



Baby's breath in floral arrangement

BCK CISMA

January 2020

NOT IN MY BOUQUET!

Valentine's day is dedicated to showing love. As tokens of our love, we purchase cards, chocolate and flowers. While everyone loves a good bouquet, many come with a nasty sidekick- baby's breath. This little white flower may seem harmless, but it has devastating effects to Michigan's ecosystem.

Native to Europe, baby's breath was brought over to be used in floral arrangements and "wildflower" mixes. Baby's breath grows up to three feet tall. Its blue-green stems are swollen at the nodes and become highly branched near the top of the plant. The leaves of baby's breath have smooth edges and a strong mid-vein. They are directly across from each other on the stem. Baby's breath's small white flowers have five petals that curl backwards. These flowers cluster at the end of the stalks.

Baby's breath reproduces by seed. Each flower will produce from two to five seeds. With an abundance of flowers on each plant, the average plant has 13,700 seeds. These seeds are quick to grow in disturbed sites, most notably dune habitats. Baby's breath alters the dune's natural shifting process, negatively impacting many threatened native dune species.

Baby's breath can be managed by cutting the tap root as far underground as possible. Dispose of the cut material by bagging it in a thick black plastic bag and sending it to the landfill or, if possible, in your area, by burning it. The same can be done if you receive baby's breath in a flower arrangement, as composting will cause spread.



Top: Steve Dewey, Utah State University. Bottom: Record-Eagle/Tessa Lightly - The Invasive Species Network and Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy partnered to host a work day removing baby's breath along Lake Michigan's coast.

BCK CISMA this month in numbers

- 1** active outreach events
- 20** impressions
- 8** passive outreach efforts
- 1,000** impressions
- 1** publications with articles
- 30,000** impressions

Meeting Updates

The next BCK CISMA Meeting is Monday, February 3rd from 1-3pm at the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Auditorium.

Shoreline Symposium

Friday, April 24th
@ Paw Paw District Library

The Shoreline Symposium is a collaborative effort between the BCK and SWxSW Corner CISMAs to bring together riparian owners from throughout Southwest Michigan to learn about the issues facing our inland waterbodies and what we can do to protect them.

We're Hiring!!

Gain professional experience and spend time outdoors this summer! The BCK CISMA has invasive species seasonal crew members and an invasive crayfish technician positions open. For more information contact Fallon or visit <http://www.barrycd.org/home/get-involved/jobs/>

BCK CISMA is dedicated to combating the threat of invasive species in Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. If you have invasive species concerns within those counties, please contact Fallon Januska at fallon.januska@macd.org or 269-908-4136.



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BCKCISMA
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area