

Invasive Species Identification and Removal Resources

Why This Matters

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and other organisms that cause harm or are likely to cause harm in the ecosystem where they are introduced, by outcompeting or displacing native species. They oftentimes are fast growing and can spread quickly, so their management requires an all-hands-on-deck approach by municipal staff and residential property owners looking out for and removing invasive species wherever possible.

Examples of invasive plants in Connecticut include Oriental Bittersweet, Multi-flora Rose, Mugwort, and Winged Euonymus/Burning Bush. Invasive aquatics include Zebra Mussels and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Insects such as the Asian Long-Horned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer can also cause serious problems to name a few.

Public education and management of invasive species are equally critical elements of a comprehensive plan aimed at protecting native species and their habitats, leading to healthier, fully-functioning ecosystems. The dollar cost to not properly managing invasive species can be quite high, as invasive species may impact commercial fisheries, agricultural operations, and more.

Benefits

By inspiring the community to shift their land management plans, we can facilitate the establishment of small sanctuaries of native species.

Ultimately, this benefits everyone in the community by promoting cleaner air, clean and fully functioning waterways, etc.

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [Invasive Plant Atlas of New England \(IPANE\)](#)
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, ["Invasive Species"](#)
- US Department of Agriculture, ["Plants"](#)
- US Department of Agriculture, ["CT State Resources"](#)
- CT Audubon, ["Remove Invasive Plants"](#)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service, ["Frequently Asked Questions About Invasive Species"](#)
- Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, ["Invasive Plants in Your Backyard" 2020 Expanded Edition](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [CT Invasive Plant Work Group](#)
- [US Fish & Wildlife Services](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy CT](#)

Credits:

Literature from Sustainable Connecticut Website. 2.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management.

<https://sustainablect.org/actions-certifications/actions/#open/action/9>