IPAC Minutes January 28, 2025 @ Annapolis Maryland MDAHQ In-Person Meeting 9:30 AM

Participants:

Leslie Cario: Chesapeake Horticultural Services, Owner, President Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA)

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nurseries**,** Owner, MNLGA

Brent Cassell: Leyland Landscaping, Owner

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service,

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PPWM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PPWM, Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Program Supervisor,

Steven Bell: MDA, PPWM, Nursery Inspector/Ginseng Program for Western and Central Maryland

David Grow: MDA, PPWM, Invasive Plant Supervisor

Kim brought the meeting to start at 9:35AM.

Introductions

Attending members introduced themselves to David Grow the new MDA Invasive Plant Supervisor.

Membership

Dan Smalls from Washington College is stepping down as the NGO representative but would like to propose that his colleague Kathy Thorton the former land steward at Adkins Arboretum fill the position.

Kim brought up Brent's and Leslie's tenures are coming to an end, but extension of their positions would be helpful until the work on the assessment tool was completed, and/or new people are found for those positions.

The committee put forward several names for positions including plant industry and UMD extension staff with knowledge of invasives and native plants. Kim and other members promised to check in with possible candidates.

One important characteristic of candidates proposed for these positions was the ability to work collectively and by consensus within the framework of the law. The committee reasserted its commitment to work by consensus.

Minutes

The minutes for the September meeting were accepted into record.

Legislative

The current regulations for the existing law are still with the Attorney General's office. The regulations should move to the Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) and then once they are approved, they move to a 30-day review period for comment. Since we are in legislative session this may take some time.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

Maile Neel and David Grow presented suggestions for improving the new weed assessment tool as David Grow begins building the Excel model for analysis. The committee agreed with suggestions to increase transparency and diminish subjectivity within the new tool, understanding that the results for plants should be replicable and trackable across time within a regulatory framework. Other suggestions to include a measure of uncertainty into the model and effects on human health were also considered. The committee also would keep the USDA WRA as the analysis tool for plants not in Maryland since the new tool is impossible to use for these.

Issues with the new analysis tool will be addressed in the next several meetings.

Some discussion followed the presentations. USDA is developing a weed assessment, what are possibilities for streamlining the Tier 2 plants and considering whether Delaware had built a model that they would share.

Some goals for the February 18th meeting were: 1. DNR would provide a contact for regulating aquatic invasive plants and gain access for David to Maryland GIS data necessary for completing reviews.

2. UMD: Gaining UMD access for David Grow for literature searches as an affiliate

3. MDA: David would work on some Tier 2 examples and more development of the Excel tool for the next meeting.

Next meeting in-person at Annapolis MDA February 18th 2025.

Meeting adjourned 11:10.

IPAC Minutes February 18, 2025 @ Annapolis Maryland MDAHQ In-Person Meeting 9:30 AM

Participants:

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nurseries**,** Owner, MNLGA

Brent Cassell: Leyland Landscaping, Owner

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service,

Daniel Root DNR, State Forester, Forest Health - Forest Legacy Program Coordinator

Lisa Kuder UMD Extension Agent, Native Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

David Grow: MDA Invasive Plant Supervisor

Kim brought the meeting to start at 9:32AM.

Introductions

Attending members introduced themselves to Lisa Kuder who will replace Leslie Cario.

Membership

Cathy Thorton from Washington College will be filling Dan Smalls NGO position on the committee but was not able to attend today. Larry will stay on the committee for the next year.

Minutes

The minutes for the February meeting were accepted into record.

Legislative

Kim went over the new regulations in detail with the committee. Kim went over the process that the regulations will move through before they reach the Governor's office.

Sarah provided the names of two contacts in DNR for regulated aquatic plants. Mike Naylor the Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager and Sarah Widman from the Legislative and Regulatory Review Division who will be part of DNR's regulatory response to point-of-sale aquatic plant regulations.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow led the committee through refinements of the developing Nature Serv weed analysis tool. As a committee the group worked through Question 5 and will continue to refine the tool.

Next meeting in-person at Annapolis MDA March 18th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

IPAC Minutes March 18, 2025 @ Annapolis Maryland MDAHQ In-Person Meeting 9:30 AM

Participants:

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service

Daniel Root DNR, State Forester, Forest Health - Forest Legacy Program Coordinator

Harmony Miller: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Deputy Director of Department of Environmental Design,

Lisa Kuder UMD Extension Agent, Native Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

David Grow: MDA Invasive Plant Supervisor

Kim brought the meeting to start at 9:32AM.

Introductions

Attending members introduced themselves to Harmony Miller.

Membership

Harmony Miller is the new MDOT representative and attended her first meeting. Cathy Thorton from Washington College will be filling Dan Smalls NGO position on the committee but was not able to attend today. Brent Cassel will be replaced by Joel Hafner president of Fine Earth Landscaping to fill an industry position but was not able to attend. The consumer position will now be filled by Kristin Hoffman who was not able to attend.

Minutes

The minutes for the February meeting were accepted into record.

Legislative

Regulations are going to the Maryland Register for thirty days for comments.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) led the committee through refinements of the developing Nature Serv weed analysis tool. As a committee the group worked through Question 13 and will continue to refine the tool. Maile Neel (UMD) designed and presented an automated search and mapping component of the new tool which pulls plant distribution records from GBIF and INAT and any other publicly available database for plant records. DNR and MDOT will both investigate how to make some state data available for the new tool.

Next meeting virtual via Google Meets April 15th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32.

IPAC Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Google Meets

Attendees:
David Grow, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Kim Rice, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Maile Neel, University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Sarah Hilderbrand, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Daniel Root, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Harmony Miller, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jeffrey Thompson, Maryland Department of Environment
Joel Hafner, Fine Earth Landscape Inc.
Kathy Thornton, Washington College
Lisa Kuder, University of Maryland Extension
Jennifer Vaccaro, ShoreRivers, Inc.
Kirsten Hoffman

Kim brought the meeting to start at 9:32am

Introductions and Membership
Introductions were made by all attendees. There were 2 new members joining the committee, covering the consumer position and the regulated landscaping industry positions. There was discussion about a production nursery position being added to the committee. The committee agreed and Kim will reach out to the grower that is interested.

Minutes
The minutes for the March meeting were accepted into record.

Regulations
The regulations are through the AELR committee. They should be published in MD Register in May. Kim will contact the committee when they are published.

There was a request to add Squill (Scilla siberica) to the plant list to be considered for a status assessment. The committee agreed that this plant could be added.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work
David Grow led the committee through the NatureServ assessment protocol. The committee reviewed questions 14, 15, 16, 17.

Next meeting is virtual via Google Meets on May 20th, 2025, at 9:30am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

IPAC Minutes May 20th , 2025 via Google Meets 9:30 AM

Participants:

Kristin Hoffman: Consumer representative

Joel Hafner: Fine Earth Landscaping Inc., President

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association.

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service

Harmony Miller: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Deputy Director of Department of Environmental Design,

Jeffrey Thompson: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Non-Tidal Wetlands Div Baltimore office Regional Chief

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 9:30 AM.

Minutes

The minutes for the April meeting were accepted into record.

Legislative

Regulations are open for comments until June 16th on the legislative webpage. Some concern about the current regulations was brought up. Formal comments should be made on the webpage. A request for access to the past law's original dates for plant regulation was made.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) led the committee through refinements of the developing Nature Serv weed analysis tool. As a committee the group worked through the remaining questions of the tool and will continue to refine the model's analysis protocol. Next steps for future meetings include working drafts of Berberis thunbergii and/or other plants to fine tune the model and it's ability to document a plant's invasiveness based on repeatable evidence from published research.

Next meeting is in person at the Annapolis Headquarters of MDA 9:30 AM on Thursday June 24th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

IPAC Minutes June 24th , 2025 Annapolis MDA Headquarters 9:30AM

Participants:

Kristin Hoffman: Consumer representative

Joel Hafner: Fine Earth Landscaping Inc., President

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association.

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Lisa Kuder: UMD Extension Agent, Native Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Restoration Specialist, Watershed and Climate Services

Daniel Root: DNR, State Forester, Forest Health - Forest Legacy Program Coordinator

Harmony Miller: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Deputy Director of Department of Environmental Design,

Jeffrey Thompson: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Non-Tidal Wetlands Div Baltimore office Regional Chief

Kathy Thornton: Washington College Center for Environment and Society

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 9:30 AM.

Minutes

May minutes were accidentally not discussed at the meeting. Votes should be held to confirm the May and June minutes in September.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) presented a draft of a Weed Status Assessment following the current protocol for *Berberis thunbergii* to IPAC for the committee to discuss and suggest changes. Future Weed Status Assessments for previously categorized Tier 2 plants are planned through December as the law requires. David proposed a timeline and a request for IPAC members to act as editors for these WRA's. Given the proposed timeline, four or five of the WSA's should be ready for IPAC review at the September meeting.

Next meeting is in person at the Annapolis Headquarters of MDA 9:30 AM on Thursday, September 16th 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31AM.

IPAC Minutes September 16th , 2025 Annapolis MDA Headquarters 9:30AM

Participants:

Kirsten Hoffman: Maryland Native Plant Society, Treasurer.

Joel Hafner: Fine Earth Landscaping Inc., President

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association.

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Lisa Kuder: UMD Extension Agent, Naive Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Restoration Specialist, Chesapeake & Coastal Service

Jeffrey Thompson: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Non-Tidal Wetlands Div Baltimore office Regional Chief

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 9:35 AM.

Introductions

Members shared positive outdoor memories from summer travels and experiences during a round of intros.

Minutes

May 20th and June 24th minutes were accepted into the record.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) presented the current protocol for Invasive Plant Species Status Assessments to IPAC for the committee to discuss and suggest changes. Comments made from editors of working drafts were also discussed.

Several WSA drafts have been sent to members for comments. A comment was made about including a map of states and their invasive plant laws in all of Maryland's Weed Status Assessments. Members discussed the National Plant Board (NPB) site for information on current state regulations outside of Maryland. The discussion touched on where do Maryland growers ship plants and would they need this information. The NPB site gives this information and MDA suggests this to growers. A suggestion was made to have IPAC's site link to the NPB site. Growers in attendance shared that most shipping occurs to the North, NE and upper Midwest. There was some discussion about how growers use regs when shipping containers and planning for changes, which are easier for container grown stock than in ground stock. Some discussion occurred on the usefulness of this map when the NPB site is a known for growers. Two members felt strongly about including an up-to-

date map of other state's invasive plant laws for all future Weed Status Assessments. Some discussion occurred on what states should be included in this map and Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, New York and Virginia were identified as priority nearby states. Two members volunteered to maintain and update a map of invasive laws from these states. This map would not be part of the assessment tool but would appear in the assessment's narrative.

The committee moved onto discussing an assessment question that was deemed redundant, and Q13 was removed from the analysis tool.

EDDMaps was added to the geographic analysis component of the tool.

The wording was clarified and changed for Q3B, Q3C, Q9C and Q9d.

A discussion occurred of plants assessed by species as prohibited which will include all cultivars and subsequently how the process for exemptions will work. Nandina was used as an example. The original application for exemption may be at least partially useful for developing this with the new assessment tool.

Changes were made to the organization of analysis and questions so those would be presented together. Also a change was requested in the colors of the icons on the distribution map for ease of reading. That and other changes should be completed by December.

Discussed that the expert assessor's application form is being worked on and those candidates will be assigned plants by the committee.

Next meeting is in person at the Annapolis Headquarters of MDA 10 AM-12 on Thursday, October 7th, 2025, in Room 114.

Dates for November 18th and December 9th were also planned at Annapolis for IPAC meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

IPAC Minutes October 7th, 2025 Annapolis MDA Headquarters 10AM

Participants:

Jason Miller: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Chief Division of Landscape Programs

Kirsten Hoffman: Maryland Native Plant Society, Treasurer.

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA).

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Lisa Kuder: UMD Extension Agent, Native Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Restoration Specialist, Watershed & Climate Services

Jeffrey Thompson: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Non-Tidal Wetlands Div Baltimore office Regional Chief

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 10 AM.

Introductions

Members introduced themselves and welcomed Jason Miller, the new MDOT representative.

Minutes

September 2025 Minutes were accepted.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David Grow (MDA) updated the committee on the finished protocol and the coding effort that Maile Neel (UMD) has been completing to give the state a working standardized assessment tool that pulls data from geospatial databases and generates analytical maps and scores based on cited sources. The committee expressed their gratitude for her work on the now finalized tool.

The additions to the working plant list were agreed on.

Edits for Plant Assessments of *Euonymus alatus* (Winged burningbush), *Ligustrum obtusifolium* (Border privet), *Phyllostachys aurea* (Golden bamboo), *Pyrus calleryana* (Callery pear) were discussed and finalized.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Expert Assessor forms for Expert Assessor candidates. The qualifications and language for choosing qualified assessors is based solely on the written law. Some discussion arose regarding what those qualifications would look like. David is working on a final draft of the google application form.

A discussion occurred about the tool's sensitivity and what the numeric and letter scores mean after a member raised questions about an assessment score.

An updated timeline was offered from David.

A question was raised about a recommended native plant list coming from the industry. Larry Hemming shared that he hadn't sold Barberry in Maryland in five years. Sometimes he and Steve Bell could recommend substitutes but sometimes there just are no substitutes. Nandina will be a tough one for the public to find a substitute for since its use is sometimes cultural.

The committee thanked both David and Maile for the working assessment tool.

The next meeting of IPAC is scheduled for November 18th from 10-12 in Annapolis at MDA.

IPAC Minutes November 18th , 2025 Annapolis MDA Headquarters 9:30AM

Participants:

Kirsten Hoffman: Maryland Native Plant Society, Treasurer.

Joel Hafner: Fine Earth Landscaping Inc., President

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association.

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Lisa Kuder: UMD Extension Agent, Naive Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Senior Restoration Specialist

Watershed & Climate Services

Daniel Root: MDNR Forest Health Coordinator

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 10:05 AM.

Introductions

Minutes

October minutes were accepted into the record.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David shared the final drafts of 5 assessments for *Aralia elata, Berberis thunbergii, Phyllostachys aureosulcata, Tetradium daniellii, Nandina domestica*.

The expert assessor form is online, and assessors can apply using the form.

The committee asked if plants that were previously listed as Tier 1 or Tier 2 would have the original dates of those classifications on the updated prohibited plant list or the watchlist. David reminded committee members that the new classifications are Prohibited Plant or Watchlist Species and the list will reflect when they were categorized as such, but that the original assessment date and results of the plant does appear on the current assessment.

In response to a question from the committee about how long final approval by the Secretary would take after final assessment results were determined, Kim assured that it would be done quickly.

A member of the committee wondered if other states were sharing their assessments and the answer is generally, no. Other states do not share their assessments of prohibited invasive plants the way Maryland does. To date, Maryland's process has been one of the most transparent.

The committee discussed the cultivar exemption form draft David had sent out and how that process would work including the kind of sources, research and questions of sterility, invasiveness and reproductive strategies addressed in the application for exemption.

There was a discussion on the quality of the sources and therefore the evidence cited to answer the questions in the mandated analysis model in current use. The discussion regarded the utility of different types of sources in completing the assessment; personal anecdotes, field guides, scientific peer-reviewed journal articles etc. More than half the sitting IPAC members including representatives of the state agencies made a case for continuing to use vetted peer reviewed data for citations and to score the model questions with an appropriate degree of uncertainty if no such research existed and secondary sources were employed.

In response to this the committee tackled part of the *Nandina domestica* assessment again starting with toxicity and then moving to dispersal. Specifically question 10. Some minor edits were made to the model to clarify how the dispersal question is framed.

A discussion of the December Agenda included the last two assessments to be finalized: Wisteria and Scotch broom.

There was a question about pulling data from Maryland Biodiversity website. Because this website is not open access, the MDA model cannot pull data from MD Biodiversity but if MD Biodiversity data are going to iNaturalist from the MD Biodiversity website then that should be picked up in iNaturalist and therefor will be picked up by the MDA model.

There was discussion about a way the model reviews population data in proximity to S1-S3 plants and Federally listed T/E species in Maryland without revealing the location of plants.

The meeting finished with a discussion of the importance of open-source databases which are publicly available, transparent and allow for replication of the analysis. Which is why the MDA model pulls from iNaturalist and GBIF.

December 9th is the next in-person meeting in Annapolis.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

IPAC Minutes December 9th , 2025 Annapolis MDA Headquarters 10AM

Participants:

Kirsten Hoffman: Maryland Native Plant Society, Treasurer

Kathy Thornton: Washington College, Natural Lands Project

Joel Hafner: Fine Earth Landscaping Inc., President

Jennifer Vaccaro: Shore Rivers, Landscape Architect

Larry Hemming: Eastern Shore Nursery, Owner and past president Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association (MNLGA).

Maile Neel: University of Maryland (UMD) Professor; Director of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture & Department of Entomology

Lisa Kuder: UMD Extension Agent, Native Plants and Landscapes Specialist

Sarah Hilderbrand: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Senior Restoration Specialist

Watershed & Climate Services

Daniel Root: MDNR Forest Health Coordinator

Kim Rice: Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection and Weed Management (PP and WM), Program Manager

Cathy Stragar: MDA, PP and WM Laboratory/Greenhouse/Biocontrol Supervisor,

Steve Bell: MDA, PP and WM Nursery Inspector

David Grow: MDA, Invasive Plant Supervisor

David brought the meeting to start at 10:08 AM.

David started the meeting offering congratulations to the committee for developing and completing the analysis tool and the assessments for the first 13 plants to be evaluated.

Minutes

November minutes were accepted into the record.

Plant Assessment Protocol Work

David shared the final drafts of assessments for Scotch Broom and Wisteria. Both were found prohibited after analysis using the current model.

Wisteria had a very high score for invasiveness given its ability to fix nitrogen, its role as a tree toppling vine, and in Maryland, its encroachment on critical habitat for T and E species.

Wisteria included 3 species (sinensis, floribunda and the hybrid x formosa) that are cryptic in the field and are usually found as the hybrid in naturalized plants.

Data searches were performed for each of the three species separately and then assessments were made for the combination of species under Wisteria spp. Future assessments will use this analysis method for other species complexes.

A question was asked about current Wisteria in the trade. “Amethyst Falls” is the current plant in the trade and is *frutescens* or American Wisteria.

The Scotch Broom draft assessment was also presented and discussed briefly. Editors volunteered to look over the drafts and make suggestions by Mid December.

A question was asked about the websites and Maryland agencies explained that the state was revamping websites and that Invasive Assessments would be available by request on the MDA site. Some questions about giving out specific information on waitlist plants on social media to allow volunteers to target those species for iNaturalist inclusion. The updates for the website with newly prohibited plants will occur twice a year, updated on July 1st and January 1st. MNLGA and Nursery Inspectors will get the word out to growers, the state has no budget for direct mailing.

DNR, Sarah and UMD, Maile are collaborating to get an automatic but protected query for proximity to T and E plants in Maryland without DNR sharing sensitive location data.

Maile is still working on some automated queries to pull synonyms and distributions.

Since the Tier plants have been assessed the initiation question in the assessment will change to fit plants pulled from the mandated book.

There were some questions regarding the Cultivar Exemption form on the amount of time a plant is considered sterile for the exemption form. Larry explained to the group that the plant patent process takes 3-5 years of documented sterility. The current exemption form uses a variety of parameters for assessing sterility.

The committee discussed and ranked the order of plants to be assessed from the larger waitlist. Given the current ground knowledge of nursery folks, Vinca major was added since a less weedy congener was on the list.

Schedules and meetings were discussed, and the next meeting will be:

February 17th at 9AM and will be **Virtual** on Google Meets.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.