

working together to reduce the threat of invasive plant species



About Invasive Species

You can help stop the introduction and spread of invasive species.

- Experts say invasives cost us nearly \$137 billion in annual losses to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and maintenance of open waterways in the U.S alone.
- Invasive species exact heavy costs in lost productivity. They can be cultivated intentionally or accidentally.
- In U.S. alone, more than 4,500 foreign species have emerged over the past century.
- Native species can be pushed to the brink of extinction.
- Invasive species contribute directly to the decline of threatened and endangered plants and animals.
- Non-native species introduced into a new area free from its natural competitors and predators becomes an "environmental bully."
- Invasions occur worldwide at unprecedented rates and scales causing devastating consequences.

What can YOU do to help stop the spread of invasive plants?

Help protect native plants and animals by following these five easy guidelines:

1. Verify that the plants you are buying for your yard or garden are not invasive. Replace invasive plants in your garden with non-invasive alternatives. Ask your local nursery staff for help in identifying invasive plants!
2. When boating, clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water --some of the worst invasive plants can be found in our waterways.
3. Clean your boots before you hike in a new area to get rid of hitchhiking weed seeds and pathogens.
4. Don't "pack a pest" when traveling. Fruits and vegetables, plants, insects and animals can carry pests or become invasive themselves.
5. Volunteer at your local park, refuge or other wildlife area to help remove invasive species. Help educate others about the threat.