

What's In a Name? Thoughtful Nomenclature Makes a Difference Species

The University of Minnesota (UMN) Extension's Invasive Species Community of Practice (IS CoP) believes in the adoption and use of appropriate, acceptable names for invasive species reflective of our values for diversity and engagement. The IS CoP developed Guiding principles to inform selecting primary common names for new non-native species. Additional processes were developed to apply these new principles to Extension programs.

What's in a name? A lot. In 2014, Minnesota legislators passed a bill that included a name change for state agencies from "Asian carp" to "invasive carp", in response to concerns raised by the Asian-American community. Yet, many other, potentially invasive species with similar place-based names exist and are emerging in Minnesota without discussion like crazy worms, Manchu tubergourd, Siberian squill, etc.

To help inform a process for thoughtful development of appropriate common names, IS CoP reached out to two invasive species research centers and Extension's Foreign Born Affinity Group at UMN for feedback and review. Their feedback drastically changed our approach and increased our sensitivity to this issue.

This presentation will review key discussion points and the decisions, revisions and procedural practices that resulted. Our first test of this process resulted in naming and approving use of the common name red hailstone for *Thladiantha dubia*. Outcomes are that red hailstone is now used by EDDMapS, iNaturalist, MN Wildflowers and eventually USDA Plants Database. To date, the UMN IS CoP has helped change troublesome common names of 18 invasive species on state and national platforms.



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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.

Megan Weber

Megan Weber is an Extension Educator at the University of Minnesota focusing on aquatic invasive species. She creates and delivers volunteer, citizen science, and educational programs that help empower Minnesotans to be a part of the solution to aquatic invasive species problems. Key programs include the AIS Detectors program, Starry Trek, and Aquatic Invasive Species Management

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