



Invasive Plant Species Disposal

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Japanese Knotweed



Notes: Japanese Knotweed grows in dense thickets commonly found along riverbanks, wet margins and roadsides. Prefers moist conditions and is usually spread vegetatively (not from seeds.)

Controls: Hand pulling and digging are usually ineffective because of the extensive and deep root system. Cutting removes the upper biomass but may stimulate underground growth. Control is most effective with frequent cutting; 4+ per season with the application of an herbicide [Imazapyr and Glyphosate].

Autumn Olive



Notes: Originally planted for wildlife habitat, these fast-growing shrubs produce prodigious quantities of red berries, readily spread by birds and animals. Plants some distance away can repopulate control areas. One of Connecticut's most common invasive species.

Controls: Frequent cutting and mowing, combined with the use of herbicides, effects the best control. Trunks and branches can be safely burned. When not bearing fruit, autumn olive can be safely disposed of with brush and composted.

Bamboo



Notes: Bamboo, a type of grass, consists of over 1,200 species, with many sold in the nursery trade. Two general types of bamboo are “clumping” and “running” with the running variety being the quick spreading, invasive species.

Controls: Bamboo infestation can be persistent, requiring frequent mowing. The removed stalks and cutting can be dried out in the sun and then added to brush or disposed of in black plastic bags and placed into the trash. Regeneration from cutting in general is a poor reproductive venue for bamboo. The application of a glyphosate-based herbicide to the site of growth has proven helpful.

Bittersweet



Notes: Most Bittersweet encountered is the highly aggressive, invasive Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). Cutting this invasive plant is counterproductive; merely chopping the vine at the base causes it to vigorously re-sprout from the roots, multiplying the growth. Similarly, any cut pieces left on the ground can take root and propagate new infestations.

Controls: To properly manage invasive bittersweet, experts recommend cutting the vine and immediately painting the stump with a systemic herbicide. Cut stems can be either burned or dried in black plastic garbage bags and disposed of into the trash. Do not add bittersweet cutting into brush piles. Do not collect the colorful seeds: the seeds and their casings as this will simply spread the plant.

Phragmites



Notes: *Phragmites australis* is an aggressive, robust perennial grass, which creates dense infestations. It is easily identified by its height (five to thirteen feet) and a watery environment with plants along the water's edge.

Phragmites creates dense monocultures in freshwater marshes and wetlands, as well as along river edges and roadsides. It is common to brackish (slightly saline) environments and disturbed sites. Its salt tolerance allows it to persist where it invades and degrades vast areas of important wetland habitat, threatening the wildlife that depend on those areas for survival.

Controls: To properly manage phragmites, cut plants must be burned or disposed of in black trash bags. This plant germinates from cut stems and leave junctions. Cut or mowed sections will float or blow away to start new infestations.