450 hours</b>

**Where we worked:** Most “days” are 4 hours for each of the workers present. Both days and hours are very flexible: workers sometimes work longer or shorter days. The size of the team varies from day to day.

- New Milford and New Milford/Bridgewater populations: 42 days plus 8 partial days
- Roxbury populations: 23 days plus 8 partial days
- Other: we also worked briefly in Millerton NY, Wingdale NY, Danbury, and Woodbury, and went on site walks in Newtown with the State biocontrol team.

### **Number of properties checked:**

- Over 218 properties were checked; 115 had no MAM.
- “Properties” includes roads driven or walked, a river kayaked, and a number of large properties that consist of several lots.
- 11 of the properties with no MAM in 2012 had MAM at some time in the past. Some that did have MAM in 2012 had been free of MAM for a year or more in the past. MAM seeds are long lasting – known sites need a yearly check-up.
- New Milford and Bridgewater: 164 properties checked; 85 did not have MAM.
- Roxbury: 43 properties checked; 27 did not have MAM.

### **New MAM populations and patches found:**

- MAM was found on 6 new properties in the New Milford population near New Milford high School and Hill and Plain School. Most were very small, consisting of just a few plants, but one was larger, 30 feet in diameter.
- MAM was also found on 6 new properties in the New Milford/Bridgewater (Dorwin Hill) area. Again, most were very small but one was larger, 30 feet in diameter.
- The center of the main Roxbury population was only discovered late in 2011. We were able to search a number of nearby areas in the fall of 2011 and estimate a population limit. That limit has been surprisingly accurate – only two small previously unidentified patches were found outside of the central area. The central area, however, was an unpleasant surprise: it covers many acres of woodland. We quit working in the woodland when we realized we would not be able to make a dent in that portion of the population. A separate smaller population was found in Roxbury. Its extent is not known. No MAM was found on the few nearby properties that were searched. We did not attempt any control of this population. The one bit of good news here is that the biocontrol weevils have arrived by themselves, probably from a population introduced in Newtown. The “weevil team” from UConn and CT Ag Exp Station was very pleased.

**Strategy change, Roxbury:** By mid-summer it was apparent that it would be impossible to control the central area of either of the two Roxbury populations. Animals will occasionally carry seeds from these central areas to nearby properties. Our new strategy is to locate all the outlier patches and to help nearby property owners develop inspection practices and land management practices that will help catch MAM before it becomes established in new locations. Education is a priority.

**Events and publicity 2012:** Project coordinator Kathleen Nelson spoke to 4 groups, including the Connecticut Land Conservation Council Annual Meeting. We had educational displays at 11 events, including the Connecticut Invasive Plant Symposium at UConn. We sent a letter to the editor of the Spectrum reminding people to check their properties. Intern Kevin Jones prepared a video on MAM which can be viewed at [www.madgardeners.com](http://www.madgardeners.com).

### **Time spent on specific properties – i.e. how much are the larger properties costing?**

- Estimates of time spent and cost were done for 13 of the most time-consuming properties. Half of the total budget was spent on these 13 properties.
- The team spent an estimated 144 hours on the most time-consuming property at an estimated cost of over \$2,000. This property is part of the main Roxbury population.
- Approximately 1/5 of the total budget was spent on the central portion of the main Roxbury population.

**Total expenditure, 2012: \$20,007.54**