

# Care of the Harrison St. Meadow

## MEADOW DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

### FIRST YEAR

#### Spring

- Delineate meadow border or edge
- Mow delineated meadow edge 2 -4" height
- Mowing regimen for meadow
  - Mow every 4 -6 weeks
  - Ideally 12 –18" height
  - Mowing removes exotic plant seed heads
  - Allows native plants to dominate seed bank over time
- Succession islands:scalp mow (1) or more islands or plots for new native plants
  - Plant plugs, quarts, gallons of native grasses + forbs in these islands
- Cast native plant seed mix over any disturbed soil
  - Roll or tamp seeds for good soil contact
  - Lightly mulch or straw over seed to discourage birds

#### Summer

- Stop mowing when 'summer heat' arrives (generally in July)
- Begin monthly checks for highly invasive plants, shrubs and trees
- If necessary, schedule a small invasive removal-habitat restoration group to remove invasives

#### Fall

- If necessary, schedule a small invasive removal-habitat restoration group to remove invasives
- Plant more plugs, quarts, gallons of native grasses and forbs in islands if needed

### SECOND YEAR

#### Late Winter \_End of Feb. or beginning of March

- Mow low 4"-6" height ( try getting NVRPA to do this in late Feb or early March - contact Carl Mohle <[kmohle@NVRPA.org](mailto:kmohle@NVRPA.org)>)
- Schedule for after mowing (as far in advance as possible) with Loudoun Wildlife and other partners for weekend raking past mowing
- Call Leesburg Public Works Dept. (703-771-2743) to arrange for pick up of paper bagged raked material.
- If needed rake off all cut debris from meadow
- Place paper bags along Harrison St. at WO&D path for pick up

#### Spring

- Mowing regimen
  - Mow every six weeks this second season if possible
  - Ideally 8-12" height
  - Removes exotic plant seed heads
  - Allows native plants to dominate seed bank over time
- Succession islands
  - Scalp mow (1) or more islands or plots for new native plants
  - Plant plugs, quarts, gallons of native grasses + forbs in these islands
  - Cast native plant seed mix over any disturbed soil
  - Roll or tamp seeds for good soil contact

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- Lightly mulch or straw over seed to discourage birds

## **Summer**

- Stop mowing when 'summer heat' arrives (generally in July)
- Resume monthly checks every month for invasive plants., shrubs and trees

## **Fall**

- If need be, schedule a small invasive removal-habitat restoration group to remove
- Plant more plugs, quarts, gallons of native grasses + forbs in islands if needed

## **THIRD YEAR**

### **Late Winter**

- Mow low 4" to 6" height (try getting NVRPA to do this in late Feb or early March)
- Schedule a "raking " with Loudoun Wildlife and partners for as soon as possible after mowing as far in advance as possible
- Call Leesburg Public Works Dept. (703-771-2743). to arrange for pick up of paper bagged raked material. •
- If needed, rake off all cut debris from meadow
- Place paper bags along Harrison St. at WO&D path for pick up

### **Spring**

- Mowing regimen is not needed this year as most plants should be well established by now.
  - Removes exotic plant seed heads
  - Allows native plants to dominate seed bank over time
  - Resume monthly checks for tree starts and highly invasive plants
  - Establish education program on monitoring for invasives with partners
- If need be, schedule a small invasive removal-habitat restoration group to remove at any point during the season

## **SUCCESSION ISLANDS**

- Scalp mow (1) or more islands or plots for new native plants
- Plant plugs, quarts, gallons of native grasses + forbs in these islands
- Cast native plant seed mix over any disturbed soil
- Roll or tamp seeds for good soil contact
- Lightly mulch or straw over seed to discourage birds

## **FOURTH YEAR**

### **Late Winter**

- Suggest burn meadow after 3 seasons of growth
- Mow meadow perimeter for fire brake
  - Mow a series of firebreaks through meadow,
  - perpendicular to prevailing winds (NW?)
  - Stage all safety equipment and materials
  - Burn according to all County Open Burn guidelines
- If do not burn have it mowed as in year three

### **Spring, Summer, Fall**

- Resume monthly checks for invasive plants, shrubs and trees

# Care of the Harrison St. Meadow

## INFORMATION ON COMMON INVASIVES SEEN IN OR POSSIBLE IN THE HARRISON ST. MEADOW

### What is an invasive plant?—

- A non-native plant whose introduction to an ecosystem causes economic or environmental harm to native landscape.

### Determination of invasives is based on:

- *Invasive Plant Species list*, Virginia DCR
- *Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States*, University of Georgia, Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health in partnership with nine other institutions
- *Common Weeds and How to Manage Them* from Mid Atlantic Native Meadows by Mahan Rykiel Associates & Xerces Society.

### Harrison St, Meadow Invasives List (as of end of second year-fall 2020)

#### Vines

- Bindweed-*Convolvulus arvensis* - [Field Bindweed - King County](#)
- Japanese Honeysuckle-*Lonicera japonica*
  - Information from [Invasive Plant Species Awareness Working Group](#)
  - Information from [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia](#)

#### Grasses

- Johnson grass - [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia](#)

#### Forbs

- Shrubby brushclover-*Lespedeza cuneata* - [Chinese Lespedeza - Invasive.org](#)
- Bull thistle-*Cirsium vulgare* - [Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia](#)
- Mugwort-*Artemisia vulgaris* - [UMD extension](#)
- Curly dock-*Rumex crispus* - [Good Oak ecological services](#)
- Teasel-*Sipsacus fullonum* - [Jefferson County Washington Fact Sheet](#)
- Ragweed-*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* - [Illinois Wildflower](#)
- Chicory-*Cichorium intybus* - [Colorado Department of Agriculture](#)
- Prickly Lettuce-*Lactuca* - [Illinois Wildflower](#)
- Spotted Knapweed-*Centaurea maculosa* - [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia](#)

#### Shrubs & Trees

- Multiflora rose-*Rosa multiflora* - [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation - Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia](#)
- Callery pear-*Pyrus calleryana* - [Invasive.org](#)

## INVASIVE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Please see each species for particular details of identification and management. All species of invasives were dealt with by manual or mechanical treatments. The goal is to achieve effective long term control using approaches that are not harmful to man, wildlife and the environment.

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## **Mowing or bush hogging -done at a height of 8 to 12 inches**

Done in late winter removes seed heads especially exotics. In first two years this method is repeated about every six weeks to remove seed heads of any exotics . This method is especially effective in cutting down shrubs and tree seedlings. This allows natives a chance to get a hold and ,hopefully, decreases the invasives.

## **Manual removal and cutting back of invasives**

Hand pulling of young plants or plants without extensive root systems like garlic mustard. The disadvantage of this method is it causes soil disturbance which disturbs more seeds already in the soil or allows other invasives to germinate. It is possible also to leave a small part of a plants root in the ground and the plant will reemerge. This is common with Johnson grass.

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## Using clippers or loppers

Cut back invasive . Some will need to be cut to the ground repeatedly to die either over a season or sometimes longer. Some plants need to be cut back right before they flower or set seed to die.

## Smothering plants-

We have used this method on two very difficult plants in the meadow. Johnson grass and Mugwort. The black plastic has been left in place for about nine months. When it is removed this spring we will put in a large number of Ragwort-Pacera aurea plugs plus put a ring around any Mugwort or Johnson grass left in the area.

## RESOURCES

Weaner, Larry Thomas, Christopher, *Garden Revolution*, Timber Press, 2016

Ernst Conservation Seeds <https://www.ernstseed.com/resources/planting-guides/life-cycle-of-a-meadow>

VADCR Natural Communities <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/natural-communities>

Useful meadow definition <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meadow>

Strum, Alice, Mahan Rykiel Associates and Stephanie Frischie, *Mid-Atlantic Native Meadows, Guidelines for Planning, Preparation, Design, Installation and Maintenance*, 2020, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Blue Ridge [prism.org](http://prism.org), Blue Ridge Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, January, 2017

Sylvan Ramsey Kaufman, Wallace Kaufman, *Invasive Plants*, Stackpole Books, 2007

National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*, 5th edition, 2017

Wallace, Vickie, Siegel-Miles, Alyssa, *How to Successfully Maintain a Meadow*, Univ. of Conn Ext., 2017

Plant NOVA Natives, *Invasive Plant Management*, [PlantNOVANatives.org](http://PlantNOVANatives.org)

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