



Efforts of the University of Minnesota Extension Invasive Species Community of Practice towards Inclusive Invasive Species Common Name Practices

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About the Invasive Species Community of Practice

GOAL 01

Explore potential collaborations in research and educational efforts.

01

GOAL 02

Learn about the work others in Extension and at the University are doing in invasive species education, participatory science, or management.

02

UMN Staff &
Faculty Whose
Work Intersects
with Invasive
Species

GOAL 04

Develop a community of practice that provides an ongoing, safe, and friendly environment to learn and grow professionally.

04

GOAL 03

Develop new skills and tools to use in educational programming, research, or volunteer management.

03



Development of the “Guiding Principles to inform selecting common names for new non-native species”

1

NEW INVASIVE SPECIES IN MN

Species often referred to as “Manchu tubergourd” becomes education and outreach focus species in Minnesota.

2

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Engagement with members of the UMN Extension Foreign Born Affinity Group helps guide and improve guiding principles development.

3

GUIDING PRINCIPLES IMPLEMENTED

New guiding principles lead to use of “red hailstone” for *Thladiantha dubia* and process created to evaluate other names.

4

GROWING EFFORTS

Team continues to evaluate new species and encourage others to implement new names.



Key Aspects of the Guiding Principles*

Encourage Scientific Names

Prevents issues where regional differences in common names exist.

Avoid.....

Place-based names, derogatory words, common names that could be confused with other species or cultivars



Evaluate Common Names in Use

Review EDDMapS, iNaturalist, plants.gov, AFS, APHIS, USDA, USGS, etc. for other common names used

Desirable Common Name Traits

Encourage names that give information about invasive features, host species, identification features, characteristic symptoms, etc.

*The Guiding Principles to Inform Selecting Primary Common Names for New Non-Native Species is a living document and this slide represents a snapshot of those principles as of today.



Example: *Corbicula fluminea*



Evaluate Common Names in Use

Asian Clam
Asiatic Clam
Golden Clam
Good Luck Clam
Basket Clam
Freshwater Asian Gold Clam
Prosperity Clam
Golden Freshwater Clam
Pygmy Clam



Example: *Corbicula fluminea*



Avoid Place-Based Names

~~Asian Clam~~

~~Asiatic Clam~~

Golden Clam

Good Luck Clam

Basket Clam

~~Freshwater Asian Gold Clam~~

Prosperity Clam

Golden Freshwater Clam

Pygmy Clam



Example: *Corbicula fluminea*



Avoid Potentially Derogatory Names

~~Asian Clam~~

~~Asiatic Clam~~

Golden Clam

Good Luck Clam

Basket Clam

~~Freshwater Asian Gold Clam~~

Prosperity Clam

Golden Freshwater Clam

~~Pygmy Clam~~



Example: *Corbicula fluminea*



**Avoid Names that Could be Confused
with other Species/Cultivars**

~~Asian Clam~~

~~Asiatic Clam~~

~~Golden Clam~~

Good Luck Clam

~~Basket Clam~~

~~Freshwater Asian Gold Clam~~

Prosperity Clam

Golden Freshwater Clam

~~Pygmy Clam~~



Example: *Corbicula fluminea*



Focus on Descriptive Names

~~Asian Clam~~

~~Asiatic Clam~~

~~Golden Clam~~

~~Good Luck Clam~~

~~Basket Clam~~

~~Freshwater Asian Gold Clam~~

~~Prosperity Clam~~

Golden Freshwater Clam

~~Pygmy Clam~~



Example: *Corbicula fluminea*



EDD MapS
find • map • track

HOME REPORT SIGHTINGS

freshwater golden clam
Corbicula fluminea (O.F. Müller, 1774)

This species is Introduced in the United States

The screenshot shows the EDD MapS website interface. At the top, the logo "EDD MapS" is displayed in green and black, with the tagline "find • map • track" below it. To the right of the logo is a red location pin icon. Further right are two links: "HOME" and "REPORT SIGHTINGS". Below this header is a grey box containing the species name "freshwater golden clam" in bold, followed by the scientific name "*Corbicula fluminea* (O.F. Müller, 1774)" in italics. At the bottom of the grey box, it states "This species is Introduced in the United States".

Example: *Corbicula fluminea*



EDD MapS
find • map • track

HOME REPORT SIGHTINGS

freshwater golden clam

Corbicula fluminea (O.F. Müller, 1774)

This species is Introduced in the United States

iNaturalist Search Explore Community

Life > Animals > ... > Genus *Corbicula* > Asian Clam

Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)

TOP OBSERVER

LAST OBSERVATION


Example: *Corbicula fluminea*

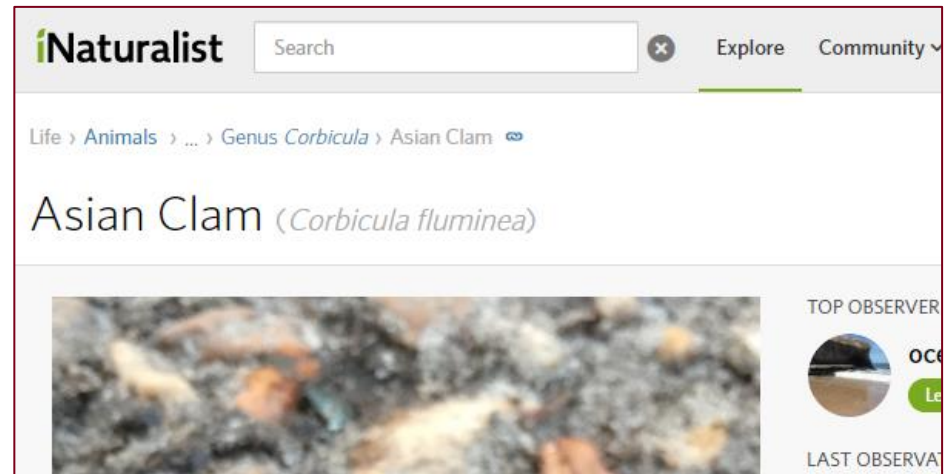


[« Back to Asian Clam \(Corbicula fluminea\)](#)

Flags for Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)

iNaturalist users flag things that need attention from site curators and/or site admins. Users have flagged this Taxon because

Flagger	Content Author	Content Type	Content	Reason
 View All		Taxon	Asian Clam (<i>Corbicula fluminea</i>)	The common name should be changed back to Asian clam because that's what almost every single person and website calls them.



1

CHALLENGE 01

There are limits to Community of Practice member expertise and confidence to properly assess some species' common names.

2

CHALLENGE 02

Some platforms are easier to work with in terms of accepting new common names suggested by the Community of Practice.

3

CHALLENGE 03

There are limits to the Community of Practice's sphere of influence.

4

CHALLENGE 04

Not everyone is ready to accept the need for this work.

5

CHALLENGE 05

Some species don't have many existing acceptable alternatives to choose from and are too widely known to easily change.





Thank you!



Let's Connect!

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Read Our Blog Post



z.umn.edu/GLP-Blog

See the Guiding Principles



z.umn.edu/GLP-Principles

Jumping Worm Names



z.umn.edu/GLP-Worms

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