

# INVASIVE PLANTS DON'T BELONG IN YOUR YARD OR WOODS

**WHY?** They crowd out native plants and shrubs, and diminish native habitat which is vital to our ecosystem.

**WHAT IS NATIVE?** Plants that occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem or habitat without human introduction.

**WHY ARE NATIVE PLANTS IMPORTANT?** They serve a crucial role in the ecosystem by providing habitat and food for mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and insects which contribute to our biodiversity.

**WHY ARE SOME NON-NATIVE SPECIES CALLED INVASIVE?** Invasive species have been introduced from somewhere else in the world. They spread uncontrollably, destroying native habitat, and creating havoc in forests and backyards. Invasive plants tend to reproduce faster than native plants and are less susceptible to predators and disease that keep native plants in check.

**HOW CAN I GET RID OF INVASIVES IN MY YARD?** Methods for removing invasives will vary depending on what time of year you remove them and the species. (Refer to other side of brochure and list of resources.)

**CAN I USE HERBICIDES?** Great strides in all states have been made eradicating invasives using organic products, mechanical and biological methods. We do not advocate the use of herbicides. Furthermore, a state permit is required for many herbicides.

**WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?** Don't plant invasives as they pose a threat to natural habitat. When buying plants, be sure that they are **native**. Consult your garden center; do research. A helpful link is [www.newenglandwild.org](http://www.newenglandwild.org)

## A WORD ABOUT AQUATIC PLANTS:

Owning a pond or living on a lake, one will most likely encounter invasive aquatic plants. Common in New England are (listed by common name): Phragmites, Eurasian watermilfoil, Fanwort, Purple Loosestrife, Curly leaf pondweed, Spiny leaf naiad, Yellow flag iris. Effective methods for removal include hydro-raking (extremely effective for Eurasian milfoil), laying down a benthic barrier to block sunlight in early spring; hand pulling using a lake rake; and, in some cases, cutting and burning. Managing invasive aquatic plants requires a multifaceted approach. First step should be proper identification of the plant, as they are easily confused with native species. Refer to "Connecticut's Invasive Aquatic Plant, Clam and Mussel Identification Guide." Copies are available at the Sharon Inland Wetlands office/Sharon Town Hall.



## LIST OF RESOURCES:

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group:  
<https://cipwg.uconn.edu/>

Connecticut Invasive Plant List:  
[https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive\\_plant\\_list/](https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/)

"Invasive Plants In your Backyard!"  
Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc.  
[ctrivercoastal@sonservect.org](mailto:ctrivercoastal@sonservect.org) (Limited copies at Sharon Town Hall)

Invasive.org: Invasive and Exotic Species of North America: [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)

National Invasive Species Council:  
[www.invasivespecies.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.gov)

United States Department of Agriculture Plants Database (both native and non-native plants):  
[www.plants.usda.gov](http://www.plants.usda.gov)

University of New Hampshire:  
<https://extension.unh.edu/natural-resources/forests-trees/invasive-species>

## RESOURCES FOR AQUATIC INVASIVES:

Connecticut's Invasive Aquatic Plant, Clam and Mussel Identification Guide, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition:  
<https://portal.ct.gov/caes> (Limited copies at Sharon Town Hall)

A Guide to Selected Invasive Non-Native Aquatic Species in Massachusetts:  
<https://www.townofsharon.net>

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

James D. Krissel, Chairman  
Scott L. Schreiber, V. Chairman  
Michael H. Dudek, Secretary  
Laurence B. Rand, III  
William Trowbridge  
Sharon M. Tingley  
Robin Zitter

Alternate members: Lynn S. Kearcher  
Vacancy

Commission Clerk: Jamie Casey  
Assistant: Nikki Blass

Sharon Inland Wetlands  
& Watercourses Commission  
63 Main Street/PO Box 385  
Sharon, CT 06069  
Phone 860.364.0909 • Fax 860.492.7027  
[sharonlanduse@gmail.com](mailto:sharonlanduse@gmail.com)

# Sharon Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission



# DISPOSING OF INVASIVE PLANTS



Revised 2023

## HOW TO DISPOSE OF INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive plants are easiest to control when there are just a few and before the population spreads. Knowing how a particular plant reproduces indicates its method of spread and helps determine appropriate disposal methods. It is important to dispose of invasives and their seeds, flowers and roots responsibly.

**First Step: Identify the plant.** A good resource is "Invasive Plants in Your Backyard" published by the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District. Make note of any flowers or seeds on the plant during the identification process. Some of the common invasives you may find on your property are shown within the brochure.

**Second Step: Remove the plant.** It is most productive to remove plants before they set seed. If the plants have seeds or fruits, collect and remove any of these propagules from the invasive, as they can spread. Removal should be done at the site of the invasive plant. Afterward, pull or dig up plants using a trowel for shallow-rooted invasives and a spade or grub ax for deep-rooted plants. Immediately cover disturbed ground with nearby leaves or mulch. Seeds can remain viable in the ground for a long time. Always be diligent in looking for seedlings where removal and disposal took place.

**Third Step: Disposal.** Once you've removed the invasive plant, it's important to properly dispose of the seeds, roots and vegetation. Only the regenerative portions of a plant - seeds, flowers and fruits - need to be carefully contained. Try these straightforward disposal methods:

**Brush Piles:** Dig small trees, shrubs and non-woody plants before they fruit or seed. Lay a foundation of logs and/or branches as a base layer. Upon the base layer, place the invasives making sure that any root portions are not in contact with the ground. A good resource for constructing a brush pile is the CT DEEP website, "Brush Piles for Wildlife."



Brush Pile

**Burying:** Dig a pit approximately 3' deep by 6' wide. Place a layer of brush on the bottom. This will act as a barrier to prevent contact with the soil and inhibit the invasives from re-rooting. Then cover with removed soil.

**Tarping and Drying:** Pile material on a sheet of plastic and cover with a tarp, fastening the tarp to the ground. Let material dry for a year or until all regenerative portions are clearly broken down. The pile will drastically reduce in size.

**Bag and Dry:** When invasive plants are relatively small, put them in contractor grade garbage bags and leave to bake in the sun for several weeks or months. Make sure no parts of the plant poke through the bag.

**Composting:** You may be surprised to learn that invasive plant species are not typically composted as many invasives can easily take root. Compost can also put invasive seeds back in the ground if it's spread in your garden. However, composting vegetative parts of plants without seeds, fruit or portions that may re-root, is acceptable.

## Invasive Plants



Japanese Knotweed  
(*Fallopia japonica*)  
(on cover)



Garlic Mustard  
(*Alliaria petiolata*)



Autumn Olive  
(*Elaeagnus umbellata*)



Porcelain-berry  
(*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)



Japanese honeysuckle  
(*Lonicera japonica*)



Multiflora rose  
(*Rosa multiflora*)  
(on cover)



Mugwort  
(*Artemisia vulgaris*)



Common Buckthorn  
(*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Oriental Bittersweet  
(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)  
(on cover)



Burning Bush  
(*Euonymus alatus*)



Norway Maple  
(*Acer platanoides*)



Japanese Barberry  
(*Berberis thunbergii*)

**Chipping:** This method is used for large woody plants that do not reproduce from root fragments. The easiest way to do this is to use a chipper and turn the plants into mulch. But only do so when fruits and seeds are not present.

**Herbicides:** We do not advocate the use of herbicides. Research has proven the adverse effects to human health and to our ecosystem. If you have a large controllable population of an invasive plant, we suggest you consult a landscape professional to advise you.