WANTED: EMERGING INVAsIVE INCISED FUMEWORT

The latest threat to our gardens, forests and wetlands comes from the invasive plant called Incised Fumewort or Purple Keman (Corydalis incisa).

Currently known from a few populations ranging from Washington, DC. to White Plains, New York, Incised Fumewort escapes cultivation, spreading by seed explosively ejected up to nine feet away. The plants form dense stands, carpeting an area within a few years and crowding out other species. Incised Fumewort is highly invasive and has the potential to become another garlic mustard, diminishing biodiversity and altering ecosystem functions. Plants should be pulled immediately, bagged and discarded.

Identifying features:
Plants 4 to 20 inches tall, with watery sap. Seedlings germinating late summer and fall, growing through the winter from pale, swollen roots about 1/2 inch long. Plants mature in spring with several stems and fibrous roots. Leaves highly divided, 2-6 inches long and wide, sharply incised. Inflorescences erect, 2-6 inches long. Flowers 10-16 per stalk, 1/2-3/4 inches long, tubular, purple with darker tips (rarely white). Fruits hanging, 1/2 inch long, green, explosively dehiscent. Seeds very small, black. Flowering and fruiting April to June.

This project was contracted by the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management using funds from the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

If found, please send photos and location to: datha@nybg.org

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