

Invasive Exotic Plants

What You Can Do To Help

Know your own backyard - Learn to identify your region's most threatening plant pests. Flip the page to find out who to contact in order to report new exotic plant infestations, or to receive guidance on controlling plant pests on your property.

Landscape with native species or non-invasive ornamental plants appropriate to your region. Contact the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for a copy of their booklet entitled *Sources of Native Plant Materials in Vermont* (802-241-3770). Also available is *Alternatives to Upland Quarantined Invasive Species*.

Never release aquarium plants into lakes, rivers, or streams. Several popular aquarium plants, such as fanwort, Brazilian elodea, and Eurasian watermilfoil, are wreaking havoc in waterways around the country. To properly dispose of these plants dry or freeze them and add them to the garbage. Never compost these plants because the seeds may remain viable.

Inspect nursery-supplied ornamental aquatic plants, such as waterlilies, that are shipped from growers in the southeastern U.S. where the invasive plant hydrilla occurs. Hydrilla has been known to hitchhike on the nursery-sold plants and would have devastating effects to our waters if introduced to the region.

Be careful not to send or receive potentially harmful plants through the mail. Use mail-order services wisely.

Remove all plant material from boats and boating/recreational equipment before transporting them from one water body to another to avoid spreading invasive aquatic plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil and water chestnut. Zebra mussels, small non-native mollusks that clog water intakes, damage boat engines and alter native species populations, can also be transported from one water body to another on aquatic plants.

Don't bring plants, seeds, fruits, or soil into the country from abroad without having them inspected by quarantine officials. Fill out agricultural declaration forms completely and honestly.

Minimize land disturbance and exposure of soils - these activities increase vulnerability to exotic plant invasions.

Spread the word! Educate yourself and others about the problem of invasive exotic plants.

Get involved! Join volunteer efforts to search for new infestations of invasive exotic plant species and to assist in their removal from lakes and natural areas. Contact The Nature Conservancy to join its Exotics SWAT Team, or the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to join its Aquatic Nuisance Species Watch Program (over for contact information).

For more information about Vermont's invasive exotic plant species or if you would like to know how you can help, please contact:

The Nature Conservancy of Vermont, 27 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602
Tel: 802-229-4425

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, 103 S. Main St., Bldg. 10 North, Waterbury, VT 05671-0408 Tel. 802-241-3777

Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 103 S. Main St., Bldg. 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0501 Tel. 802-241-3715

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 103 S. Main St., Bldg. 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0601 Tel. 802-241-3678

