



# Land Management Practice

## Invasive Species Management

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### Conewago Creek Initiative Partners:

Dauphin, Lancaster, and Lebanon County Conservation Districts

Tri-County Conewago Creek Association

South Londonderry Township

Elizabethtown College

Penn State

PA Department of Environmental Protection

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

PA Fish and Boat Commission

National & PA Natural Resources Conservation Service

PA Department of Agriculture

US Department of Agriculture

US Geological Service

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Environmental Protection Agency

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Environmental Credit Corp.

ZedX Corp.

American Farmland Trust

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LandStudies, Inc.

Wild Resources, Inc.

Invasive species are becoming an increasingly worrisome problem both in Pennsylvania and throughout the globe. Invasive species do exactly what their name says- invade landscapes where they do not belong, choking out the native species that support the ecosystem. That is why we must all be responsible and proactive when it comes to keeping invasives out of our native landscape.

### How do species become invasive?

Invasive species can be introduced to an ecosystem accidentally or intentionally. Introduction can be through the movement of products, for example globally on ships or regionally by taking infested firewood across state lines. Invasive species can also be introduced by using a non-native plant to landscape an area, which will then outcompete other species and spread on a large scale.

Once an invasive species is established, it can have huge effects on the local environment. Unlike native species, invasives are imported into their new environment without their diseases, pathogens, and predators, so their populations grow at rapid rates. Because of this, it is easy for invasives to outcompete natives and take over an area.

### Common Invasives in PA

**Plants:** Multiflora rose, mile-a-minute weed, Japanese hops, tree-of-heaven, garlic mustard, and many more.

**Insects:** Emerald ash borer, Japanese beetle, gypsy moth, Asian longhorn beetle, hemlock wooly adelgid, and more.

**Aquatics:** zebra mussel, rusty crayfish, Asian carp, mudmat, water chestnut, and many more.

### Prevention

The most important way to manage invasive species is to prevent them from entering the landscape. Ways to do this include landscaping with natives, cleaning camping and boating equipment, not moving firewood, and becoming aware of invasives that are common in your area.

### Removal

If an invasive is found on your property it is important to remove it before it is given the opportunity to reproduce. For plants, this can be done either by physically removing it with tools or by applying herbicides. Once an invasive is removed, replace it with a native so that another invasive cannot occupy that niche.



### Programs

#### USDA NRCS

The USDA NRCS can offer technical and financial assistance for managing invasive species. To learn more, visit

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/invasive/>

#### Web Resources

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/whatyou.shtml>

#### What is Invasive?

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/conservationscience/invasivespecies/>

<http://www.invasivespeciescouncil.com/>

<http://www.paseagrant.org/projects/pennsylvania-s-field-guide-to-aquatic-invasive-species/>

### Interested in implementing this practice?

#### Contact:

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