

Don't Give Invasive Species A Free Ride



INVASIVE SPECIES are threatening our forests and grasslands, dramatically decreasing their value and the benefits these resources provide.

Equipment operators play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasive species.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVASIVES

- Invasive species are nonnative plants, animals, and diseases that cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.
- Invasive plants reproduce and grow quickly, easily invading natural areas. They reduce native plants and impact the animals that depend on these natives for food and shelter. *Invasive shrubs can increase erosion by shading out ground layer plants that hold the soil.*
- Invasive insects and diseases can kill trees. Invasive earthworms contribute to bare and eroding soils and diminish mineral content.
- Invasive species pose a threat to Wisconsin's properties, which provide important environmental, social, and economic values such as recreation, reduced storm water run-off and less erosion.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

- Mud on equipment can move invasive plant seeds, insects, and diseases.
- Invasive seeds can also be moved on clothing and boots.
- Invasive species can have the following impacts: displace, weaken, or kill desirable plants resulting in loss of diversity; degrade wildlife habitat; interfere with recreational activities; disrupt ecosystems; and divert millions of dollars for their control.
- Concerns about spreading invasive species may impact project management.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Learn to identify invasive species.
- Scout for invasive species and plan activities to limit their introduction and spread.
- Clean soil and plant parts from equipment before moving off site.
- Avoid the movement of invasives to non-infested areas during activities.
- Avoid invasive species during activities.
- Minimize soil disturbance.
- Stabilize disturbed soils as soon as possible.
- Properly dispose of materials containing invasive species.

More information on these voluntary Best Management Practices can be found on the back side of this document.



Important Details About Best Practices

Considerations for Cleaning Equipment

- Prior to moving equipment from an infested area clean soils, seeds, plant parts, or invertebrates from exterior surfaces to minimize the risk of transporting invasive species.
- Use the most effective method of cleaning that is practical. Effective tools include: brushes, brooms or other hand tools; car washes; high pressure air; steam cleaning; or portable wash stations.
- Do not clean equipment in or near waterways as this may promote the spread of invasives downstream.

Considerations for Stabilizing Disturbed Soil

- For detailed information on this subject, please refer to the *Best Management Practices for Transportation and Utility Rights-of-Way Manual* sections on Soil Disturbance, Revegetation and Landscaping, and Appendix G: Species Recommended for Revegetation.

<http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/transportation/pdf/ROW-Manual.pdf>

Considerations for Invasive Plant Control and Management

- Invasive Species Control, including chemical and mechanical methods: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/control.htm>
- Invasive Plant Identification: <http://dnr.wi.gov> and search for “terrestrial plants”

What Is the Invasive Species Rule?

Introduction

The Invasive Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule (Wis. Adm. Code Chapter NR 40) went into effect on September 1, 2009. The rule establishes a comprehensive, science-based way to classify and regulate invasive species in Wisconsin. The rule divides species into 2 categories, “Prohibited” and “Restricted,” with different regulations and control requirements. The rule also establishes “Preventative Measures” to show what actions we can take to slow the spread of invasive species. Chapter NR 40 covers over 128 species, including plants, animals, and microorganisms. The rule affects everyone in Wisconsin.

Prohibited Invasive Species*

- Not yet in the state or only in a few places
- Likely to cause environmental and/or economic harm
- Eradication and prevention is feasible

Regulations: Cannot transport, possess, transfer, or introduce without a permit.** Control is required. DNR may order or conduct a control effort.

Restricted Invasive Species*

- Already widely established in the state
- High environmental and/or economic impacts
- Complete eradication is unlikely

Regulations: Cannot transport, transfer, or introduce without a permit.** Possession is allowed except for fish or crayfish. Control is encouraged but not required.

Preventative Measures

- Certain preventative measures are required under NR 40. These include actions such as removing plants and draining water from boats, complying with pest quarantines, and others.
- Best Management Practices will also aid in rule compliance.

*Any viable part of the species is covered by these regulations.

** Certain exemptions do exist with these regulations. Please consult with the website or staff for clarifications.