DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP'S
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

INVASIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

JUNE

https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/butterfly-bush

BUTTERFLY BUSH

Buddleia davidii

HISTORY & IDENTIFICATION

- Introduced from Asia in early 1900s.
- Deciduous shrub, fast-growing up to 10' tall and wide with open arching form.
- Commonly escapes from gardens and is invasive through most of the U.S. in a variety of habitats.
- Forms dense shrubby thickets along stream beds and disturbed areas.
- NO native North American butterfly caterpillars use it as a host plant.

LIFE CYCLE & GROWTH HABIT

- Prefers well-drained soil and full sun.
- Leaves are opposite, up to 5" long and can be hairy underneath.
- Flowers are grouped in a cluster at branch tip and flower between June and October.
- Seeds are abundant and are dispersed by wind and water.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddleja_davidii_%27Fascination%27

PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

- Don't plant and use native alternatives instead.
- Hand pick seedlings or dig out where possible.
- To achieve total removal, plant a vigorous native species which will prevent it from re-establishing.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Sweet Pepperbush
Clethra alnifolia

Gray Dogwood
Cornus racemosa

Buttonbush
Cephanlanthus occidentalis

RESOURCES

- https://extension.umd.edu/resource/butterfly-bush
- https://mgnv.org/2020/07/13/invasive-plant-factsheet-butterfly-bush-buddleia-davidii/
- https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/butterfly-bush/
- https://www.naba.org/pubs/bg172/bg172_Butterflybush_Issue.pdf
- Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants by C. Colson Burrell, Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guide, 2007, pp.173-177