

# How to Prevent Invasive Species

To help stop the introduction and spread of harmful invaders in your community, you should do the following:

## Gardening

- Avoid growing plants known to be invasive. If you don't know it, don't grow it!
- Be cautious when buying plants from nurseries or seeds from other regions of the country.
- Avoid using seed mixtures, especially ones labeled "wildflowers."
- Landscape with plants native to your area.
- Never dispose of unwanted plants or garden clippings in a nearby park, local body of water, or natural area.

## Boating and Fishing

- Never transport water, animals, or plants from one body of water to another.
- Do not release live fish, including bait, into a new body of water.
- Remove all aquatic plants and animals from hulls, propellers, intakes, trailers, and gear before leaving a launch area.
- Wash all fishing tackle, downriggers, and lines to prevent spreading small, larval forms of aquatic invaders.

## Pets

- Buy any nonnative pets only from reputable dealers.
- Don't release any pets or aquarium fish into a native habitat or natural body of water.
- Purchase certified weed-free hay for horses.

## Traveling

- Never carry animals, fruit, live plants, seeds, or soil into or out of the country.
- Within the country, don't transport items such as gravel, hay, sod, soil, or wood from one area to another.
- Wash your boots and tires to remove soil and weed seeds before you hike in a new area.
- Abide by local and international quarantines to prevent the spread of diseases, pests, and weeds.



*Invasive species removal.*

## Take Action!

- Tell others about the harm that invasives cause.
- If local nurseries sell invasive plants or seeds, let the nurseries know your concerns.
- Volunteer to help remove invasive plants from your local park or nature reserve.
- Learn to recognize common invaders, and keep an eye out for signs of new ones. Check agricultural areas, gardens, lakes, ponds, roadsides, trees, vacant lots, wetlands, and yards.
- If you think you've found a new infestation, contact your county agricultural agent or state Department of Natural Resources. Early detection is crucial to stopping an invasive from becoming permanently established!

### Source

Union of Concerned Scientists. 2010. "What You Can Do to Prevent Species Invasion." [http://www.ucsusa.org/invasive\\_species/what\\_you\\_can\\_do/what-you-can-do-to-prevent.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/invasive_species/what_you_can_do/what-you-can-do-to-prevent.html)