

## Invasive plant alert from the Invasive Plants Team

A particularly nasty invasive plant is popping up all over Rockport. Black swallow-wort is easy to recognize at this time of year because it forms distinctive, pods like elongated, smooth milkweed pods, and releases winged seeds that resemble those of milkweed. As the Mass Audubon article below says, "Black swallow-wort and pale swallow-wort (which has pinkish flowers) invade fields and field edges. Black swallow-wort may also invade woodlands. Close relatives of milkweed, these species may interfere with monarch butterfly reproduction."



We have seen it in Rockport along King Street, along Atlantic Avenue, in the Headlands, and in the library garden. There were fields of it on the site where the Quarry Dance was performed this summer. The fence at Steve Connolly's Seafood Inc. is covered with Black swallow-wort.



Black swallow-wort is a native in Europe, and was first noted in 1854 in Ipswich, MA.

At this time of year, you can limit the damage it does by cutting off all seed pods to prevent seed dispersal. On private lands, the entire crown of the plant can be dug up, and it can be treated with targeted glyphosate as described in the article below by the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture. The Invasive Plants Team can provide you with the appropriate solution at minimal cost.

Pod photo reference: <http://www.somervillegardenclub.org/2017/10/black-swallow-wort-pod-patrol/>

Flower photo reference:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants/swallow-wort/black-swallow-wort-images/black-swallow-wort-flowers-and-leaves>

General references:

[Invasive vines swallow up New York's natural areas | Cornell ...](#)

As invasive Pale and **black swallow-wort** vines spread across the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada, Cornell researchers lead efforts to understand these pernicious plants.

<https://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2014/04/invasive-vines-sw>

[\*\*Black Swallow-wort & Pale Swallow-wort - Mass Audubon\*\*](#)

How to identify **Black** and Pale **Swallow-worts** and solutions for controlling this invasive species of plant.

<https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants/swa...>

[\*\*Pest Management - Invasive Plant Control Black Swallow-Wort ...\*\*](#)

Pest Management - Invasive Plant Control **Black Swallow-Wort** Conservation Practice Job Sheet MN-797 Photos by Peter M. Dziuk, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

<https://efotg.sc.gov.usda.gov/references/public/MN/797SwallowWort..pdf>



