

# Mile-A-Minute Weed Conference

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, July 8, 1995-C5

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — It's known as mile-a-minute weed, tearthumb, or, scientifically, *Polygonum perfoliatum*. It can produce vines up to 25 feet long in a season, and it smo-

thers shrubs, native plants, and tree seedlings.

Learn more about this noxious weed at the Mile-a-Minute Weed Conference at the Olde York Valley Inn in York on July 17-18.

"Mile-a-minute weed is fast-growing, dense, and smothers nearly every plant in its path, including small trees," said Nathan Hartwig, professor of weed science in Penn State's College of

Agricultural Sciences. "It's especially a problem where forests are clear cut because it smothers transplanted tree seedlings."

Presentations will cover information on controlling the weed in

agronomic crops, crownvetch, reforested areas, and landscape and tree nurseries. Information also will be provided on the history, distribution, biology and ecology of the weed; related species in the state; and economic losses caused by the weed.

Speakers will include Hartwig; Larry Kuhns, professor of ornamental horticulture; Larry McCormick, professor of forest resources; Donald Windler of Towson State University; Wilbur Mountain, state botanist with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; and Alfred Gruber, owner of Conowingo Trees in Newark, Delaware.

Two graduate students also will present their research. C. Fagan Johnson, of Penn State, will discuss the weed's invasion of open areas in conifer and hardwood forests. Judith Gerlach, of George Mason University, will discuss biological and ecological factors in the southern progression of the weed.

Mile-a-minute weed was accidentally introduced from Asia into York County in the late 1930s by a nursery owner importing plants from Japan. It has spread to Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Cambria, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Fulton, Indiana, Lancaster, Lycoming, Mifflin, Perry, Philadelphia and Westmoreland counties. It also has been found in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio and Virginia.

Landowners in the York area who have found serious infestations of the weed and would be willing to have their property toured by conference attendants are asked to contact Larry McCormick at (814) 865-3595 before July 7.

"Researchers also are interested in learning if the weed has spread to new areas," Hartwig said. People in counties or states other than those listed should contact Wilbur Mountain at (717) 772-5209.

The Mile-a-Minute Conference will take place July 17 and 18 at the Olde York Valley Inn, 3883 East Market Street in York. The \$40 registration fee includes bus transportation for a field tour, coffee, and lunch on Tuesday. Call (717) 840-0748 for room reservations.

To preregister, contact Mile-a-Minute Weed Conference, The Pennsylvania State University, 306 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802-8301, (814) 865-8301. For more information, contact Nathan Hartwig at (814) 865-1906.



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