

What You Can Do About Exotics

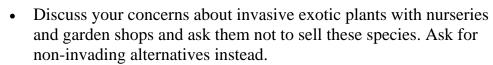
In order to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive alien plants into natural areas and to help restore our native flora and fauna, you can:



- Avoid disturbance to natural areas, including clearing of native vegetation, planting of non-native plants, and dumping of yard wastes.
- Do not purchase or use invasive exotic species in your landscaping or for land restoration or erosion control projects.
- For landscaping, use plants that are native to your local region as much as possible or those that are not known to be invasive.



- Know your plants. If you are unsure of the identification of a plant, take a sample to a university, arboretum, department of agriculture office, local nature center, or native plant society for assistance. Find out if it is known or thought to have invasive tendencies. If the exotic plant is closely related to an invasive species, it is likely to have similar tendencies. To be on the safe side, if you don't know it, don't grow it.
- Control exotic invasive plants in your landscape either by removing them entirely or by managing them to prevent their spread outside your property. This may include pruning to prevent flowering and seed dispersal or cutting, mowing, or herbicide use to prevent spreading.





- Notify land managers of invasive exotic plant occurrences.
- Offer to assist in exotic plant removal projects.
- Work with your local government to encourage the use of native plants in their urban and suburban landscapes. Provide them with lists of attractive, non-invasive locally native alternatives that are naturally more hardy, pest-resistant, and provide more nutritious food for wildlife than cultivated plants.