

BLACK SWALLOW-WORT

Armed with seed pods that look like chili peppers, shiny green leaves that come in pairs, purple star-shaped flowers, and grappling spaghetti-like roots, this invasive vine threatens monarch butterflies and songbirds and displaces native plant communities vital to insects, birds and other urban wildlife. Known to frequent chain-link fences, it is also found in woodlands, gardens and shrubs throughout Cambridge neighborhoods and is spreading fast!

Now that you know about it, you'll probably start to notice it everywhere you go. While it is difficult to dig it out completely because of its extensive roots, pulling green seed pods before they turn brown and open up is one important thing we can do to control this invader.

To prevent seeds inside pods from escaping and spreading to new areas: Pick the pods, put them in a tied plastic bag, and dispose of them in the trash. *Do not put pods into yard waste bags or in your compost!*

If you find black swallow-wort on your own property: Dig up the plant with entire root system, put it in a tied plastic bag and dispose of it in the trash. *Do not put black swallow-wort into yard waste bags or in your compost! The stoloniferous roots will resprout and seeds are not destroyed in composting operations.*



More information at
CambridgeMa.gov/CWD/pod_patrol.cfm or
[Facebook.com/CambridgePodPatrol](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgePodPatrol)

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BLACK SWALLOW-WORT

Leaves

Shiny, green, come in pairs, quickly winding around fences and shrubs



Flowers

Small, purple, star-shaped



Roots

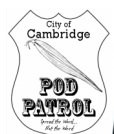
White and fleshy tentacles that break off easily



Seed Pods

Pull when pods are still slim, smooth and green - before they open

**Be careful pulling brown, papery pods that have already opened up -mature seeds easily escape!*



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