

Affix
Postage
Here

Door County Soil & Water Conservation Department
421 Nebraska Street
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235



ALERT!

**Don't Let Invasive
Plants Take Over
Door County!**

**Help protect the natural
treasures that make
Door County beautiful...**



Europe Lake, an example of Door County's beauty

What is a Non-Native Invasive Plant?

Non-native simply means that the plant didn't grow here naturally. In other words, it is exotic, or imported to this area from another state or country. Invasive indicates that the plant is especially good at competing with native vegetation and could even eliminate some native species. These plants have spread at an alarming rate because, unlike native plants, there are not native insects, fungi or diseases to control their growth and spread. The following pictures highlight a few of the species that are particularly troublesome in our area.

Common Buckthorn



Common buckthorn is a European shrub that was sometimes mistakenly planted for wildlife food, but is now seriously choking many Door County natural areas.

Phragmites



Non-native phragmites is a very aggressive tall grass that thrives in wet areas including open wetlands, shorelines, shallow water and partially shaded wet woodlands. It can severely impact aquatic habitats.

Garlic Mustard



Garlic mustard is a noxious invasive weed that can eliminate native forest wildflowers and stunt tree seedlings. Its ability to poison the soil makes it a serious threat to the future of many Door County forests.

Purple Loosestrife



Purple loosestrife is a non-native invasive plant that impacts wetlands and shoreline areas and can completely eliminate native vegetation.

Why Care?

It is important to control invasive plants because these plants are:

- Destroying unique natural communities
- Eliminating endangered and threatened species
- Damaging wildlife habitat by impacting sources of food and shelter
- Negatively affecting the aesthetic qualities and natural beauty of the county



Dwarf Lake Iris, federally threatened plant

Door County has over 250 miles of coastline that harbor some of the most unique natural areas and plant and animal communities in Wisconsin. Studies of state endangered and threatened species have shown that Door County has a higher number of rare species per square mile than any other location in the state. Maintaining and protecting critical habitat areas is a necessity for these species.

Establishment of invasive plants within natural habitats threatens the rare species currently found here. **These areas, once lost, will be virtually irreplaceable.**

Door County Invasive Species Team

What is it?

The Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) works to identify, monitor and control non-native aggressive plants in Door County through public assistance, coordination of countywide efforts, and provision of informational and educational resources.



DCIST aids landowners with hands-on training to identify and control invasive species. Pictured here, a resident bundles phragmites during a work party held to demonstrate proper control techniques.

Who are we?

DCIST is a group of natural resource professionals and interested citizens that are concerned with preserving Door County's native environment. To contact DCIST, call the DCIST Message Line at **920-746-5955**.

This brochure was printed on 100% post consumer waste recycled paper.



WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Funded by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Grant #NA08NOS4190431



Please visit the **DCIST** website at <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/index.htm> for more information and an online invasive species report form.

Please fill out the form below if you have observed an invasive plant that you think may be a potential problem. 1) Provide as much information as possible, 2) cut the form along the dotted line, 3) fold it in half and seal it, 4) affix proper postage and 5) mail the form to the **Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department at 421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**. Thanks for your help!

General Information

Please Print

Please provide contact information so that we can reach you if we have any follow-up questions regarding your invasive plant observation.

Name Date Observed

Mailing Address

Email

Daytime Phone

Evening Phone

Check this box if you are interested in becoming a volunteer

Invasive Plant Information

Where is the invasive plant located?

(Including a drawing, legal description, or GPS coordinates is not necessary, but would be helpful)

What invasive plant(s) have you observed?

Estimate number of plants observed (check the appropriate box)

- Less than 50 plants 50-500 plants
 More than 500