

# INVASIVE SPECIES OVERVIEW

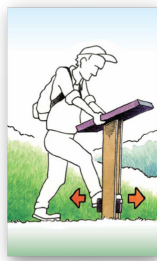
**Invasive species:** any organism that is non-native to the environment in question that has the ability to cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health.

## How do invasive species spread?

- Hitchhikers on shipping material, recreation gear, work equipment, etc.
- Extreme weather events
- Wildlife dispersal
- Pet Trade
- Ornamental Plants

## Threats to Terrestrial Habitat:

- Outcompete native species
- Threaten agriculture and livestock
- Human health hazards
- Loss of ecosystem services

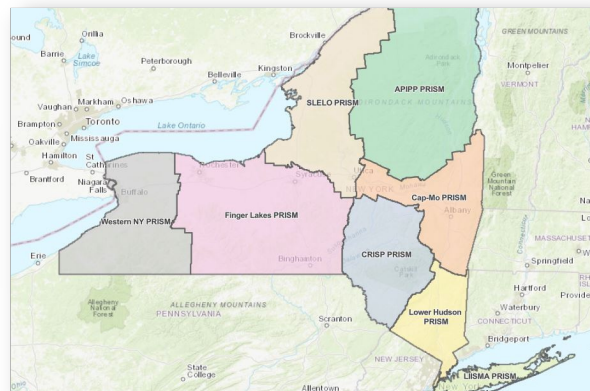


Boot brush stations, found on many New York State trails, are one example of how hikers can **Play, Clean, Go** to prevent the spread of invasive species.

## Capital Region PRISM

The CR-PRISM is a not-for-profit organization, that receives its funding from the NYS DEC. The CR-PRISM is hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County and provides services to eleven counties.

These include Albany, Columbia, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and parts of Fulton, Herkimer, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.



## iMap Invasives

iMapInvasives is an online tool used to record and map out the location of invasive species. Data collected in iMapInvasives is used to help natural resource professionals protect the environment from the threat of invasive species.

Download the iMap Invasives Mobile App or visit [imapinvasives.org](http://imapinvasives.org).



Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Saratoga County



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides financial support to the Capital Region PRISM via the Environmental Protection Fund

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[capitalregionprism.org](http://capitalregionprism.org)



# TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION



**Autumn Olive**

(*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

Elongated leaves with silver underside  
Speckled trunk with thorns. Can reach 20 ft  
Change soil chemistry to inhibit native plant growth  
Seeds dispersed by wildlife



**Burning Bush**

(*Euonymus alatus*)

Green-brown stem with distinct "wings" along the length  
Leaves turn bright red in fall months  
High seed production prevents native plant growth



**Japanese Knotweed**

(*Reynoutria japonica*)

Alternate, large, oval-heart shaped leaves  
Hollow stem with purple splotches  
Spreads by fragmentation & can outcompete native species



**Kudzu**

(*Pueraria montana*)

Stiff orange hairs on stem  
Compound leaf with 3 large oval leaflets  
Purple flowering stalk in 3rd year. Grape smell  
Spread by rhizomes and outcompete native species



**Mile-a-Minute**

(*Persicaria perfoliata*)

Large triangular leaves, oracea wrap around barbed stem  
Blue and green terminal clusters of fruit in late summer  
Grows quickly and can easily overcrowd native species



**Oriental Bittersweet**

(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Woody vine with orange roots  
Oval to egg shaped leaves  
Distinct yellow seed capsules with red fruit in fall  
Choke out native species



**Pale Swallow-wort**

(*Vincetoxicum rossicum*)

Thin vine with large, opposite, elongated leaves  
Small, pink, star-shaped flowers develops into long seed pod  
Poor food source for butterflies  
Outcompete native species



**Wild Parsnip**

(*Pastinaca sativa*)

Thick, corrugated stem and deeply lobed leaves  
Umbel of small yellow flowers  
Sap can cause reaction when exposed to sunlight  
High seed production promotes monocultures



**Wineberry**

(*Rubus phoenicolasius*)

Red, hairy stem with thorns  
Compound leaves with 3 leaflets and silver undersides  
Red berries in summer  
Outcompetes native species

**Tips on Reporting  
Invasive Species**



1. Record location

2. Take photo, use ruler or hand for size reference

3. Include name and contact information on report

4. Send report to iMapInvasives or local PRISM