

**Town of Greenwich
Conservation Commission
Invasive Species – Action Alert**

**Mile-a-Minute Weed or
Devil’s Tear Thumb
Polygonum perfoliatum
Smartweed Family (Polygonaceae)**

August 20, 2001

Attention all landowners, landscapers, nurseries, and land managers in Greenwich. The first confirmed case of Mile-a-Minute Weed in Connecticut was discovered on Audubon Greenwich Gimbel Sanctuary in northwestern Greenwich in 1997. Since that time, Audubon has worked diligently to eradicate this aggressive invasive species. The Conservation Commission has been carefully following their progress.

On August 13, 2001, Audubon Greenwich contacted the Commission to report that the species is no longer limited to the Audubon land and had been discovered on adjacent properties. Conservation and Audubon staff conducted a site visit to view the problem areas. Mile-a-Minute Weed was observed on properties west of the Gimbel Sanctuary along Sherwood Ave and King Street. It is extremely important that we continue the work to contain and eradicate this species. Please report any sightings of this species immediately to:

Denise Savageau, Conservation Director at 622-6461 or dsavageau@greenwichct.org.

[The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group](#) (go to Invasives in the News), located at the University of Connecticut has developed a fact sheet on this extremely aggressive species and will be providing technical assistance to the Town.

To help control the spread of Mile-a-Minute Weed the following precautions should be followed:

1. Learn how to identify the plant and report any sightings immediately to the Conservation Director for further instructions on management (see facts at the UConn site).
2. Inspect plant materials from nurseries for possible infestation. Know sources of mulch etc. Mile-a-Minute Weed is an annual and most reseed each year therefore containing the seed distribution is the key.
3. When doing any vegetative removal, make sure to scout the area for signs of this invasive.
If the plant is present do not remove from the property.
4. Properly dispose of all vegetative material removed from sites.

5. Report any illegal dumping of yard debris to the Conservation Director.

Thank you for your cooperation. Help us to protect Greenwich and Connecticut from this destructive species.