

# GIVE INVASIVE SPECIES THE BRUSH OFF

SOIL, SEEDS, AND PLANT PARTS CARRIED ON SHOES, PETS, AND GEAR CAN SPREAD INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS TO NEW PLACES. USE THE BRUSH ON THIS STATION TO CLEAN FOOTWEAR WHEN ENTERING AND LEAVING TRAILS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES.



## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Invasive species compete with native plants and animals for space, nutrients, and water. They can damage forests, limit food for wildlife, take over fields and wetlands, dominate waterways, and even cause human health problems. By taking simple steps, we can conserve habitats, recreational opportunities, and the scenic beauty of the Adirondacks. Thank you for your help!

### GARLIC MUSTARD

*Alliaria petiolata*

**Look for:** Clusters of white four-petaled flowers in spring. First-year plants grow rosettes of kidney-shaped leaves; second-year plants have multiple 4-foot-high stems with triangular, sharply toothed leaves.

**Fast facts:** Tolerates sunlight but prefers dark, moist environments. Seeds can remain viable for over seven years. Leaves smell like garlic when crushed. Releases chemicals harmful to soil fungi that are important to native trees.



A STAND OF GARLIC MUSTARD



GARLIC MUSTARD FLOWERS, LEAVES, AND STEMS

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT THE LANDS YOU LOVE

### CLEAN

Clean dirt and debris from footwear, pets, bikes, and gear after every outdoor adventure.



### STAY

Stay on designated trails and roads to avoid spreading invasive species' seeds or eggs.



### DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD

Stop the spread of harmful forest pests by not moving untreated wood. Buy firewood as close to your campsite as you can or buy heat-treated firewood.



### BE ON THE LOOKOUT

Report any sightings using iMapInvasives, a free, easy-to-use, community science tool available online at [www.nyimainvasives.org](http://www.nyimainvasives.org) or download the app for your smartphone by searching for "iMapInvasives" in the Apple App Store or Google Play.



### COMMON REED GRASS

*Phragmites australis*



Photo: Johnathan Wilkins

**Look for:** Tall, stiff stems ranging from 3-15 feet tall. Large, feathery flower plumes that change from purple-brown in July to tan-gray by late season.

**Fast facts:** Thrives in wetlands and disturbed and degraded soils, often along roadsides or ditched areas. Tolerates salt water. Can overtake hundreds of acres and displace important wetland species.

### GIANT HOGWEED

*Heracleum mantegazzianum*



Photo: Gerard M, Wikimedia commons

**Look for:** Large, white, umbrella-shaped flowers from late-June to mid-July. Can reach 14 feet in height. Leaves are lobed and can grow up to 5 feet across. Stems have purple splotches.

**Fast facts:** DO NOT TOUCH GIANT HOGWEED. This plant contains toxic sap that can cause severe skin irritation, blistering, and scarring.

### PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

*Lythrum salicaria*



Photo: AnRo0002, CCo, via Wikimedia Commons

**Look for:** Showy magenta flower spikes from July–September that grow 3-7 feet tall. Narrow, lance-like leaves are smooth and bright green. Stems are square shaped.

**Fast facts:** Grows in a variety of wet habitats, including wet meadows, marshes, riverbanks, and the edges of ponds and reservoirs. Displaces native plants and animals, eliminating food, nesting areas, and shelter for wildlife.

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