Common Questions about Invasive Plant Management and APA Permitting Procedures

What is an invasive plant, and why should I be concerned?

A non-native, invasive plant is a plant introduced to an area outside of its historic range that rapidly reproduces and establishes a large population, displacing native species. Invasive plants pose serious ecological threats and can impair our use of the Park's natural resources.

Which invasive plants are in the Park that I should keep an eye out for?

Terrestrial species: Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, common reed grass (phragmites), garlic mustard
Aquatic species: Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, curlyleaf pondweed, fanwort

Where can I find out more information about invasive plants?

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program website, www.adkinvasives.com, provides techniques on how to identify the plants and their known locations throughout the Park.

If I see an invasive plant, to whom should I report it?

Contact information is provided below. If it is an *aquatic invasive plant* listed above, if possible, first view 'Plant Maps' at www.adkinvasives.com to see if the site has been recorded. If it has not been recorded, contact Hilary Oles.

If it is a *terrestrial invasive plant* listed above, and it occurs along a roadway, record the road reference marker and contact Steven Flint; if it occurs elsewhere, list all location information to identify the site and contact Steven Flint.

Can I remove invasive plants on my own property without a permit?

Yes, if the invasive plants are terrestrial invasive plants, listed above, and do not occur in or within a 100' of a wetland. Remember, it is important to learn the appropriate techniques to remove and dispose of the plants so that the infestation does not worsen or spread to a new location.

For aquatic plants, hand harvesting of small areas by an individual property owner can be done without an Agency permit if the activity is conducted by hand in open water, leaves at least 200 square feet of contiguous indigenous wetland, does not involve more than 1000 square feet of native vegetation, and does not involve rare or endangered species. Mechanical harvest of aquatic plants requires an Agency permit. Call the Adirondack Park Agency if other information is needed.

What are the recommended techniques to use to remove invasive plants?

There is a set of guidelines, referred to as best management practices (BMPs), to use when controlling invasive plant species. These guidelines are available online for terrestrial plants at www.adkinvasives.com/terrestrial/management/documents/bmps.pdf and for aquatic plants at www.apa.state.ny.us/Documents/Flyers.html. Or contact Steven Flint (Adirondack Nature Conservancy), Dan Spada (Adirondack Park Agency) or Hilary Oles (Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program).

When do I need an APA permit to remove invasive plants?

A permit from the APA may be required to remove invasive plants when they occur in a wetland or within 100' of a wetland. Hand harvesting of the *terrestrial species* is not regulated, but digging or pesticide use does require a permit. For *aquatic invasive plants*, a permit is needed for any plant management activity other than hand-harvesting by an individual property owner as specified above.

Who should I contact at the APA when requesting permit information?

Call the jurisdictional inquiry office.

What do I do with invasive plants after I remove them?

Each invasive plant has recommended methods of disposal. For terrestrial invasive plants, please review the best management practices (BMPs) (contact information below). Aquatic invasive plant species can be composted, or dried and disposed of in the trash.

By removing invasive plants, won't I be disturbing the area more and cause more harm than good?

The control or removal of invasive plant species protects biodiversity and other functions and values of naturally occurring forest and aquatic communities but may involve the removal of other vegetation, soil, or otherwise disturb the area. In most cases, these impacts are short-lived and temporary. If invasive plant species are left to proliferate, the negative impacts will be long-term and irreversible.

Contact Information:

Hilary Oles - aquatic invasives, BMPs
Program Coordinator
Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
518-576-2082

Steven Flint - terrestrial invasives, BMPs
Invasive Species Field Coordinator
The Adirondack Nature Conservancy
518-576-2082

Dan Spada – wetlands, BMPs
Project Analyst, Biological Resources
Adirondack Park Agency
518-891-4050

Jurisdictional Inquiry Office - permit info, wetland regulations
Adirondack Park Agency
518-891-4050