

GETTING TO KNOW THE INVADERS

THESE INVADERS may not seem harmful, but they are! Non-native invasives outcompete native plants and animals and permanently alter habitats.

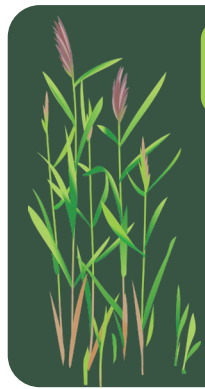
Below are the 3 most common invasive plants found in Norwell with QR codes that link to photos and information. Read and learn the best methods to deal with these invaders!

DO NOT MULCH, MOW, OR PILE INVASIVES IN YOUR YARD.

Some think this highly invasive plant looks like bamboo when it is grown, and its burgundy stems are very visible in spring. Called “the overlord super-villain of the plant kingdom” by the National Park Service, it can smother out all other plant life and cause birds to leave the area.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

BEST METHODS TO DEAL WITH THIS INVADER: ❶ Spray with herbicide or cut and swipe/fill the hollow stem of this reed with herbicide. Let the foliage die back, then cut the material and either burn it (if it’s burn season) or bag it and burn it later. ❷ If herbicides are not used, you can still cut and bag the knotweed carefully. ❸ Spreading black greenhouse tarps over the area after it was cut will help kill regrowth, but this takes a very long time.



PHRAGMITES



This invasive is found near and in wetlands and along the North River and grows so quickly that it tramples on other, smaller native grasses that birds need for nesting and breeding.

BEST METHODS TO DEAL WITH THIS INVADER: ❶ Spray or stem inject with herbicide, mow or cut often before the seed heads are present, or cut the seed heads off the plants once they start to show. Plants can be mowed or mulched as long as the seed heads are not present. ❷ Seeding or planting in the area once the reeds are removed helps fight how much they grow back. ❸ If seed heads are present, cut and bag the seed heads to prevent spreading while transporting. ❹ Phragmites spreads mainly by deep roots (called rhizomes) and even small parts can grow, so be careful not to spread plant parts! Dispose by burning (in season) or bagging and burning later.

This invasive has taken over the woodlands of Norwell, and can be found in many yards too. It exudes a chemical that poisons other plants and is toxic to butterflies!

GARLIC MUSTARD

BEST METHODS TO DEAL WITH THIS INVADER: ❶ For small populations, hand pulling in the spring can be effective. Excess material that needs to be disposed of can be burned (in season) or bagged and burned later. ❷ You can also mow before the plants produce seeds, but if the stems are cut too high, they may flower again. ❸ Systemic herbicides (with glyphosate) applied to the leaves can also work. Because seeds persist in the soil, annual control may be needed for several years.



PLEASE NOTE: for any work on invasives near or in wetlands, please call the Conservation Office at 781-659-8022. Be sure to follow any pesticide use requirements too.

For more information on identification and management, visit MassAudubon.org (use the QR code at left).

