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## **IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA**

### ***Fact Sheet***

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### ***Invasive Plant Prevention***

To help halt the spread of invasive plants, you can:

- Exercise great care when entering wild land areas so as to ensure that you are not carrying weed seeds or propagative parts on clothing (especially boots and pants cuffs), bicycles, cars, boats and trailers, etc.
- Avoid excess disturbance to natural areas- it increases their vulnerability to alien species invasions.
- 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 careful herbicide use to prevent vegetative spread.
- Do not purchase or use invasive exotic species in your landscaping or for restoration or erosion control projects.
- For landscaping, use plants that are native to your local region or those that are not known to be invasive.
- Discuss your concerns about invasive exotic plants with nurseries and garden shops and ask them not to sell these species. Provide them with printed material (such as this fact sheet) explaining the problem. Ask the managers to stock non-invasive alternatives instead. Among the invasive plants still for sale are:
  - Purple loosestrife
  - Russian and autumn olive
  - Glossy and common buckthorn
  - Porcelainberry vine
  - Exotic honeysuckles, including Japanese honeysuckle and Tatarian honeysuckle
  - Ornamental grasses, including Pampas grass and zebra or silver grass
- 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 has 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.
- Notify land managers of invasive exotic plant occurrences.
- Offer to assist in exotic plant removal projects or organize your own project.

- Work with your local government to encourage the use of native plants in their urban and suburban landscapes. Provide them with lists of attractive, native alternatives that are naturally hardier, pest-resistant, and provide more nutritious food for wildlife than exotic ornamental plants.
- Don't bring plants, fruits, soil, or animals into the country from abroad – or to Hawaii from the mainland – without having them inspected by quarantine officials; fill out agricultural declaration forms completely and honestly.
- Clean boats and boating equipment before transporting them from one water body to another to avoid spreading aquatic pests such as zebra mussels or hydrilla. Leave behind unused bait and bucket water. Clean your boots and camping gear before setting out for other regions or countries, and again before returning home. On horse-packing trips, make sure that feed is certified “weed-free.”
- Educate others by talking to your neighbors, garden club and schools. Write letters to the gardening column in your local newspaper about the problems associated with exotic species.
- Ask your state and federal legislators to adopt laws and regulations to outlaw sale of invasive plants.
- Support strong protection for roadless areas in the National forests to safeguard our most vulnerable and pristine natural landscapes.
- Invite a local native plant society member to speak to your club or group.
- Organize a walk with your family, garden club or community group through your local wetland to point out invasive plant species and techniques to limit their spread.

***Founded in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America is dedicated to common sense conservation that protects America's hunting, fishing, and outdoor heritage relying on solution-oriented conservation, education, and the promotion of outdoor recreation for the benefit of our citizens. The League has more than 40,000 members and supporters in 21 state divisions and more than 300 local chapters in 32 states.***