

10 Minute Supervisor Trainings



June 2024

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are any non-native plant, animal, insect, or fungi that can be found outside of their native range. However, some species have become naturalized and have no negative effect their environment. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife names several species as nuisance species. A nuisance species is any invasive species that has negative biological, economic, or aesthetic impacts. Often these nuisance invasive species lack a natural predator and then thrive in their new range. Native species are not used to these new species and are not adapted to either eating these new species or competing with them.

Some nuisance species that you may be familiar with are below. You can find a list of nuisance species in Kentucky here: <https://fw.ky.gov/more/pages/Nuisance-Species-Plans.aspx>



Garlic Mustard



Zebra Mussels



Round Goby



Japanese Honeysuckle



Multiflora Rose



Musk Thistle

What Can Conservation Districts Do?



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
Particularly waders/boots.
www.KDFWR.com/stopaquatic

KENTUCKY
DEPT. OF
FISH & WILDLIFE
RESOURCES

There are multiple ways conservation districts can assist their communities with invasive species management. Prevention is key! Conservation districts can work with local parks and recreation, landowners, fiscal court, landscaping companies, nurseries, and other local businesses to prevent the spread of invasive species. Some events could include:

Boat/Watercraft Events

Host boater awareness events to stop aquatic hitchhikers. These can be events to clean watercrafts, raise awareness about not dumping aquatic pets or plants into our waterways, waterway cleanup, or other events.

Tree/Plant Swap

Work with local landowners and promote removal of invasive species by offering native trees/plants as a swap for invasive species.

Public Space Clean-Up

Partner with local community groups, schools, churches, etc. to manually removal invasive species from public spaces like parks.

Conservation districts can also use environmental grants or other funds to provide cost share to landowners, schools, local businesses, etc. for removing invasive species and planting natives. Farmers can use the Environmental Incentives Program (EQIP) or the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for cost share to remove invasives. Herbaceous weed control is not an eligible practice in State Cost Share (SCS).

Districts could also work with local businesses to promote native species. This could be done with educational outreach events. Local gardening groups are a great resource for community outreach and promoting natives. The easiest way to combat invasive species is the promotion of native planting and stop the spread of nuisance species.