

# GARDENER ACTION PLAN

When native species thrive in your garden, bees, birds and butterflies can blossom, too. So be selective with what you plant in your garden and keep invaders away.

## 1. Garden responsibly

Choose native or non-invasive species to make sure all of your flowers are friendly. Don't relocate plants from your home to your cottage garden, and vice versa or you may spread an invasive species without meaning to.

Find recommended garden species for Northern and Southern Ontario in the **Grow Me Instead** guides.

## 2. Root out invaders carefully

Put your uprooted invaders into a black garbage bag and leave it in the sun for two days. This will make sure that any invaders don't have a chance to sprout new roots and grow unchecked in nearby natural areas.

## 3. Deadhead non-native plants

Remove dead flower heads from non-native plants to keep it from producing seed and spreading beyond your garden.

## 4. Keep invaders out of your compost

Never put invasive plants in your compost or yard waste bag. Even when uprooted, invasive plants can spread seeds in your compost pile.

## 5. Don't forget about the pond

Invasive plants can sneak into and out of your water gardens. Never dump unwanted plants and fish into local waterways

## 6. Never buy, sell or cultivate regulated invasive plants

It is illegal to buy, sell, trade, grow or cultivate a regulated invasive plant species, including land and water-dwelling plants. Never buy or plant these species. You should remove and destroy them if they are in your garden.

Learn more about regulated plants.

## 7. Keep your eyes peeled

Inspect your property and shoreline for any sign of invasion. To find out what species are threatening your area, visit [eddmaps.org/ontario/](http://eddmaps.org/ontario/)

## 8. Report all invaders

Call the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invading Species Hotline at **1-800-563-7711** to report an invasive species sighting or download the **EDDMapS Ontario app** to report an invader on the spot

## 9. Stop the invasion

To learn more about how you can stop the invasion, download action plans for Anglers, Boaters, Hikers, and Cottagers.

For more information, you can also visit our partner websites:

**Invading Species Awareness Program,**  
[invadingspecies.com](http://invadingspecies.com)

**Ontario Invasive Plant Council,**  
[ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://ontarioinvasiveplants.ca)

**Invasive Species Centre,**  
[invasivespeciescentre.ca](http://invasivespeciescentre.ca)

**Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations**  
[foca.on.ca](http://foca.on.ca)