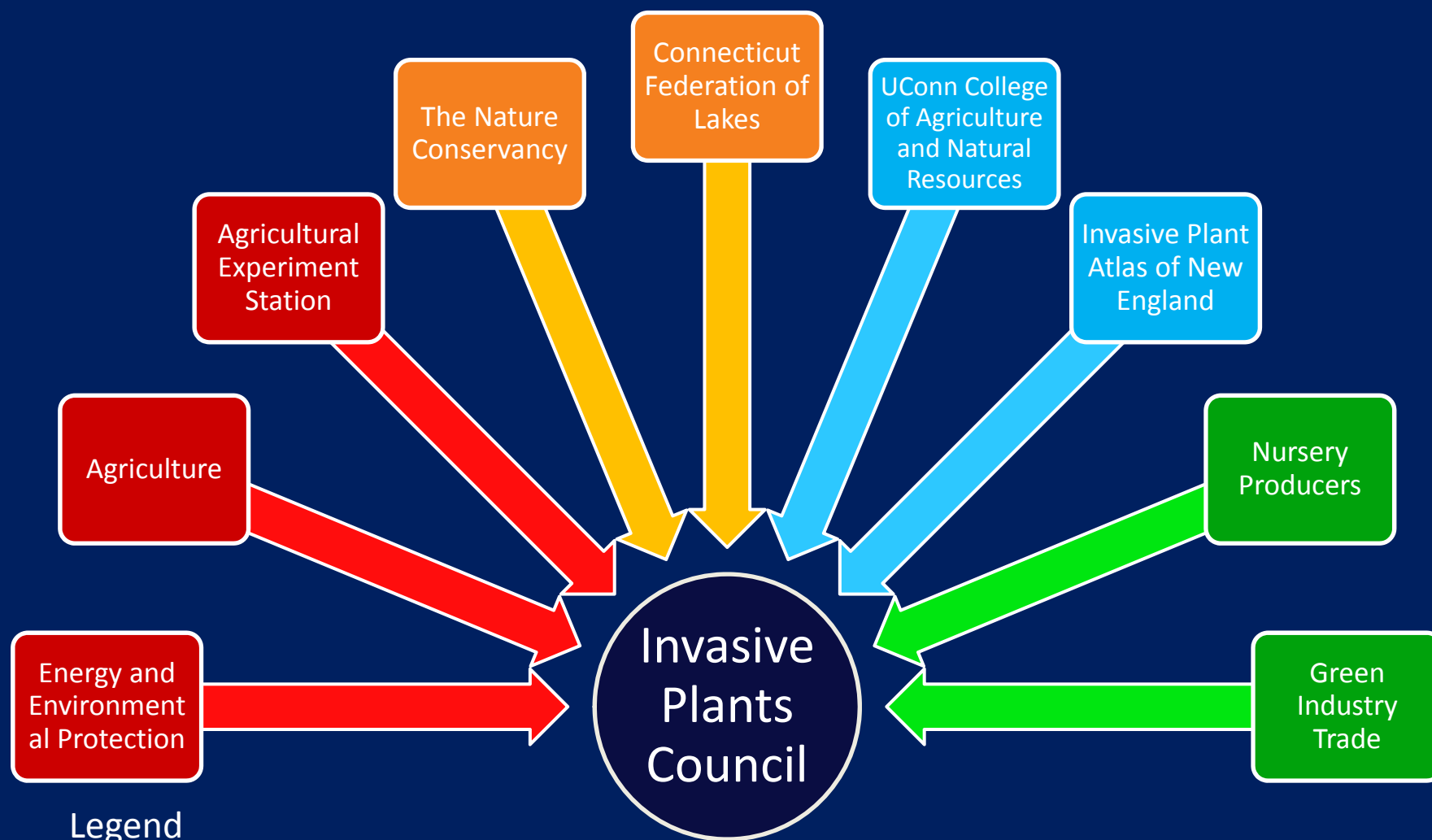


Connecticut Invasive Plants Council Update

CIPWG Symposium: October 7, 2014
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT



Connecticut Invasive Plants Council



Legend



State Agencies



Non-governmental Orgs.



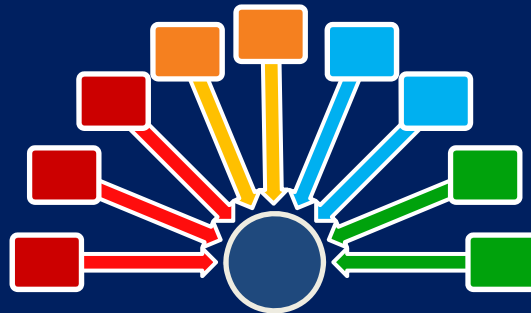
Academia



Industry

IPC Responsibilities

- Recommendations to control invasive plants
- Publish and update list of invasive & potentially invasive plants
- Educate the public and assist state agencies in conducting research
- Make recommendations to the General Assembly



Taking Action: Bamboo



- Many site visits, discussions with other states
- Helped draft legislation that became PA 13-82
- Continue to investigate bamboo sites that might qualify as invasive as per State Statute (22a-381b)

Taking Action: Workshops & Education

- Held workshop on new bamboo laws for municipal officials
- Conducted four training sessions for 200+ DOT staff
- Responded to a growing number of public inquiries



Taking Action: Science & Prevention

- Investigated legal status cultivars of CT prohibited species
- Developed BMPs for giant cane (*Arundo donax*) in biofuel industry. Now being reviewed by EPA and USDA



Success:

- Helped inform Environment Committee of damage from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- \$200,000 in FY 15 budget
- \$150K made available as grants to municipalities

Milfoil

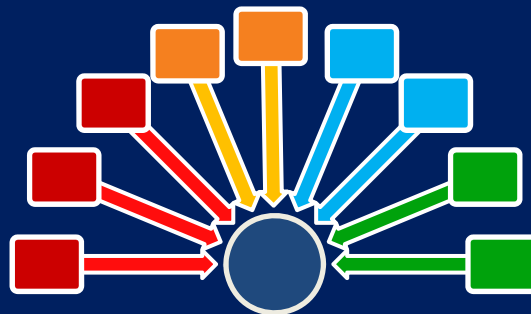


Water Chestnut



What's next? Continue to move the needle!

- (A) Prevention = Outreach & Education
- (B) Ongoing assessment of running bamboo
- (C) Find a broadly accepted solution to the cultivar issue
- (D) **Secure funding for the Invasive Plant Coordinator (\$90,000 per year for entire program!)**



Big Picture: Approach to Prevention

MOU between States, Pet Trade, USFWS

- Signed in 2013
- To reduce the risk posed by potentially invasive species not currently in trade. Aquatic species only
- Collectively select potential invaders ... USFWS scientists do screening ... States review ... *Science driven process!* ... Pet Trade implement voluntarily restrictions & evaluate

If this non-regulatory approach is successful it should be expanded to other industries and other scales

Big Picture: Congressional Invasive Species Caucus

- Established in 2012
- Only 22 members, none from CT
- Platform for discussion of invasive species issues at Federal Level
- Grassroots effort to “*Grow the Caucus*” underway by AFWA and NGOs
- Simple request to our representatives in Congress: “*Join the Caucus*”
- Foundational effort!

In the final analysis, there will never be enough funding or enough enforcement to solve the invasive species problem. The only practical solution is ...



Thank you!