

Why should Sportsmen care about **invasive plant species?**



Invasive plant species are spreading on almost all private and public lands in Michigan!


- Invasive plants, if left unchecked, will limit many uses on lands now and for future generations.
- Invasive plants can harm the natural heritage of our wetlands, prairies, forests, lakes, and rivers.
- Invasive plants can decrease your ability to enjoy hunting, fishing, mushroom collecting, bird watching, and other recreational pursuits.
- The longer we wait, the more expensive it will be to control invasive plants.





What Can Sportsmen Do To Protect Native Species??


- **REMOVE** plants, animals, and mud from boots, gear, pets, strollers and/or your vehicle before leaving
- **CLEAN** your gear before entering and leaving the recreation site
- **STAY** on designated roads and trails
- **USE CERTIFIED** or local firewood and hay
- **Don't plant invasive plants for wildlife. Native species provide much better food and cover for native wildlife**
- **Learn to identify the invasive plants in your area and report any new sightings to local land managers or to local organizations that work toward protecting habitat**
- **Join efforts in your own community by volunteering to help remove invasive species and protect native plants**

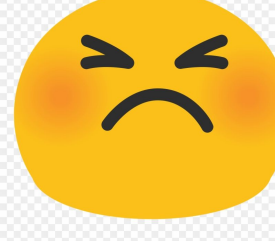
What are some ways **Invasive Plant** species impact recreation and sports activities?

 Dense thickets of Japanese barberry or other invasive shrubs like Asian bush honeysuckle **displace native plants and wildlife** dependent on those plants and also create tangles that **make it difficult to walk through the forest.**

 The annual trek to see spring wildflowers or hunt for mushrooms may be disappointing when **none can be found in a sea of garlic mustard.**

 Treating invasive plant infestations can eat up a natural area's budget, leaving **little funding for trail maintenance and other improvements.**

 Invasive plants can also increase the risk of **flooding and soil erosion** leading to cloudy water, lower water quality, and silted spawning beds.

 Honeysuckle can shade out oak tree seedlings/saplings and, over time, **reduce habitat quality for white-tailed deer, squirrel, grouse, and turkey.**