

Pesky Plants at a site you manage

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What is Pesky Plant Trackers?

Pesky Plant Trackers is a citizen science project focused on wild parsnip and Japanese knotweed, two non-native plants that cause problems in North America. The project brings together volunteer observers, University of Minnesota researchers, and others to “track” seasonal changes in these plants.

Do you manage a site with wild parsnip or Japanese knotweed? Let's connect!

Let's talk about how to tailor and coordinate data collection activities to meet the needs of your staff, volunteers, and stakeholders. To discuss ideas and options, contact Program Coordinator Abbie Anderson (peskyplants@umn.edu). Thank you!



What data are needed?

The Pesky Plant Trackers program helps people gather data on seasonal change in wild parsnip and Japanese knotweed. For example, when does the plant you track have green leaves? When do its flowers open? When do fruits first appear? When are fruits ripening and then falling off the plant? These data are easily collected using *Nature's Notebook*.

The changes described above unfold over the growing season, from March through October. Ideally, observers collect data at least once a week, a process that takes ~5 minutes per plant using the *Nature's Notebook* mobile app. General volunteers are encouraged to complete training (~4 hours), see peskyplants.umn.edu/volunteer. Folks with expertise on wild parsnip or Japanese knotweed may be ready to participate with less training. Contact Abbie at peskyplants@umn.edu for more information.



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