

# Invasive Plant Management - An IPM Approach

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**UCONN**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE

# Mile-a-minute Weed

*Persicaria perfoliata*

(formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*)



Vines growing along a street in Westport, CT

# Mile-a-minute Weed

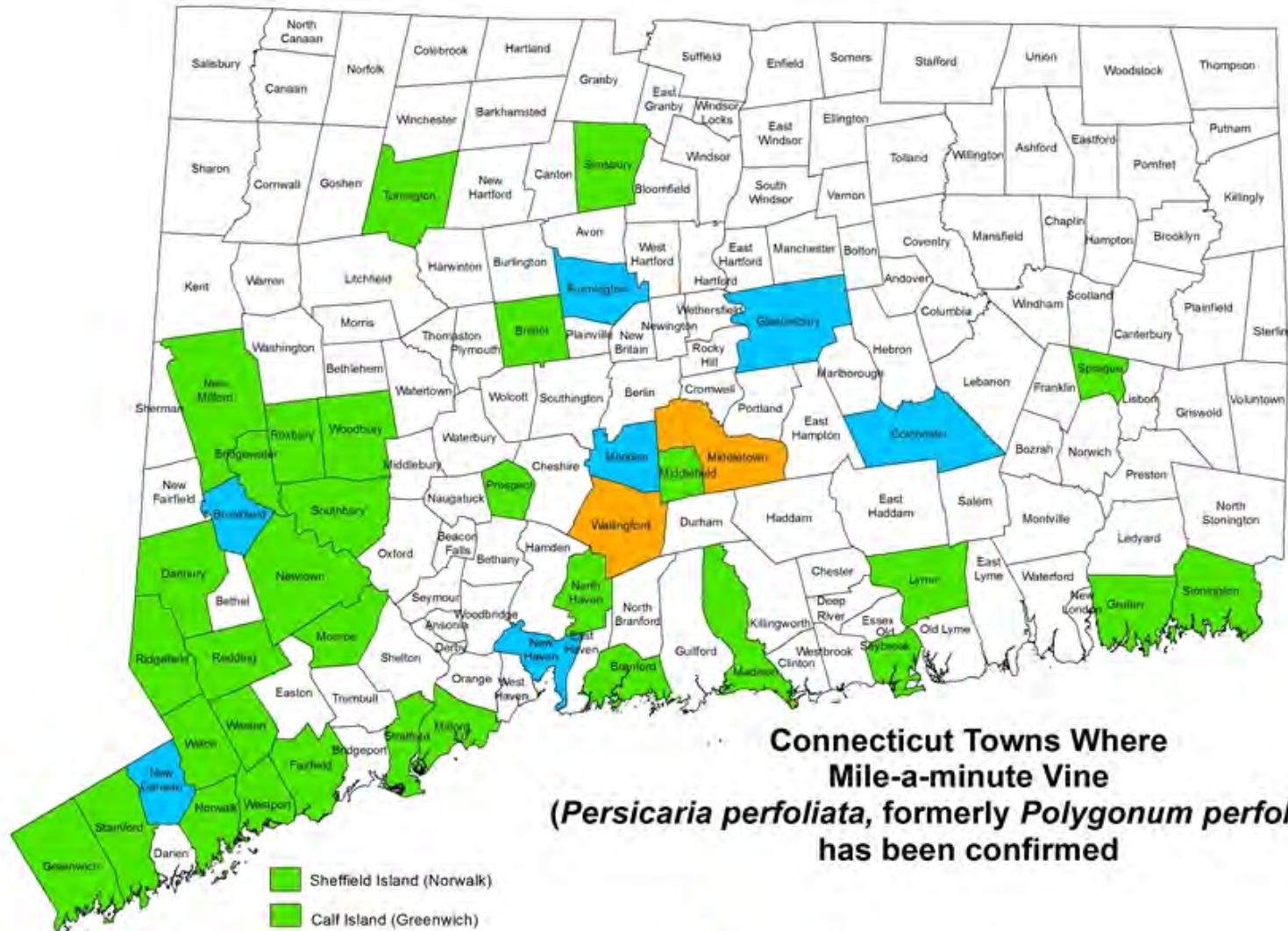
- Vines form dense barbed thatch
- Triangular leaves, saucer-shaped bracts
- Sharp spines on stems, under leaves
- Blue fruits in clusters
- Animal dispersed



# 2014

- Educational outreach
- Biological control project
- Survey areas near confirmed sites
- Pulling parties and other control methods





## Connecticut Towns Where Mile-a-minute Vine

**(*Persicaria perfoliata*, formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*)  
has been confirmed**

- Sheffield Island (Norwalk)
- Calf Island (Greenwich)

 = NEW IN 2013

 = NEW IN 2014

Updated September 2014

# Mile-a-minute Weed Biological Control

## Mile-a-minute Weevil (*Rhinoncomimus latipes*)

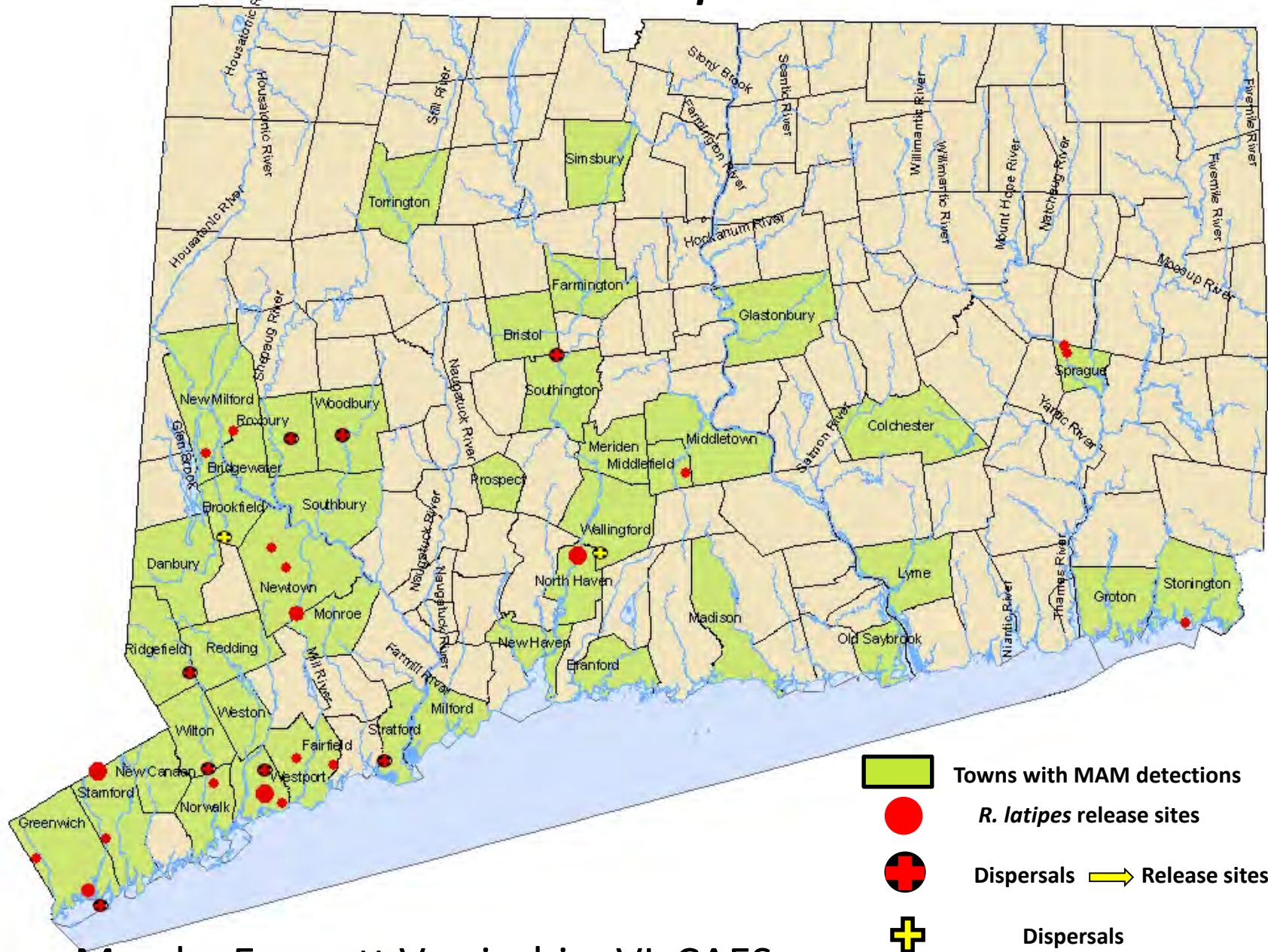
Donna Ellis (Univ. of CT) and Carole Cheah (CT Agricultural Experiment Station)

- Funded in part by USDA APHIS PPQ
- Weevils provided by NJ Dept. of Ag and Univ. of RI
- Widely distributed in mid-Atlantic since 2006
- 2009-14: 41,436 weevils released in CT in 18 towns



- Bridgewater
- Roxbury
- Fairfield
- Southington
- Greenwich
- Sprague
- Middlefield
- Stamford
- New Milford
- Stonington
- Newtown
- Stratford
- North Haven
- Westport
- Norwalk
- Wilton
- Ridgefield
- Woodbury

# Connecticut *Rhinoncomimus latipes* release sites 2009-2014



# Greenwich



# Sprague



# North Haven



# Stamford



# Mile-a-minute Weed Biological Control

## 2009-2014



Adult weevil

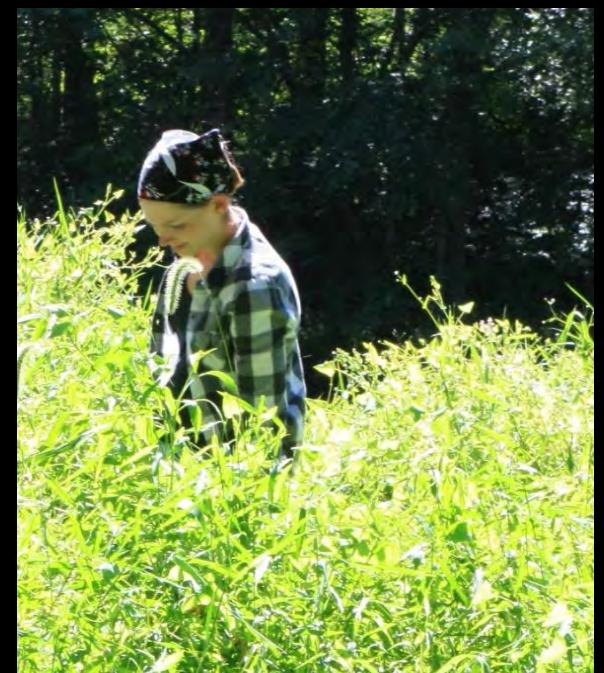


Feeding damage





**The weevils begin feeding on mile-a-minute leaves as soon as they are released.**



## Monitoring release sites



# Mile-a-minute vine monitoring site



# Mile-a-Minute Weed Biological Control Release Sites

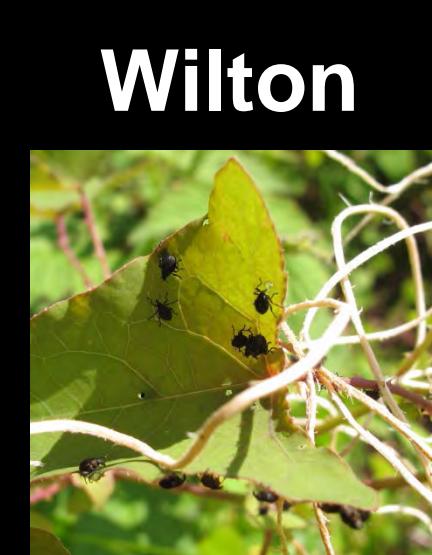
Westport



1,000  
Weevils



# Mile-a-Minute Weed Biological Control Release Sites



1,000  
Weevils



# Mile-a-Minute Weed Biological Control

## Release Sites

Ridgefield



1,500  
Weevils



# Mile-a-Minute Weed Biological Control

## Release Sites

Stratford  
1,000  
Weevils





# Feeding damage on mile-a-minute vines by the beneficial weevils



09/21/2010



*Rhinoncomimus*  
weevil



10/13/2011



10/13/2011



10/13/2011

# Pulling Parties Sprague 2011-2012



# Carole Cheah shows the beneficial weevils to reporters before releasing them in Norwalk



06/15/2011

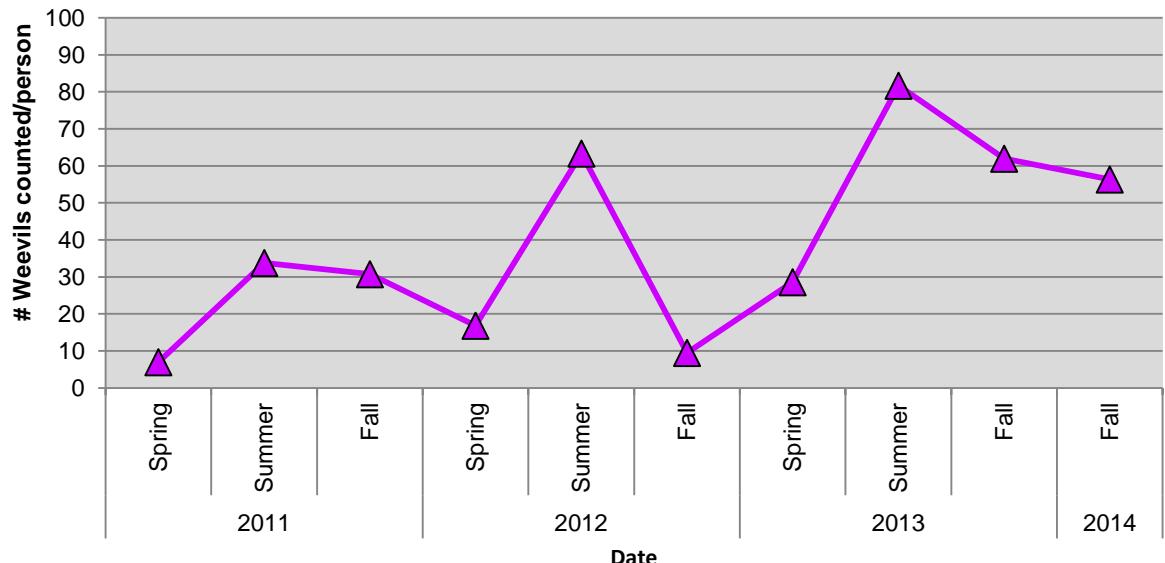
# The Independent Day School, Middlefield Sept. 12, 2013



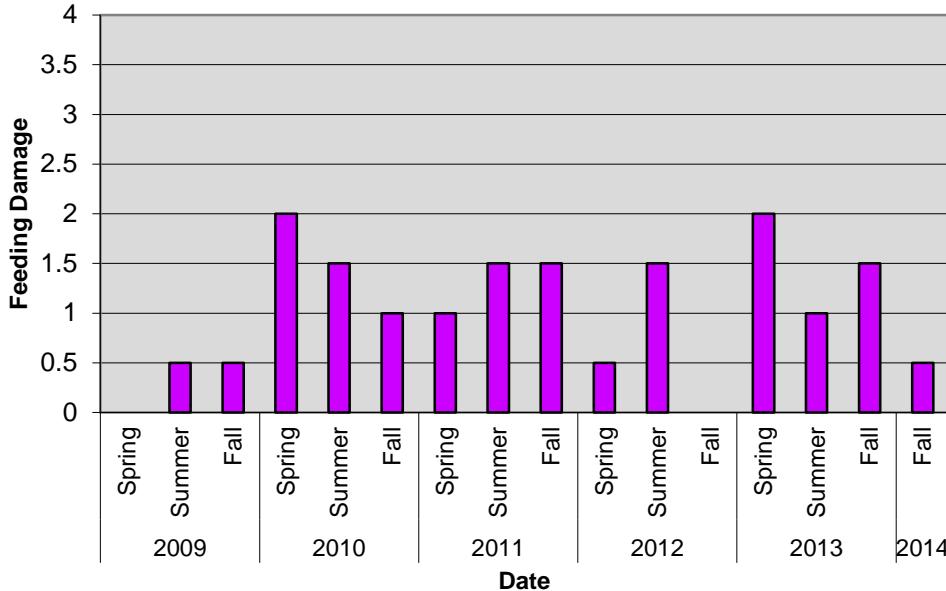
# Bridgewater, CT



Weevil Prevalence from 5' Count for Bridgewater



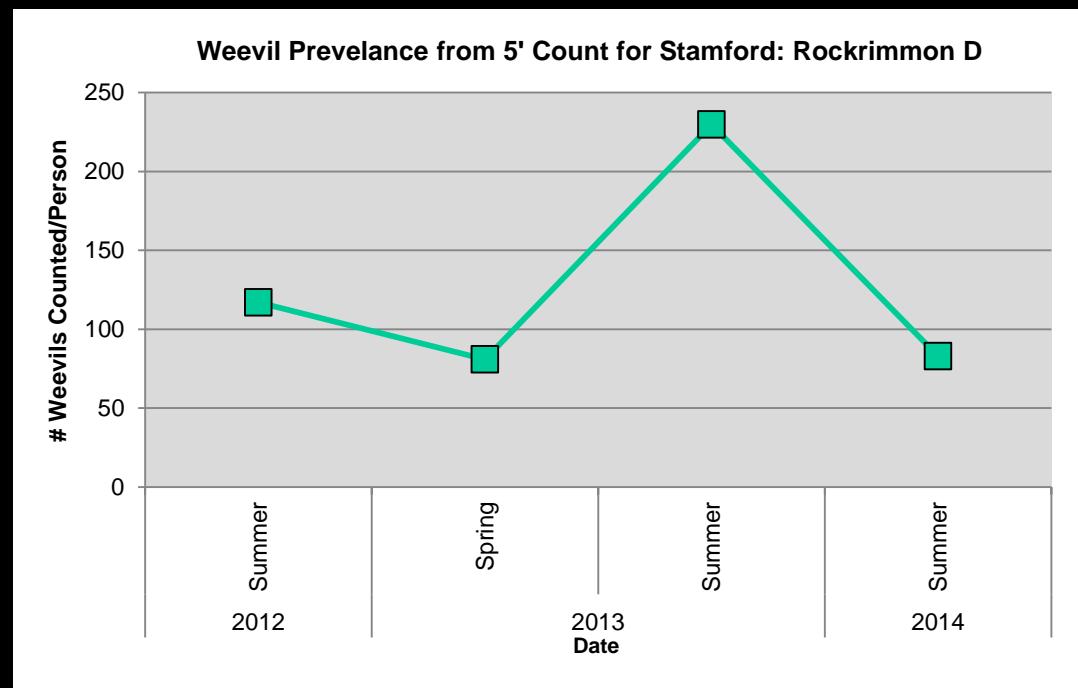
Weevil Feeding Damage for Bridgewater



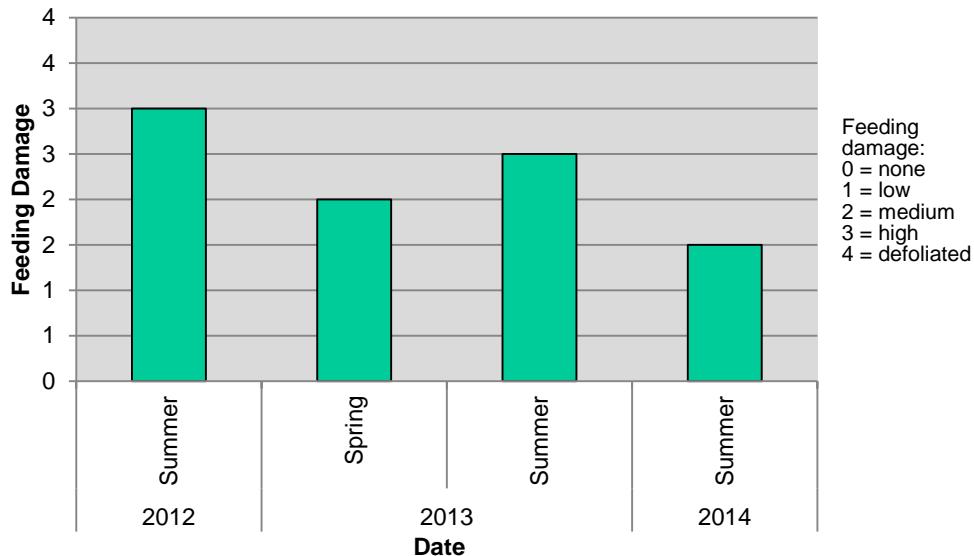
Feeding damage:  
0 = none  
1 = low  
2 = medium  
3 = high  
4 = defoliated



# Stamford, CT



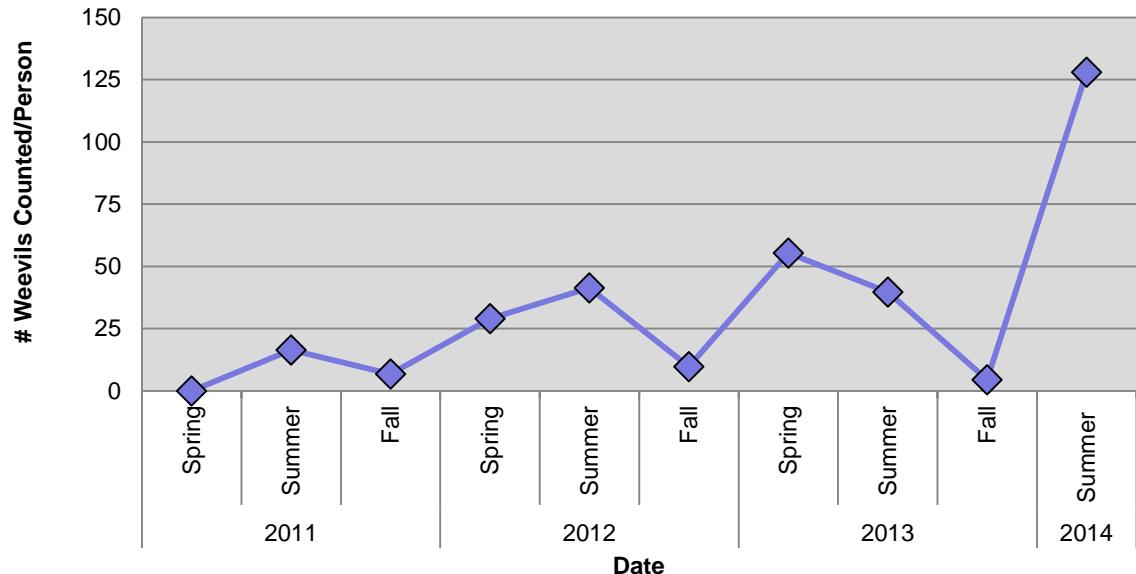
Weevil Feeding Damage for Stamford: Rockrimmon D



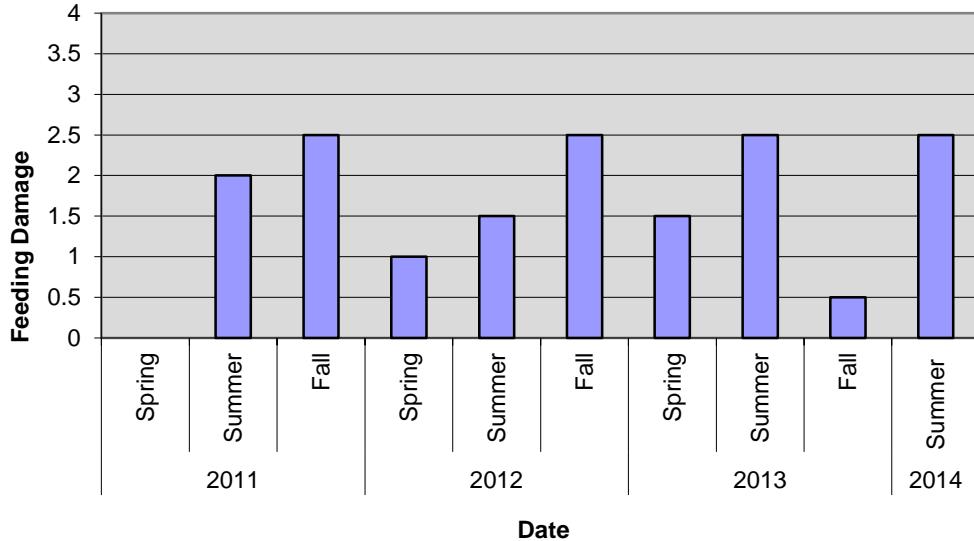
# Greenwich, CT



Weevil Prevalence from 5' Count for Greenwich: Bruce Park



Weevil Feeding Damage for Greenwich: Bruce Park



Feeding damage:  
0 = none  
1 = low  
2 = medium  
3 = high  
4 = defoliated



# Educational outreach materials available from UConn

# WANTED

## Mile-a-minute Vine (MAM)

(*Persicaria perfoliata*, formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*)



**Mile-a-minute Vine** is a highly invasive annual weed spreading north and east across Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. It outcompetes and overgrows native species, causing ecological and economic harm. It climbs and scrambles over trees and posts, shading out other plants (see photo at left). A single vine can grow up to 6 inches per day.

Please help us find, track and control this invasive plant.

### THREE IDENTIFYING TRAITS:

- 1**   
Triangular leaves (often nearly equilateral)
- 2**   
Small curved barbs along stems
- 3**   
In summer, MAM fruits ripen from green to metallic blue  
Leaf shapes of other vines; these species do not harm ecosystems and should not be reported:  
  
NO NO NO NO NO

Photos courtesy of Todd Mervosh, Les Mehrhoff, Hope Leeson, Judy Hough-Goldstein and Renée Sullivan

If you observe a plant with **all 3 traits**, note its location and report your findings:

Contact the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) at:  
**860-486-6448** (Donna Ellis, University of Connecticut)  
-OR-  
Visit [www.hort.uconn.edu/mam](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/mam) (click "Report MAM")

 University of Connecticut

 University of Connecticut

## Mile-a-minute Vine (MAM)

*Persicaria perfoliata*, formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*

1. Triangular leaves—no lobes or indentations 
2. Small barbs along stems (fruits ripening to blue in summer) 
3. Saucer-shaped leaves (called ocrea) at nodes 

### LOOK AROUND YOUR YARD... Do you see this plant?

Mile-a-minute Vine (Scientific name: *Persicaria perfoliata*) is a highly invasive annual weed spreading across Connecticut. It outcompetes and overgrows native species, causing ecological and economic harm. The vine scrambles over other vegetation and can climb trees and posts (see front). Mile-a-minute is deserving of its common name and its reputation as "the Kudzu of the North"—a single vine can grow up to **6 inches per day**. Mile-a-minute has been banned by the CT Legislature (Sec. 22a-381d of the CT General Statutes makes it illegal to transport, cultivate, sell or distribute the species), but populations are still spreading in natural areas and perhaps in your own backyard!

**Please help us find, track and control this plant in Connecticut.** With your help, we can organize and coordinate the removal of Mile-a-minute Vine before it becomes an even bigger and more costly problem. If you see a vine with **all three** of the characteristics on the front of this card—**(1)** triangular leaves, **(2)** small barbs on the stem, and **(3)** ocrea, **note its location and report your findings** using the contact information below.

Contact the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) at **860-486-6448** (Donna Ellis)  
-OR-  
visit [www.hort.uconn.edu/mam](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/mam) (click "Report MAM")

For more information, please contact CIPWG or visit [www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg)

Photos courtesy of Todd Mervosh, Les Mehrhoff, Hope Leeson, Judy Hough-Goldstein and Renée Sullivan

# Mile-a-minute vine information is available on the CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) website: [www.mam.uconn.edu](http://www.mam.uconn.edu)

 University of Connecticut

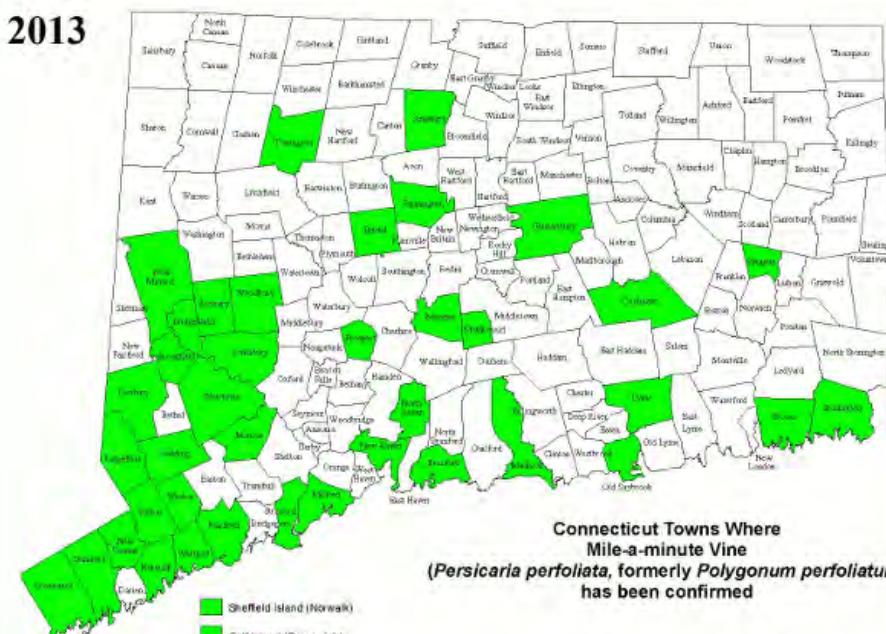
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

CIPWG HOME

- Home
- About mile-a-minute
- Species Identification
- Similar Species Guide
- State Contacts
- Distribution Information
- MAM Resources
- Biological Control
- Control Options
- News Archive
- \*For the Press
- Other Invasive Species
- Online Reporting Form

Welcome to the CT mile-a-minute vine website!

2013



Connecticut Towns Where  
Mile-a-minute Vine  
(*Persicaria perfoliata*, formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*)  
has been confirmed

Legend:  
Dark Green: Sheffield Island (Norwalk)  
Light Green: Calf Island (Greenwich)

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development 1995

This website serves as a central source of information, news, publications, and educational materials relating to mile-a-minute vine in the state of Connecticut.

For more information:  
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[www.mam.uconn.edu](http://www.mam.uconn.edu)

