

What is a Terrestrial Invasive Species?

Invasive species are organisms that are not native to an area and harm human health, the economy, or the environment. They can destroy the places we love and require costly solutions.

Terrestrial (living on land) invasive species include:

- Animals, like emerald ash borer and Eurasian boar
- Plants, like Japanese stiltgrass and giant hogweed
- Diseases, like oak wilt and chestnut blight

People unknowingly spread these pests during everyday outdoor activities.

Follow these simple suggestions to prevent the spread of terrestrial invasive species and protect the people and places you love.



Japanese Knotweed

Photo Steve Young, NY Natural Heritage Program

Learn and Gear Up

- The first step in stopping the spread should be to visit www.nyis.info and learn which invasive species are in your area.
- Wear outer clothing that is not “seed-friendly.” Wool, fleece, Velcro® and other fabrics that seeds easily cling to should be covered by jackets, pants and gaiters* made of smoother materials, like nylon.
*Gaiters are garments worn over shoes and the lower part of the leg to protect from water and mud.
- Avoid wearing footwear with deep tread, which collects plants, mud and other debris. When conditions/terrain call for deep tread, clean footwear thoroughly.
- Carry a brush, small scissors, and other tools for cleaning clothing/gear.
- Visit the web address found on the back of this brochure for specific tips relating to bicycling, gardening, hunting, camping, and other activities.



Before and After Outdoor Activities

- Look for and remove seeds, plant pieces, and insects on:
 - Hair and clothing,
 - Gear and equipment,
 - Vehicles and trailers,
 - Dogs, horses and other animals.
- Clean off dirt/mud which could harbor unseen pests.
- Dispose of debris at designated cleaning stations or waste-disposal areas. If these areas are unavailable, clean in parking lots or driveways where invasive pests are unlikely to spread.
- Avoid cleaning near waterways; invasive species may spread to new areas downstream.

