

Campgrounds at Risk from Invasive Species



INVASIVE SPECIES are taking over our campgrounds and natural areas making it difficult to simply enjoy nature, as well as damaging valuable wildlife habitat.

Campers can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasive species.

WHAT CAMPERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVASIVES

- Invasive species are nonnative plants, animals, and diseases that can cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.
- Invasive plants tend to reproduce and grow quickly making trails impassable.
- They harm wildlife and replace wildflowers.
- Invasive insects and diseases can kill trees.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CAMPERS?

- Invasive plant seeds, insects, and diseases can be moved on equipment, such as mud on tires or seeds with burrs on clothes and shoes.
- Concerns about spreading invasive species may endanger access to lands and campgrounds in the future.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Learn to recognize invasive species.
- Wear clothing and footwear that do not attract seeds.
- Clean yourself and your equipment before and after use.
- Clean your animals and their equipment before and after use.
- Properly dispose of soil, seeds, or plant parts from cleaning.
- Minimize soil disturbance; stay on designated trails.
- Avoid areas that are infested with invasive species; "When in doubt, stay out!"
- Do not transport firewood that originates more than 25 miles away from the campground or from outside of Wisconsin.
- Follow guidelines for bringing domestic animals into forested recreation areas.
- Educate others how to limit the spread of invasive species.
- Volunteer to help control invasive species.