

# Controlling the Spread of Invasive Species

## In Your Garden:

- If you are a gardener, be mindful of the plants you are planting. If you are planting non-native plants, research whether these plants have the potential to damage the surrounding ecosystem. The same goes for seeds. Many of the worst invasive species in the South were originally introduced as ornamentals and agricultural plants.
- Incorporate native plants into home landscaping whenever possible.
- As a property owner, remove and dispose of invasive species when you identify them and replant native species.
- When hand-weeding invasive species, make sure to remove the species from the ground in its entirety. Improper hand-weeding technique may actually increase the potential points of growth from
- Proper disposal of removed invasive plant material is critical to combating its spread. If you compost, create a separate compost pile for invasive/noxious weeds and monitor it closely for resprouts, removing as necessary. Do not use this compost in your garden!

## In The Wild:

- Do not bring back plants/animal species from an exotic vacation, and do not release animals into the wild.
- When returning from a hike, wash the soil from bottom of your shoes before heading home. This prevents the spread of seeds from one environ to another.
- Empty out your bait basket after a fishing trip. Highly destructive aquatic invasives have been spread by fishing activities.

## As A Citizen:

- Eat invasive plant and animal species as a delicious control strategy.
- Take part in organized efforts to replant native species and restore native ecosystems. Some organizations include: Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Common Ground Relief, Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Bayouland RC&D Council, Lower Nine Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development.