

**New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team
South Mountain Reservation Contract 2026
Activity Report for South Mountain Conservancy
August 3, 2026**

**Prepared for Dennis Percher
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Background & Scope

The Strike Team was engaged in 2026 to continue implementation of the 2025 South Mountain Reservation Stewardship Plan (including further detailed planning provided in January 2026 by Alyssa McCormick). The Strike Team worked within the Polygons E and G. Target species included Sapphire Berry, Christmas Berry, and other Priority 1 species. As encountered, the Strike Team also recorded / treated new populations for other highly threatening invasive species.

Accomplishments

The Strike Team's Field Technicians visited South Mountain Reservation on multiple dates through June for a total of 140 hours of invasive species control work. An additional 9 hours of stewardship staff time was used for communications / planning, managing data (GIS mapping, etc.) and preparing this report. The Strike Team's efforts resulted in eradication of 4 populations and initiation of treatment on 29 populations (note that individual population sizes could be very large throughout the project area).

All herbicide applications were made by Certified Pesticide Operators working under Michael Van Clef, (Certified Pesticide Applicator, License #25730B). The Pesticide Application Record is also attached. Applications were made by Bev Miller, Skylee Ohler, Thi Vu, Jeff Mertz, Collin Suojanen, Julian Held, Rebecca Alabastro, and Hanna Chafey.

Next Steps

We recommend that the Strike Team be re-engaged in 2027 to continue implementation of the 2025 South Mountain Reservation Stewardship Plan. Many of the 2026 initiated populations will require relatively low effort to bring to complete eradication in 2027. Please note that return trips to previously treated areas will be necessary to manage new plants emerging from the seed bank.

**New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team
South Mountain Reservation Contract 2026
Invasive Species Population Summary**

Eradicated Invasive Species Population Summary							
		Population Size					
Common Name	Scientific Name	1	2-10	11-100	101-1000	>1000	Total Eradicated
Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>		1	1	1		3
Kousa dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	1					1
		1	1	1	1	0	4

Initiated Invasive Species Population Summary							
		Population Size					
Common Name	Scientific Name	1	2-10	11-100	101-1000	>1000	Total Initiated
Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>		1	3	3		7
Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>		5	14	3		22
		0	6	17	6	0	29

No-Action Invasive Species Population Summary							
		Population Size					
Common Name	Scientific Name	1	2-10	11-100	101-1000	>1000	Total Initiated
Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	1					1
		1	0	0	0	0	1

**New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team
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Invasive Species Point Locations**

Invasive Species - Point Locations

ID	Common Name	Scientific Name	Population Size	Management	Date Recorded	Submitted_by	Latitude	Longitude
1	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.747519	-74.298426
2	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.747735	-74.298568
3	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.74947	-74.297733
4	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.747811	-74.298976
5	sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	1	No Action	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.756855	-74.290498
6	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.749237	-74.297753
7	Kousa dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	1	Eradicated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.749057	-74.297847
8	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.749352	-74.298154
9	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.748886	-74.298202
10	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.748825	-74.29854
11	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	2-10	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.748518	-74.298192
12	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	2-10	Eradicated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.74894	-74.29755
13	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.749632	-74.298568
14	sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/15/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.749259	-74.298394
15	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/15/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.748709	-74.298598
16	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	101-1000	Initiated	7/15/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.748947	-74.299038
17	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	101-1000	Initiated	7/15/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.748956	-74.299212
18	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.746879	-74.297314
19	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.746056	-74.300881
20	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	2-10	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.745658	-74.300685
21	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.74643	-74.300415
22	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	2-10	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.746754	-74.300284
23	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.746514	-74.300183
24	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	101-1000	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.747069	-74.30028
25	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	2-10	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.745823	-74.29998
26	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	101-1000	Eradicated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.757255	-74.289452
27	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	101-1000	Initiated	7/15/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.748366	-74.299445
28	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/15/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.748886	-74.29927
29	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	2-10	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.747927	-74.296925
30	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	11-100	Eradicated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.749081	-74.297929
31	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	11-100	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.749081	-74.297929
32	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	101-1000	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.758381	-74.289584
33	Sapphire berry	<i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	101-1000	Initiated	7/22/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.758617	-74.290245
34	Oriental photinia	<i>Photinia villosa</i>	2-10	Initiated	7/8/2026	NJISST Field Technicians	40.746173	-74.299542

**New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team
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Herbicide Application Record**

South Mountain Reservation Herbicide Use			
Date	Site	Application method	Total volume of mixed pesticide used
7/8/2026	Polygon E	BB-1	13 gallons
7/8/2026	Polygon E	FS-1	4 gallons
7/15/2026	Polygon E	BB-1	17.5 gallons
7/22/2026	Polygon E & G	BB-1	25.25 gallons
7/22/2026	Polygon E & G	FS-1	2.5 gallons
7/22/2026	Polygon E & G	EZ-Ject	10 Copperhead bullets



South Mountain
Reservation

Polygons E and G

Invasive Species
Treatment Record

Legend

Management

- Eradicated
- Initiated
- No Action

Property Boundary



0 0.04 0.07 0.15 Miles