



Comparison of Dog-Strangling Vine (top) and Black Dog-Strangling Vine (bottom).

- **Leaves:** opposite, smooth and green. Oval to oblong, rounded at the base and pointed at the tip.
- **Stems:** green with fine hairs, can twine or climb.
- **Flowers:** five petals, pink in colour, flowers in late June and July.
- **Fruit:** two smooth long slender pods. Pods split when dry to release feathery tufts of hair (similar to milk weeds).



Split and dried Dog-Strangling Vine seed pods.

EDD MapS Ontario
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System



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www.eddmaps.org/ontario/

For more information visit:

www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/best-management-practices

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**LANARK
COUNTY**

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DOG- STRANGLING VINE

(*Cynanchum rossicum*)

(*Cynanchum louiseae*)

Best Management Practices




**LANARK
COUNTY**

Dog-Strangling Vine is an invasive plant in the milkweed family. In the US, the common name is pale swallowwort. DSV forms thick mats of vegetation which hinder recreational activities, choke out native species and negatively impact managed woodlots.




DSV infestation in a pine plantation.


IMPACTS




Out-competes native plants, altering habitats and affecting wildlife




Pollinators and plant-eating insects avoid DSV



DSV reduces forest regeneration for plantations



Livestock avoid DSV and it may be toxic to mammals



Dense mats of DSV inhibit recreational activities



Dig



Mow



Cut Pods



Tarp



Spray

For small infestations, pulling the above ground vine can prevent seed production, however, the root crown stays in place. Alternatively, digging up the root crown has proven successful in eradication.

Large infestations can be mowed after the vine flowers and before it produces seed pods. Alternatively, selective clipping at the stem base can replace mowing. Regular mowing and/or clipping may be required.

After seed pod production, seed pod removal can be effective in preventing seed dispersal. Remove seed pods just before they dry out and split (early-mid August).

Cover the ground with a tarp to smother new growth following mowing, digging, pulling or clipping. Leave tarp for at least one full growing season and replant the area with native plant species following tarping.

Only apply systemic herbicides to fully expanded leaves. Re-treating the seedling growth will be necessary for multiple years.

DSV



A monarch butterfly resting on milkweed flowers.

Monarchs may mistakenly lay their eggs on DSV. The monarch larvae starve because DSV does not provide the necessary food source. The monarch butterfly is a species at risk in Canada and this could lead to further declines in the population.

DISPOSAL

Plants can be dried and composted. If plants have seed pods, seal in a black garbage bag and leave in the sunlight for 1-3 weeks. Dispose of as household garbage.

Note: DSV may leach plant toxins in soil where composted.



Dog-Strangling Vine flowers.