

From: **Szucs, Marianna** <szucsmar@msu.edu>

Date: Wed, May 22, 2019 at 12:05 PM

Subject: RE: knotweed biocontrol study

Hello All,

Katie, thank you for sending out the previous email.

Just a few clarifications.

The permit approval for the biological control agent does not depend on this study.

Whether Michigan will be among the first states that receive the biological control agent for release after approval depends on this study.

What we try to accomplish here is to setup permanent plots to monitor knotweed infestations before the release of the agent and for several years after.

The agent has different biotypes that are adapted to different knotweed species, this is why it is important to identify the species and hybrids correctly (so we can ask for the matching biotypes of the agent).

By 'relatively small' infestation I meant between 0.5-2 acre (following the protocol from New York state).

Both private and state lands are appropriate as long as the landowner agrees not to manage the infestations by any other means for at least 10 years.

I would like to have 10 sites identified that fits the below criteria for each knotweed species during this summer. If there is an abundance of sites an additional 5 sites per species could be also marked and used as control. At these 5 sites we would not release the agent and would use those to compare them with sites where biocontrol was implemented.

So I would like to have 30 sites (10 per knotweed species) where we would release biocontrol and if feasible 15 sites (5 per species) where we would not release the agent and where knotweed is not managed.

July would be the best time for me to go out with people, look at the sites they have in mind and make the final decision which ones to include.

I am based out of MSU so sites relatively close to Lansing will be prioritized.

Please feel free to email me with any questions.

Thank you for all your help.

Best,

Marianna

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From: Katie Grzesiak <kgrzesiak@gtcd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 10:27 AM
Cc: Szucs, Marianna <szucsmar@msu.edu>
Subject: knotweed biocontrol study

Hello CISMA coordinators!

I'd like to introduce Marianna Szucs, a researcher studying possible biocontrol of invasive knotweeds! She's looking for sites of Japanese, giant, and Bohemian (hybrid) knotweed to evaluate success of a psyllid (*Aphalara itadori*) which is pending approval from APHIS (based in part on this study). She got in contact with the MISC Core Team, and we want to pass it along to CISMAs. As local experts, we CISMAs are the ones who are the best at identifying proper sites for the study, and if the psyllid is successful, it could make our work managing knotweeds a lot easier!

While I can't speak for our grantors, I believe a case could easily be made for using your time under MISGP's funds; Greg and others with the DNR are aware of this project (and brought it to the Core Team), but it is in no way a requirement for any CISMA.

Site requirements:

- Relatively small and dense (the dense part should be easy!)
- At least 8 km (5 mi) from other sites in the study.
- Landowners agree not to disturb the site for at least 10 years, and to have permanent markers installed to track the growth/decline of the knotweed (this doesn't need to be set in stone yet—just have an idea if the landowner may be open to it).
- Previous treatment is OK as long as it stops from the point where the site is included in the study.
- **You must be sure of what species of knotweed is present.** We often just talk about "Japanese knotweed" when we mean Bohemian. I know a lot of ISN's reports in particular say Japanese but it's really the hybrid, and I'm guessing others are in a similar situation.

Lots of sites are needed to give this study proper data. If your CISMA has sites that might fit and is able to help Marianna out, that would be awesome! She's copied in on this email—please contact her directly. I'm also happy to answer questions as best I can.

Marianna, if I got anything wrong, please send the correct information out to the group!

Cheers,
KEG

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