



Take Action! Remove Exotic Plant Pests

Suggested below are a number of actions you can take to eliminate exotic plants from your yard. Check off each as you complete it or incorporate it into your land-care routines. Set a target date for accomplishing all of the recommended activities. Explore the Resources and Links we've provided for further guidance.

- 1. LEARN the invasive plants common in your region.** Visit the National Arboretum web site listed below to get started.
- 2. IDENTIFY the invasive species on your property,** using print and web-based resources. If you are still unsure of the plant's identification, take a leaf sample to your local cooperative extension office, Audubon chapter or center, native plant society, or arboretum.
- 3. VOW not to bring additional invasive plants into your outdoor space.** Incredulously, many invasive plants are sold in nurseries, though some states have banned their sale.
- 4. DETERMINE what could fill the space now occupied by invasives:** a garden bed, a naturalized area, a clump of shrubs or trees? Once invasives are removed, you'll want to act quickly to restore the opened habitat so that they don't sneak back in. Remember to think native!
- 5. CHOOSE a method for removal.** Several options are available; you may need to use more than one method. Several resources are listed below to help you select the most appropriate removal method for your situation. For smaller plots, such as most backyards, good old-fashioned hand-pulling may be the most effective. You'll have most success in eliminating your invasive infestation if you pull the plants before they set seed. Take care to try and remove the entire root system; several species can sprout simply from pieces of root left behind.
- 6. SELECT a manageable plot size to tackle** according to the removal method(s) you've chosen ...AND START! Be sure to use landscape paper or mulch to prevent weeds from recolonizing cleared areas.
- 7. REPEAT removal process as necessary** around your yard until you have reached your goal. Remember, this can be done over time. If total removal is not realistic, then strive for getting invasives under control so that they aren't spreading or displacing native growth.
- 8. BE VIGILANT.** Continue to monitor your property, or "scout," as farmers do, for signs of new invasions and remove them at once.

RESOURCES/LINKS

United States National Arboretum, Invasive Plants

Informative discussion of invasive plants and the problems they pose. Includes links to state listings and other valuable resources

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html>

United States Department of Agriculture, NRCS PLANTS Database

Lists of federal noxious weeds, state noxious weeds, invasive and introduced plants in the United States

http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/topics.cgi?earl=noxious.cgi

National Park Service

Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

Collection of informative fact sheets on numerous invasive plants.

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm>

Invasivespecies.gov

A gateway to Federal and State invasive species activities and programs. Includes profiles of invasive plants and other organisms, links to management practices, and much more

<http://www.invasivespecies.gov/>

The Nature Conservancy, Wildland Invasive Species Team

Invasives on the Web...

Excellent compendium of resources addressing the threat and management of invasive plants

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/>

Maryland Native Plant Society

A Guide for Gardeners and Homeowners in the Mid-Atlantic Region

Includes an excellent general discussion of invasives and methods for their control

<http://www.mdflora.org/publications/Control>

Center for Invasive Plant Management

Although focused on the control of invasives in Western North America, site offers many valuable resources of broader applicability

<http://www.weedcenter.org/index.html>