

SUSTAINABLE WESTON

Invasive Plants: How To Identify and remove invasives in your backyard

By Sarah Hutchison, Sustainable Weston



Weston is fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who are PULLING TOGETHER to remove and manage invasive species in town.

Sustainable Weston, an in-town conservancy group, spoke with Lisa Brodlie and Bill McKinney, to discuss ways we can protect our natural landscapes. Lisa and Bill are members of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, amongst others, and have dedicated many years to the removal of invasive plants in conserved land throughout the state. In this newsletter, we will outline their recommendations for homeowners who wish to manage invasive species on their property.

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Westonites Lisa Brodlie and Bill McKinney, and their fellow team members, will help you dispose of invasive plants on your property.

Join them at their regular workshops at Lachat Town Farm and find out more about invasives in your neck of the woods.



LEARN MORE ABOUT SUSTAINABLE WESTON HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.WESTONCT.GOV/GOVERNMENT/BOARDS-COMMISSIONS/APPOINTED](https://www.westonct.gov/government/boards-commissions/appointed)



THE CHALLENGE

Here in the US, Invasive plants are found on 133 million acres (as big as California and New York combined), of public and privately-owned land.

Healthy ecosystems are essential for maintaining native wildlife populations and the native plants that provide food and shelter they require.

As global travel and trade have expanded, humans have been moving species to new areas, introducing them to places they would not have been likely to reach by means of wind, water and wildlife. As these species establish and spread, they are replacing native plants and altering natural habitats. Habitats are being destroyed thus impacting the plants and animals who normally reside there.

It is essential to maintain healthy ecosystems as it is also vital for human survival and quality of life.

PICTURED ABOVE:

(L - R) ARE FIVE INVASIVE PLANTS THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY AND REMOVE:

- Japanese Barberry
- Garlic Mustard
- Oriental Bittersweet
- Burning Bush
- Multiflora Rosa

PICTURED BELOW:

AN INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL WORKSHOP ON SCHOOL ROAD



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WHAT MAKES A PLANT INVASIVE?

- They are quick to establish, especially in disturbed areas
- They grow very rapidly once established
- They are long flowering and produce many seeds and fruits
- They spread very effectively to new areas
- They are aggressive competitors, free of the enemies that keep them in check in their natural range

**PICTURED BELOW:
BEFORE AND AFTER - REMOVING INVASIVE PLANTS FROM AN
EASTERN RED CEDAR TREE AT LACHAT TOWN FARM.**

PICTURED ABOVE:

(L - R) ARE FIVE INVASIVE PLANTS THAT YOU CAN IDENTIFY AND REMOVE:

- Mugwort
- Autumn Olive
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Bush Honeysuckle
- Common Privet



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Pulling Together

EVERY SUNDAY AT LACHAT TOWN FARM - UPPER MEADOW

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Everyone can play a role in managing invasive species. Here are some ways you can help:

- Learn about invasive species and take action to reduce/prevent their spread
- Learn to identify correctly the invasive species by using programs easily uploaded to your iphone such as iNaturalist, Seek.
- Replace non-native invasives with native plant species, thus creating local biodiversity & providing native wildlife with sources of food & cover.
- Join Pulling Together at weekly workshops/pulling parties to gain knowledge of employing correct methods for invasive removal in addition to helping to rid town properties of invasives.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING A PULLING TOGETHER WORKSHOP, OR ORGANIZING AN INVASIVE PULL DAY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, PLEASE EMAIL WESTONPOLLINATORPATHWAY@GMAIL.COM

YOU CAN ALSO SIGNUP FOR THE REGULAR INVASIVE REMOVAL DAYS AT LACHAT TOWN FARM [HERE:](https://forms.gle/RVDU44LFTE9BODLN8)
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/RVDU44LFTE9BODLN8](https://forms.gle/RVDU44LFTE9BODLN8)

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RESOURCES

- Visit the UCONN Invasive Plant Working Group:
 - <https://cipwg.uconn.edu/>
- Sign up for the Pulling Together Invasive Workshops:
 - <https://forms.gle/rVDU44LFte9bodLn8>
- Join the Pollinator Pathway:
 - <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/weston>
- Websites that we recommend:
 - <https://www.ctwoodlands.org>
 - <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org>
 - <https://www.invasive.org>
 - <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org>
 - <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov>
 - <https://www.conservect.org/ctrivercoastal>