

# Moving Forward

on the Wings of the Wetland in 2018

By J. Arleen Corson

Moving forward pushing seven decades may not be as hard as you imagine. There are middle school teenagers, full of life, collage students, the millennials, our kids age, kids middle life, early retirement and all the rest!

Become a teacher. Take one flower or plant that you know by heart, and can identify it by its leaves, stalk, stem, blossom, anthers and even roots year after year, and teach it to some one else.

Read and join a plant identification group or Google about plants you don't quite understand and can't identify.

Keep a journal, write down now Harry bittercress, the first ephemeral growing. *Cardamine hirsute*. (you can skip the Greek if you like) A plant that is sweet, grows to blossom, seeds drop off and grows again if soil is good, but more than likely will need freezing and thawing all over again. It's native to North America and edible.. Post pictures and add recipes.

Consult some one that knows more than you do about horticulture There are many around. Some professionals in our area have shown a lot of interest in volunteering in our wetland. We are planning to use them as resources.

Invite your friends to see the wetland and show off your knowledge about what a wetland is all about. After all it used to be called a wet land. How times have changed, and why? I have two designated groups scheduled to come and hopefully the middle school students will be back.

Partner with some who want to volunteer or wants to share favors. The agriculture department at Wawasee High School will be partnering with our garden club this summer. We get weeds pulled and doing watering chores and they are receiving extra credit in some situations.

Invest in some resources such as horticulture books and magazines. Some magazines are actually free. Read!

The first wetland walk about, to survey the situation will be March 3, 2018 at 9:00 am. I hope to get all I print on the webpage thanks to Bernie. Naturally we will be looking for colonization of species, of course loosestrife and cattail at the top of the list. Bahahaha!

Our marking labels should indicate some strong colonies. Cress, Common Milkweed, Rice cutgrass, carex porcupine, Bur reed and Arrow head. We are strong enough in some colonies to share starts to those who want to enhance their lake front.



Living and Loving the Good Life

# OUT HERE

Spring 2018

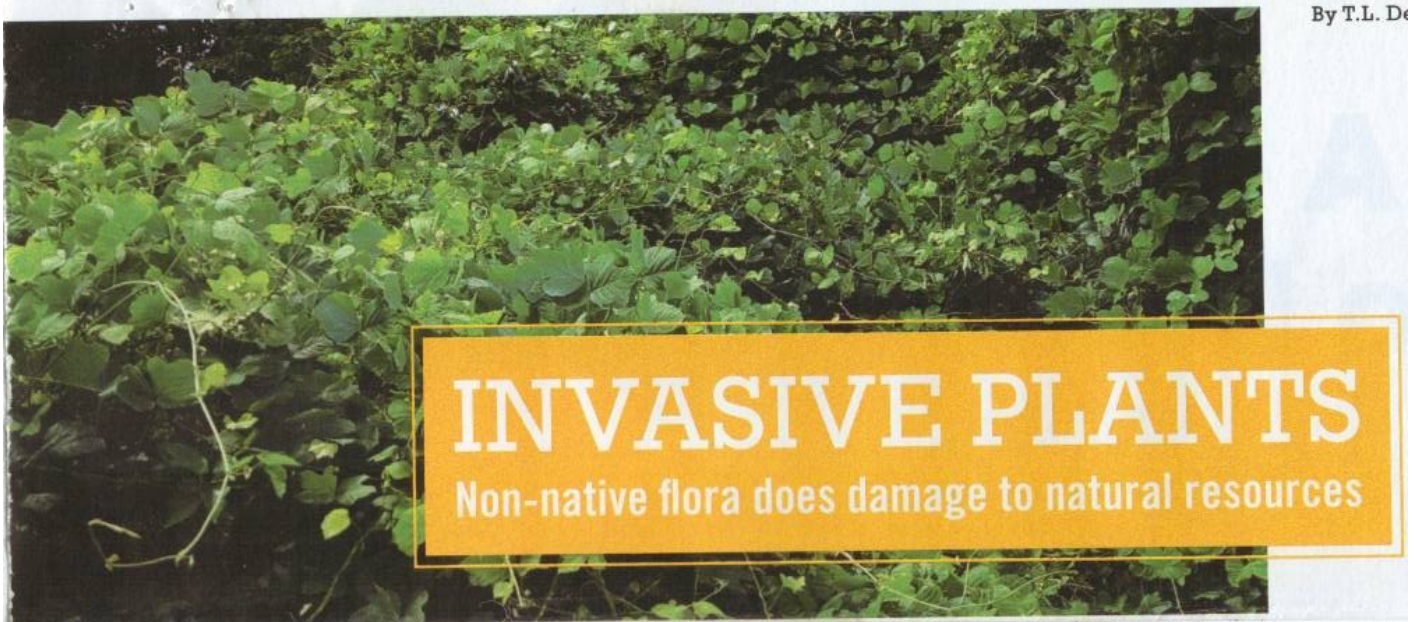
## Lavender FARMING

While visiting and getting warm in Phoenix, we visited a Tractor Supply, picked up some seed for birding and this magazine. I'm always on the hunt for something to read that appeals to my passion for plants, that sometimes bare flowers.

BY

FREE

By T.L. De



These articles contain excellent information about situations that we have experienced in our wetland and beyond. They are well worth the read and give information on writers that are interesting to follow. I apologize they are difficult to read.

**I**nvasive plants just might be the gangsters of horticulture.

They look for opportunities to get a foothold in the environment and, left unchallenged, can dominate their surroundings. Without a unified community effort, these intruders are difficult to control and nearly impossible to eradicate.

In the United States, invasive plants cause \$15 billion in damage each year, says Will Drews, a natural resource specialist with the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District in Indiana.

Invasive plants are not necessarily weeds; they are non-native or exotic plants that are likely to cause harm to the ecology, economy, or human health.

“They are bullies and they take over. And the plants that we want to grow there can’t compete with them,” Drews says.

Some weeds might be a nuisance to farmers and ranchers, but if they are native to that geographic area, they are not invasive.

Insects, wildlife, and other environmental factors keep native plants in check, but invasive plants do not have natural predators to manage them.

“Our biggest concern with most of these plants is they just do too well in our environment and this affects the plant diversity in our forests and even in wetlands, prairies, and rangelands,” Drews says.

Sometimes, invasive plants are introduced to regions with the best of intentions.

Kudzu – the lush, green vine originally planted in the South to help control erosion – heavily and quickly blankets anything in its path. “It’s gone crazy,” Drews says. “It topples trees, climbs over everything.” Japanese Stiltgrass has put a stranglehold on woodlands in the Midwest. The dense carpet of grass prevents wildflowers, native grasses, and trees from reseeding.

“If a dense patch of Japanese Stiltgrass gets established we will have trouble with forest regeneration,” Drews says. “That will affect logging, timber, and recreational activities.”

Wildlife may suffer even if invasive plants are introduced for ornamental value.

People once thought Asian Bush Honeysuckle would provide a natural nesting area for birds while supplying plenty of bright red berries for food.

But the branches provide little protection from predators.

Also, the birds tend to eat too many of the berries, which do not provide the same nutritional benefits as native bushes.

“They are gobbling up candy instead of nuts and fruits,” Drews says.

Invasive plants pose problems across the country, which must be addressed locally, Drews says.

Landowners should ask local agriculture extension offices or soil and water conservation districts to help identify invasive plants and develop a plan to manage or eliminate them, he says.

“A lot of people may not know they have certain invasive species,” he says, adding that it’s important for neighbors to work together. Controlling invasive species on one piece of property won’t help much if surrounding landowners don’t do the same.

There may not be a single solution.

Herbicides alone may not be the answer because the chemicals could kill other plants, and burning doesn’t always destroy the plants or prevent its reseeding.

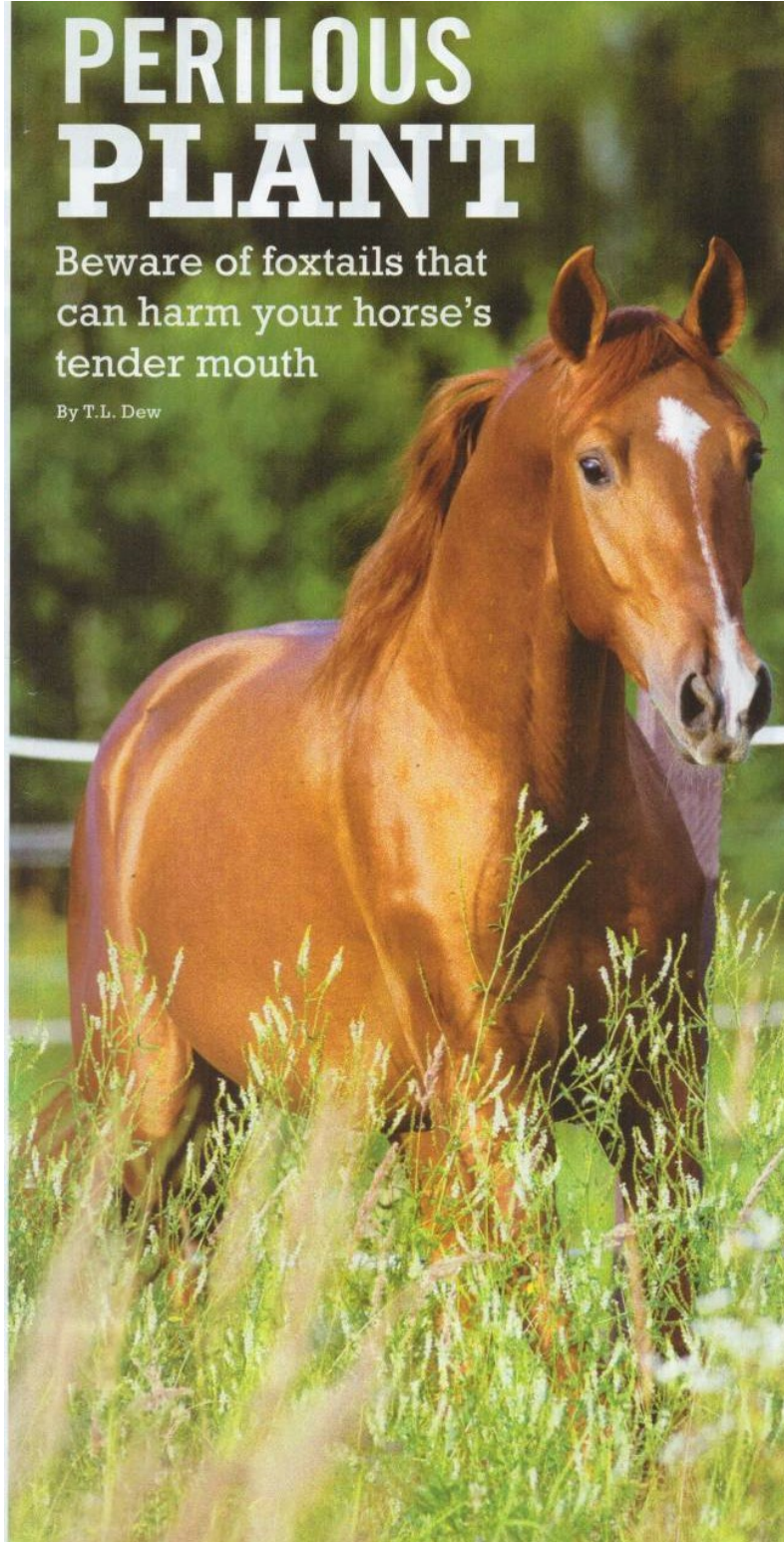
Drews usually recommends a combination of those solutions, along with manual removal, to take back the horticultural neighborhood.

*T.L. Dew is a Tennessee writer.*

# PERILOUS PLANT

Beware of foxtails that  
can harm your horse's  
tender mouth

By T.L. Dew



**F**oxtail, those wispy, tall plants often seen swaying in the breeze in a sunlit pasture during late spring or early summer may look harmless enough, but they can harm your horse.

In fact, if your horse has lost interest in eating or begins losing weight, foxtail may be the culprit.

The perilous parts of the plant are the prickly, barbed bristles near the seed head that can become embedded inside the soft tissue of the horse's lips, tongue, and gums. They can cause blister-like sores that actually are mouth ulcers that, left untreated, can become quite serious and painful, says Dr. Jennie Ivey, an assistant professor and extension equine specialist at the University of Tennessee.

Occasionally, the bristles cause pain in the esophagus or stomach as they travel down the gastrointestinal tract. A veterinarian may need to be consulted.

"It's really when the seed head becomes mature," Ivey says.

Horse owners should regularly check the horses' mouths for the seed head bristles, which can easily be removed, Ivey says.

Left unchecked, a seed head boring into the horse's mouth can painfully fester and discourage the horse from eating.

Prevent horses from ingesting the foxtail seed heads by looking through hay bales before feeding, especially when a new supply of hay arrives, she advises.



iStock

Reputable hay producers are aware of the foxtail concerns and practice good pasture management. However, foxtail can be difficult to eliminate.

“We don’t really have any herbicide to completely remove foxtail from the field,” Ivey says. And, no field can ever be 100 percent weed-free, she says.

Horse owners uncertain about the presence of foxtail in the hay they are feeding their animals, Ivey says, can always turn to their local agricultural extension office for help with pasture management and weed identification. ★

*T.L. Dew is a Tennessee writer.*

---

**If your horse has lost interest in eating or begins losing weight, foxtail may be the culprit.**

---

Instead, hay producers must rely on timely mowing of the pastures and cut down the foxtail before the seed head matures.

# Walk About

February 18, temperature was 34-36 Cloudy, overcast calm ground still frozen, and crusty ice floating on open water.

Featuring accomplished colonies of

1. healthy native Forbs, Grasses and Sedge
2. invasive colonies that need to be removed
3. no green growing leaves were found on loosestrife or cattails. Orange and pink markers are still standing as reminders that there may be invasive roots at that spot.





Switch Grass (*Panicum Virgatum*)  
 Top picture South West edge mitigation area also stand of sweet white Indian clover



Photo's by John Hart  
 Sand Hill Cranes  
 Egret , summer 2017



Rice cutgrass  
 ((*leersia*  
*Oryzoides*)  
 Insects, birds  
 and ducks  
 feed on the  
 seeds.

Orange flag  
 Marks  
 invasive  
 roots of  
 loosestrife. They are  
 pretending to  
 be gone,  
 but we know better.





Ephemerals , short lived and native.  
Harry bittercress, Orange circle.  
Grouddcel-often show golden in farmer's fields.  
Also named round leaved ragwort.



White flags mark colonies.  
T-3

### Prairie Cord Grass (*Spartina pectinata*) T-2

Very tall, strong root system, excellent erosion control.





Few stalks of Evening primrose, native. Birds eat the seeds.



Stand of Dark Green Bullrush (*Spartina pectinata*) Most tall grasses are eaten down by cranes.

Switch grass (*panicum vigatum*)  
Tri-3 and edge of mitigation South  
West

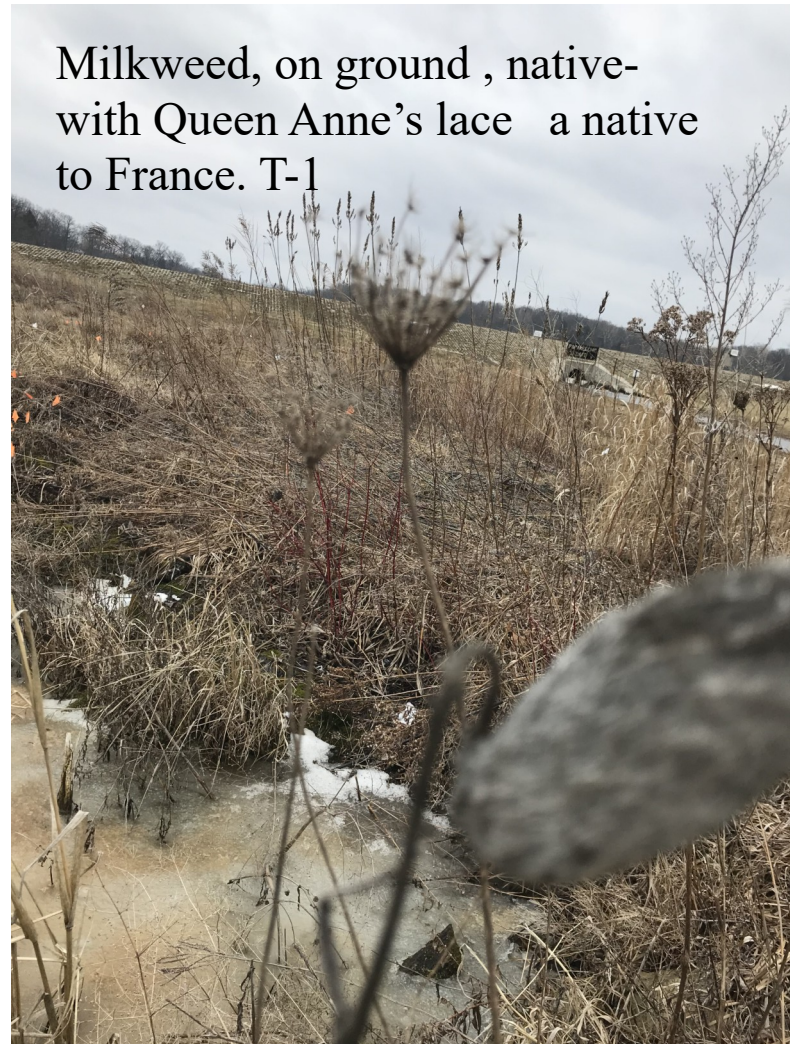




Water-plantain, plantago (Alisma)  
T-1

Red twig dogwood  
T-3

Milkweed, on ground , native-  
with Queen Anne's lace a native  
to France. T-1





Foxtail (*Setaria viridis*)  
Left flat on ground  
Right in stand of *Artemisia (vulgaris)*

*Artemisia* also sometimes called wormwood.

Here it stands with a few Mullein (*verbascum*).

Native to Asia, recommendation is to get rid of them.

Canadian Thistle, on ground, black  
*Cirsium arvense*, native to Asia





Looking West  
on west levee, from top of dam.  
levee



Looking East known as east  
levee



Standing on top of dam facing Hatchery Road



Buffers, diffuser in channel which leads to Lake Wawasee. Flows under Hatchery Road.



Drop box, controls level of lake Papakeechee.



Square pattern is the iron clad flex erosion control mat. This picture is in reverse to be able to read the Papakeechee Lake sign.