



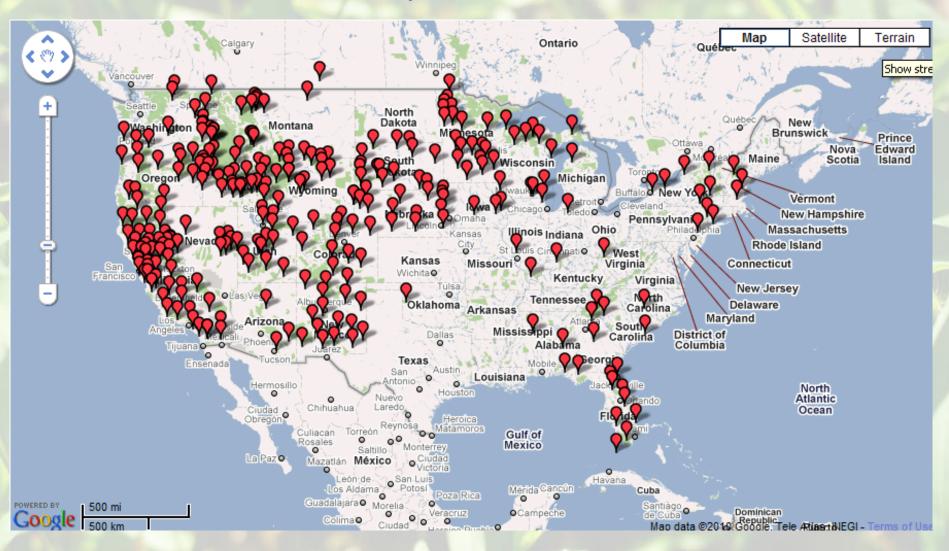
## Blue Ridge PRISM Overview

- Virginia's first Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)
- Founded in 2014
- The mission of the Blue Ridge PRISM is to reduce the impact of invasive species in our targeted geography.
- Fiscal sponsor/501c3 status held by Shenandoah National Park Trust
- Volunteer-driven organization with one full time employee

### What is a CWMA?

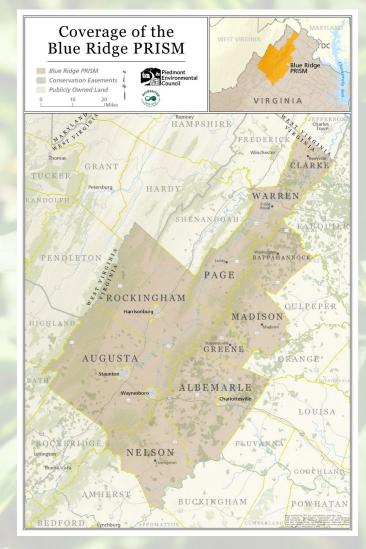
- Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs)
- More common out west
- Long term, strategic approach to managing invasives
- Forming a CWMA allows us to:
  - Share best practices get more done with less money
  - Coordinate activities to have greater impacts
  - Obtain additional funds from third parties
  - Provide a vehicle for increasing public awareness and enlisting additional support and participation

# National CWMA Map



# Blue Ridge PRISM Geography

- Ten Counties
- Almost 3 million acres
- Includes 200,000-acre Shenandoah National Park
- Roughly 50,000 landowners with 5 acres or more



### **Partners**

- Shenandoah National Park Trust
- VA Native Plant Society
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Shenandoah National Park
- Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
- VA Dept of Forestry
- VA Dept of Cons & Rec
- VA Cooperative Ext
- Private landowners

- The Nature Conservancy
- Virginia Master Naturalists
- Virginia Master Gardeners
- TJ Soil & Water Cons Dist
- Virginia Env't Endowment
- The Farm at Sunnyside
- VDOT
- Rockfish Valley Foundation
- Ivy Creek Foundation
- 500 Year Forest Foundation
- NRCS
- Tree Stewards
- RappU
- Other volunteers

### What We Do

#### **Education and Outreach**

- Invasive plant workshops
- Tabling events
- Speaking engagements

#### **Funding**

- For invasive plant management
- For landowners

#### **State Regulation**

VA Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

Working with/Encouraging Other CWMAs

#### **Other Projects**

UVA Drone + VDOT

\*Always looking for new ways to expand and partner

### FY 18 Landowner Activities

- 4 quarterly meetings with guest speakers
- 2 Shenandoah National Park wavyleaf grass volunteer days
- 19 tabling events, some for multiple days
- 20 speaking engagements
- 19 PRISM run classes and landowner meetings
- Thousands of factsheets, brochures, ... handed out
- Tens of thousands of additional people reached through website traffic, our newsletter, print articles, radio/tv, facebook and our partners' communications

# **Key Activities & Updates**

### NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program

• \$640,000 funding for 94 landowners to treat over 2,000 acres in 3-year EQIP contracts

### DuPont Settlement Wavyleaf project grant

- \$250,000 for 5 years of treatment for 6 sites
- Year 2 treatments being planned

#### More nominations for the VA Noxious Weed List

- Ailanthus, porcelainberry, bittersweet, mile-a-minute, hydrilla and incised fumewort are in the VDACS approval process
- Next round of nominations being prepared
- Volunteers welcomed to help nominate more plants

# **Key Activities & Updates**

Conversations with DOF, DCR, DGIF, VDACS, VDOT

More Richmond meetings as well

### Additional focus on creating more PRISMs in VA

 And connecting with the NoVA PRISM, National Capital Region PRISM, Potomac Highland Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area and the New River Gorge CWMA

**Drone Project** 

Challenge grants

Hiring a part-time assistant

1000+ people on our mailing list





## The Big Picture: Planning to Control Invasives

- Define your objective/end state
- Make a plan (inventory and asses site)
- Map control locations
- Eradicate, control, contain
- Rehabilitate and reclaim site
- Prevent re-entry and spread
- Monitor, monitor, monitor...
- Persistence! 5-10+ years

### Management Fundamentals

- Take action when plants are young.
- Pull, cut, or treat when seeds absent.
- Be meticulous about sanitation.
- Conduct manual activities when soil is moist to aid removal of roots.
- Beware of soil-active vs foliar-active herbicide active ingredients.
- Read and obey herbicide label carefully- The label is the law!

### Control Measures

#### Manual

- Hand-pulling
- Cutting
- Grubbing

#### Mechanical

- Mowing
- Chainsaw
- Weed-whacker, string or blade
- Forest Mulcher

#### Herbicides

- Foliar Spray
- Cut Stump
- Hack-and-squirt

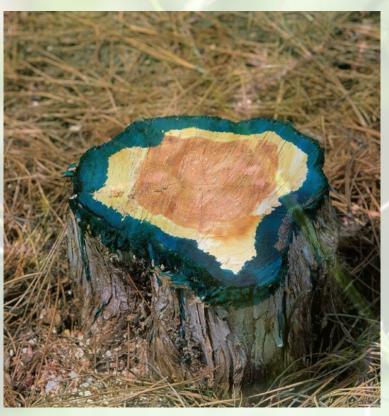
#### **Biological**

## Herbicide Control Techniques

**Foliar Spray** 

Cut Stump
Cambium layer only





Hack-and-Squirt
Herbicide travels throughout the tree best if spaces are left between the "hacks."





### Herbicides

### **General (kills everything):**

Glyphosate (Roundup, Rodeo, Accord, Razor, Ranger) 41 to 54% chemical

### **Broadleaf-specific:**

- Triclopyr amine (Garlon 3A) 44.4% chemical
- Triclopyr ester (Garlon 4), oil based, basal bark

#### **Grass-specific:**

Sethoxydim/Clethodim (Poast, Envoy) 18% chemical in Poast



# Tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus altissima)

Compound leaves with smooth edges except for notches near petiole. Crushed leaves stink like rotten peanuts.











New foliage often red-tinged.

Fruits on female trees can be yellow or orange-red.

# Tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus altissima)



Invades forests, fields and roadsides.



### Invasive Tree Control

#### MANUAL / MECHANICAL

· Usually ineffective, except for seedlings.

#### **HERBICIDE**

- Large trees: hack-n-squirt
- with triclopyr amine, triclopyr ester, or imazapyr, midsummer or late winter undiluted.
- Saplings: basal bark spray with triclopyr ester: year-round except at leaf emergence, 20-25 % solution in oil-based carrier.
- Seedlings / saplings: foliar July-October: triclopyr amine (2%); imazapyr (0.75%)

# **Upcoming Events**

July quarterly meeting – July 17

- Jake Hughes, Lead Biological Science Technician, Shenandoah National Park
  - Their successes in removal and restoration learn how to do it
  - Location: TBD

October quarterly meeting – October 16

Herbicide panel held at Blandy in Clarke County

Spring/summer landowner workshops

- May 14 6:30-8:30pm Albemarle High School 6:30-8:30pm
- June 5 Blandy Experimental Farm 1-5pm
- June 10 Ivy Creek 1-5pm
- June 20 Rockfish Valley Community Center 1-5pm

Various tabling events being planned

Interested in hosting a PRISM workshop? Contact Ashton@blueridgeprism.org

See our website for the latest schedules and details

