

Volunteer with Pesky Plant Trackers

peskyplants.umn.edu

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.

Who can volunteer?

Volunteering works best when you have wild parsnip or Japanese knotweed growing nearby. For example, if one of these plants grows where you live, work, play, shop, or visit on a regular basis, volunteering will be easy.

What does a volunteer do?

A volunteer locates one, two, or three “pesky plants” in a convenient place and marks them with a stake or flag.

Volunteers observe their marked plants every week and use *Nature's Notebook* (a mobile app) to record changes, such as flowers opening and fruits ripening. Volunteers do *not* remove marked plants.



Why track pesky plants?

When land managers remove invasive plants, they time their work in order to achieve results. By researching links between plant observations and local growing conditions, Pesky Plants researchers will build tools to improve the timing and outcomes of invasive plant management.

Begin here:

Learn how to volunteer

Become a Pesky Plant Tracker by completing one of two training options (choices are equivalent):

- 3 Zoom sessions:
peskyplants.umn.edu/scheduled-training
- Self-paced course:
peskyplants.umn.edu/self-paced-training

Explore maps & locations

Prepare for next year by finding places where pesky plants grow: peskyplants.umn.edu/fallwinter

Spring-through-fall:

Locate a pesky plant near you

In March or April, locate and mark a wild parsnip or knotweed plant that you can track. (~2 hours)

Join & set up *Nature's Notebook*

After locating a plant (or a few plants) near you, get ready to use the [website](#) and app. (~10 min.)

Track your plants

Observe your plant(s) at least once a week to collect data. (~5–10 minutes per week)



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