



GARDENERS | Action Plan

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

1. GARDEN RESPONSIBLY

Choose native or non-invasive plants for your garden to avoid introducing or spreading invasive species. Avoid relocating plants from your home to your cottage garden and vice versa.

Find recommended garden species for Northern and Southern Ontario in the [Grow Me Instead guides](#).

2. KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Learn how to identify and manage invasive plants. The best techniques and timing to remove them will vary depending on the species. [Learn ways you can manage invasive species](#).

3. ROOT OUT INVADERS CAREFULLY

Put your uprooted invaders into a black garbage bag and leave it in the sun for at least five days. This will make sure that no invaders have a chance to sprout and grow in new areas.

4. DISPOSE OF INVASIVE PLANTS CAREFULLY

Dispose of yard waste through your local municipality. Do not dump yard waste in nearby natural areas as this can smother natural vegetation and spread invasive plants.

5. KEEP INVADERS OUT OF THE COMPOST

Never put invasive plants in your backyard compost. Even when uprooted, invasive plants can spread seeds or grow roots in your compost pile. Some invasive plants can regenerate from fragments as small as 2 centimeters.

6. 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.

7. KNOW THE RULES

It is illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade a [regulated invasive plant species](#). Never buy or plant these species. You should remove and destroy them if they are in your garden.

8. KEEP AN EYE OUT

Inspect your property and shoreline for any sign of invasion. To find out what species may be in your area, visit eddmaps.org/ontario.

9. 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.

10. STOP THE INVASION

To learn more about how you can stop the invasion, visit ontario.ca/invasionON to download action plans for Boaters, Hikers, Cottagers and Gardeners.

For more information on invasive species and a list of our partners, visit ontario.ca/invasionON