



Wild Cohasset

Bringing Back Our Native Plants

Warning:

Do you have this toxic plant that's spreading
across Massachusetts?

Black Swallow
Wort KILLS
Monarch
Butterflies &
harms
songbirds



Never burn or
compost.
It must be
thrown away in
a sealed bag.
Wash hands &
do not touch
your eyes after
handling.

- This plant is an invasive perennial vine that spreads through the air and by its roots, changing the soil chemistry so that other plants can no longer grow. It is not native to our area.
- It is devastating to the Monarch Butterfly, degrades song bird habitat, and kills off our native wildflowers.
- The time to control the spread is before late summer!

Need advice? Contact us at WildCohasset.org

How to remove:

Young vines sprout in colonies. To remove, hold on to the plant as close to the root as possible. Using a small trowel, dig in a circle around the soil to loosen the root, then slowly pull the plant and the entire root ball. If able, a pitchfork can make this even easier. Dispose of in a sealed trash bag. Do not burn or compost. **If you have so many plants that it is forming a ground cover, you may mow or weed whack through the summer to keep it from flowering. Wear glasses/protective eyewear when mowing.**



Flowering vines In Massachusetts, Black Swallow Wort usually flowers with tiny purple/black flowers in early – midsummer. This is an excellent time to remove it. Try to dig up the roots using the technique above. A pitchfork can make this easier due to the size and depth of the roots. If you're unable to get to the roots, simply cut the vine as close to the ground as possible and throw the vine away in a sealed trash bag. If it is too difficult to remove the vine, simply cut it and leave it in place. You will need to keep it trimmed through late fall to prevent further blooms.



Seed Pods In mid-late summer, the plant develops seed pods. It is **URGENT** to remove the pods before they dry and open, sending new seeds airborne far and wide. If you're able to use the flowering vine technique, that is best practice. If you are unable to remove the entire vine, snip it at the ground and **remove ALL pods and throw them away in a sealed trash bag** (pods will continue to develop into seeds even if the root is severed).



If pods have opened, you can use packing tape to wrap them to prevent seed dispersal before removing and throwing away in a sealed bag. A cordless hand held vacuum works well to suck up all seeds in pods or on the ground. Just dispose of contents **INDOORS**.

