



WNY PRISM

Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species

Best Management Practices: Pathways of Invasion

Pathways of Invasion are the means by which invasive species establish and spread. The disruption of these pathways is an essential part of invasive species management and by taking steps, we can stop species establishment and spread.

Pathways of Invasion can be human-aided or natural. Human-aided pathways are those caused or enhanced by human activities. These may be intentional, such as species transported outside their native range as part of the pet trade or other living industries, or they may be unintentional including hitchhiking seed or plant material on hiking boots and boats, or an insect being transported in firewood. Natural pathways involve a species use of wind to spread seed, or their own ability to fly.

There are several tools available for addressing Pathways of Invasion. Natural pathways may be addressed using containment or suppression strategies such as mowing to prevent seed production. To address human-aided pathways, tools involve regulation or education. Regulation can be highly effective when addressing the deliberate movement of species or pathways connected to various industry, however, education is most often used to address pathways that take advantage of being a byproduct of normal human activity.

Spread prevention is the key to disrupting Pathways of Invasion. New York State has regulations that prohibit invasive species from being sold or transported within the state and that require people to take reasonable action to prevent moving organisms from one body of water to another. Community members are taught how to take simple steps, such as cleaning equipment and planting native species in gardens, to avoid adding to the spread of invasive species.



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Pathways of Invasion - Spread Prevention

Nurseries & Landscaping

Plant only native and non-invasive plants in your landscaping and ask your local supplier to provide more native plant options. Watchout for hitchhikers in soil (bagged, bulk and potted) and check seed mixes for invasive species.

Aquariums

Dispose of unwanted plants and animals properly and never dump them in waterways. You can contact your local retailer about how to return fish and other animals.

Watercraft

Clean, drain and dry your boat and trailer when you leave a body of water and before you enter a new one. Be sure to properly dispose of any removed material - many boat launches have disposal stations available.

Fishing Bait

Don't dump unused bait - properly dispose of bait on land or in the trash, never in or near water.

Outdoor Gear

Clean off boots, fishing gear, clothes and camping equipment before and after use. Many trails have boot brush stations, but you can be prepared by keeping a brush in your vehicle.

Firewood

Don't move firewood - burn it where you buy it and leave any unused wood for the next person.

Mowers

Clean mowers frequently. Don't mow from areas infested with invasive species into those without. To avoid further spread, don't mow when plants are seeding and consider using the mulch bag on hand mowers to collect material.

Construction

Clean all equipment prior to beginning work and leave equipment at an on-site staging area during construction. Consider purchasing 'clean-fill', fill that is doesn't have invasive species seed and plant material present.

