

MOST (UN)WANTED PLANT:



Black Swallowwort (*Cynanchum louiseae*)



Swallowwort flowers look similar to Milkweed flowers, a native plant also in the Dogbane family. Monarchs mistake them for milkweed!



The long narrow green seed pods turn brown and open to release seeds (attached to fluff) which are carried far and wide by the wind.

WANTED: DEAD OR REMOVED

Guilty of Illegal Ecologic Invasion!

Black swallowwort aka **dog-strangling vine** is a perennial, herbaceous vining plant native to Europe, introduced in the 1800s and now invasive in Massachusetts, climbing chain-link fences and mounding over borders especially in urban areas. It has alleopathic roots, releasing compounds that suppress the growth of surrounding plants. Related to milkweed, this plant is **lethal to Monarch butterflies**, who are tricked into laying eggs on the swallowwort. When the caterpillars hatch, they starve because they cannot eat this plant's foliage!

If Seen, Dig Immediately!

If the vines wind in and through a fence, cut off the long, narrow seed pods and dispose in the trash to prevent further spread!

Hand pull small seedlings, or dig out larger plants along with every piece of root rhizome, which will quickly resprout.

Seeds can persist in the soil for many years, so you may need to continue removing germinating seedlings for years to come.



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