

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

Invasive plants are species intentionally or accidentally introduced into a region in which they did not evolve and cause harm ecologically, economically, or to human health. These species didn't originate in the local environment and therefore don't have natural safeguards to help keep them in check. As a result, invasive plants often grow aggressively and out-compete the more beneficial natives.

BENEFITS OF REMOVING INVASIVE PLANTS

- **Promote Diversity:** Remove invasive plants that tend toward monoculture; without invasive plants, native plants can maximize their growth potential, increase biodiversity and establish ecosystem resiliency.
- **Improve Soil Health:** Native plants have roots that grow deeper than invasive plants and improve soil stability, decrease erosion, and uptake water and nutrients more efficiently.
- **Reduce Disease-Spreading Insects:** Some invasives, including English ivy, Japanese barberry, and Amur Honeysuckle, create moist and dense habitat that is attractive to ticks and mosquitoes.



INVASIVE PLANT QUICK FACTS



Photo by West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

APPROXIMATELY 42% OF THREATENED OR ENDANGERED PLANTS ARE AT RISK DUE TO NON-NATIVE, INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES¹

ECONOMISTS HAVE ESTIMATED THAT ALL INVASIVE SPECIES - PLANTS, ANIMALS AND DISEASES - CAUSE \$120 BILLION IN LOSSES EACH YEAR²



Photo by American Forests Foundation



Photo by the Nature Conservancy

KUDZU, AN AGGRESSIVE INVASIVE PLANT COMMON IN THE BAY REGION, IS CAPABLE OF GROWING UP TO 26 CM (ABOUT 0.85 FEET) A DAY³

WHAT TO DO ABOUT INVASIVE PLANTS

An invasive plant infestation is like a slow-motion explosion, which left unchecked may severely alter a site's natural beauty and economic contributions⁴. A local invasive removal event can be a fun way to get involved in your community!

- **Be aware!** Choose natives when possible and avoid planting or transferring invasive plants.
- **Educate Yourself!** Know how to spot invasive plants and manage them on your property. Always dispose of invasives in sealed trash bags. Do not compost them.
- **No dumping!** Do not dump yard waste, houseplants, aquariums, or invasive plant debris into natural areas.
- **Practice proper habits!** Clean your shoes and brush off your clothes after returning from an area with invasive plants.
- **Speak up!** If you suspect a plant is invasive, report it to your local county extension agent or to other federal or state natural resource or agricultural agencies.
- **Volunteer!** Join Invasive Species Task Force events, become a National Park Service Weed Warrior, or volunteer with organizations that control invasive plants.



HOW TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS

- **Manually** - Remove plants by hand. It is easier when the soil is damp or wet.
- **Mechanically** - Use a tool for cutting or mowing.
- **Chemically** - Contact a contractor for herbicide services; consult a certified herbicide applicator. Learn more in this video from Virginia Department of Forestry.
- **Biological control** - Find a local contractor that utilizes green methods, such as goats. Watch an example in this video from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
- **Culturally; behavior changes** - Educate your neighbors about the benefits of removing and managing invasive plants.



You can find a native plants best suited for your yard through the **NativePlantCenter.net**

SOURCES

1. Invasive.org
2. Pimentel, D., R. Zuniga, D. Morrison. 2005. Update on the environmental and economic costs associated with alien-invasive species in the United States. Ecological Economics 52: (2005)
3. The Nature Conservancy: [nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/indiana/stories-in-indiana/kudzu-invasive-species/](https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/indiana/stories-in-indiana/kudzu-invasive-species/)
4. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation: dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspinfo

LEARN MORE AND EXPLORE DIY RESOURCES AT
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