



INVASIVE PLANT INTERNET RESOURCES

WEBSITES

Center for Invasive Species Management

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

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

- <http://cipwg.uconn.edu>

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE)

- <https://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/>

Mass Audubon

- <http://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/invasive-plants>

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC)

- http://maccweb.org/resources_invasive.html

Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG)

- <http://www.massnrc.org/mipag/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants>

DOCUMENTS

Invasive Plant Management Plan Template

- http://www.vtinvasives.org/sites/default/files/weed_management_planatemplate.pdf

How to dispose of invasive plants

- http://cipwg.uconn.edu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/244/2014/01/InvasivePlantDisposal_2014-01-23.pdf

Details on tools and chemicals to use

- http://www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/pubs/invasive_cntrl/invasive_cntrl.htm

Mowing Advisory Guidelines in Rare Turtle Habitat

- <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/nhesp/species-and-conservation/mowing-guidelines.pdf>

FUNDING

- http://maccweb.org/resources_inv_fun.html
- <http://www.nfwf.org/pti/Pages/home.aspx> (Pulling Together Initiative)
- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1242633> (EQIP)
- <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/wildlife-habitat-conservation/habitat-grant.html>

NATIVE PLANTS

- <http://www.newenglandwild.org/>

PLANT IDENTIFICATION

- <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/>

MAPPING

- <http://www.imapinvasives.org/>

TRAINING

- <http://baystateroads.eot.state.ma.us/workshops/>

WEED WRENCH ALTERNATIVE

- <http://www.theuprooter.com/tool-features/weed-wrench-alternative/>

STEPS IN AN INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PROJECT

1. Inventory invasive plants
2. Document “before” state
 - a. Mapping (showing area and density)
 - b. Photo points
 - c. Other
3. Prioritize species and areas for control
4. Research what it will take to manage the target species
5. Develop a *realistic* 5-year minimum management goal
 - a. Prevention of establishment
 - b. Prevention of spread
 - c. Reduction of area, cover, biomass and/or stems
 - d. Eradication
6. Evaluate your resources relative to the goal
 - a. Funding
 - b. Equipment
 - c. Person power
7. Take into account management restrictions or considerations, especially those concerning wetlands
8. Determine who will do the control and what they can legally do in terms of control
 - a. Private landowner
 - b. Volunteers
 - c. Municipal staff
 - d. Contractor
 - e. Other
9. Decide upon management technique
 - a. Mechanical
 - b. Physical (e.g., hand-pulling)
 - c. Chemical
 - d. Biological
 - e. Prescribed fire
10. Write a plan (very useful, even if not required)
11. Acquire all necessary permits
12. Implement management
13. Monitor and document outcomes
14. Reevaluate the project based on experience and outcomes (adaptive management)
15. Share what you have learned!

**NEPONSET RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM
SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016**

BEST PRACTICES, HINTS, AND TIPS FROM AN ORDINARY GARDENER

Educate yourself about invasive plants, their habits and identification

- Attend seminars and programs like this one regularly to keep current.
- Use trustworthy science-based resources, websites (.org/.edu), and organizations (NepRWA; New England Wild Flower Society; Arnold Arboretum; university Cooperative Extension Services; IPANE; etc.); ask questions of knowledgeable professionals; check the public library for current books.

Be vigilant

Get outdoors! Become familiar with the property/properties you care about -- your own, favorite parks, streets, recreational areas, etc. -- so that you know what typically grows there and can recognize what doesn't belong or appears overly abundant. Watch for when plants are about to flower or have set seed (see below).

Timing is everything

Pull invasive plants BEFORE they flower/set seeds which will disperse (by wildlife, wind, etc.) and spread their evil: for example, Garlic Mustard and prolific berrying plants/vines like Oriental Bittersweet, Porcelainberry, Multiflora rose; etc.

Get rid of it right

Dispose of pulled invasive plant material properly -- do NOT compost: bag in plastic and "solarize" (bake in hot sun) until thoroughly decomposed, desiccated, rotted and then discard.

Buy carefully

Seek out trustworthy sources for products -- especially plants (non-natives and "compromised" compost) -- you purchase. Question "patented" plants from "Big Box" stores. Support local nurseries and request more native, pollinator-friendly plants. Know your landscapers, their products and practices.

Garden green(ly)

Avoid toxic pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and buying plant products pre-treated with them; shrink your monoculture lawn and its fertilizers (Nitrogen, especially) -- all contribute to bad health of watershed systems.

Work together

Enlist others to combat invasive outbreaks in public lands. Involve kids, grandchildren, neighborhoods, friends, clubs, schools, and worship places. Get involved -- volunteer in clean-ups. Many hands, knowledge, and correct tools do make a difference.

"What we plant in our landscapes determines what can live in our landscapes. Controlling what grows in our yards is like playing God. By favoring productive species, we can create life... by using nonnative plants, we can prevent it. Value plants for what they do not what they look like... (and consider) their ability to support life within our local ecosystems..." -- author, Douglas W. Tallamy, *New York Times*, "The Chickadee's Guide to Gardening: In Your Garden, Choose Plants That Help the Environment," Douglas W. Tallamy, 2015/03/11

Examples of Local Town Permitting Policies*

Town	Permitting Required on Private Property	Permitting Required on Town Land	Changes to Policies if Herbicides Are Used	Additional Notes
Scituate	RDA if in wetland or wetland buffer and hand cutting, hand pulling, digging with a shovel; NOI if using mechanical equipment	RDA for most ongoing projects, but for very large eradication projects an NOI is required.	NOI required, as is a licensed applicator	Work near tributaries to drinking water supplies are also reviewed by another Town committee (Scituate Water Resource Committee) and additional conditions may be required.
Hanson	Blanket Permit application for homeowners - \$50 application fee, wetland line must be delineated and depicted on a plan (septic plan or assessors map fine). Erosion control may be necessary in some instances.	Blanket NOI with DEP, Hanson Conservation Commission and the Trails Committee were issued an OOC for town-owned open space parcels, valid for 5 years.	Must be demonstrated that activity is unlikely to generate a net adverse impact on the wetlands or the 50' NDZ. If the Commission determines that the nature or scope of the proposed activities may adversely impact wetlands or the 50' NDZ, they may require the filing of an NOI or RDA.	
Kingston	No filing (considered landscaping) in buffer or outside of resource areas if disturbance is minimal. RDA in resource area if hand-pulling or cutting unless work is extensive, then an NOI is required. NOI if in resource area and using heavy equipment.	Same as private property if in ConComm jurisdiction. If outside Commission jurisdiction, but on Conservation land, permission of Conservation Commission.	May elevate need to file NOI depending on location of removal (e.g. water or in resource area.) Review and permitting to ensure no adverse effects from herbicides to resource areas.	
Norwell	NOI or RDA depending on the extent of the project and the invasive in question.	Same	Full NOI with intensity of the review related to the extent of the project, the type of invasive, and the likelihood of impacting other species.	Most filings are for small Phragmites control projects so the response is by and large ... Yes! Please do the project!
Marshfield	None	None	Must file NOI	We encourage invasive management and try to make it easy for folks to do it. We try to have an educational discussion with each person interested in controlling invasives before turning them loose.

Abbreviations: RDA - Request for Determination of Applicability, NOI - Notice of Intent, OOC - Order of Conditions, NDZ - No Disturbance Zone

* Disclaimer - These are responses to a survey and should not be considered the final word on a listed town's policies.

Please consult your town's conservation agent for assistance and to find out what is required in your own town.