

## **Invasive Species & Citizen Science: Solving Problems**

The University of Minnesota Extension is a leader in citizen science and invasive species education and research. Starting during the spring of 2020 and continuing through 2022 several new, one-year, citizen science and invasive species projects launched. The projects are quick, timely, low budget and require minimal training. Each project had a different audience, objective and tools that uniquely fit each research question.

In 2020 projects included squill, jumping worm, Amur corktree, Norway maple and oak wilt. As a result of this work participants discovered the northernmost infestation of squill in the United States (as confirmed in EDDMapS); new infestations of Norway maple; photo confirmation that Amur corktree male trees, identified by flower sex, are producing fruit; and first trials for garden level jumping worm management.

In 2021 the Jumping worm: Report management project continued with additional information and emotional support. The Find and Report project hopes to inform policy; participants will look for escaped Japanese tree lilac, porcelain-berry, European black alder and Siberian peashrub. In the Mysterious Mulberries project volunteers work to better understand the distribution of native red mulberry and non-native white mulberry and to better understand the interplay between these two species.

The 2022 projects are still in development but will likely include: “motherworts”, highbush cranberries, Miscanthus, mock strawberry and butternut. The Jumping worm: Report management project will continue for another year.

This presentation will highlight what was learned, worked and didn't work. It will focus on the successes of the Amur corktree and jumping worm projects.



### **Angela Gupta**

Angela Gupta is a University of Minnesota Extension Professor of Forestry who specializes in terrestrial invasive species. She's done invasive species early detection education and outreach for about 15 years. Angie's been a key leader of the UMN Extension's Invasive Species Community of Practice since its inception in 2016. Angie earned a MA in Organizational Management from Spring Arbor University and a BS in Forestry from the University of Kentucky.