

*Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is the most effective and least expensive way of protecting our Northwoods habitat.*

- **How you can get involved:** Learn more about invasive plants in the area. Some resources are as follows:

[www.townofthreelakes.com/terrestrial-invasive-species](http://www.townofthreelakes.com/terrestrial-invasive-species)

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/>

<http://www.whipinvasives.org/>

Three Lakes Natural-Cultural Resources Committee

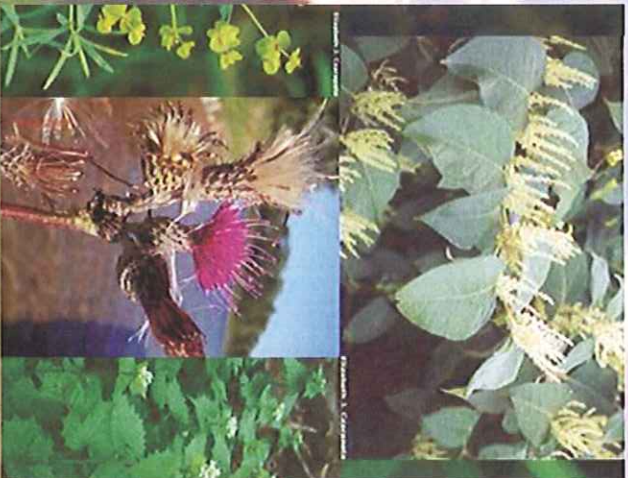
Contact: [tamarack@teachingdrrun.org](mailto:tamarack@teachingdrrun.org)

- Volunteer to help remove invasive plants.
- Get rid of invasive plants in your yard (discard in trash, not compost!).
- Plant only native or non-invasive plants.
- Use only inspected top soil and gravel.
- Clean boat to remove invasive species.
- Watch for seeds on your shoes, clothes and pets after hiking.
- Watch for invasive plants, note the location, and email [baerbel.ehrig@yahoo.com](mailto:baerbel.ehrig@yahoo.com)

*Thank you*

## Invasive Plants in Three Lakes

*We can make a difference*



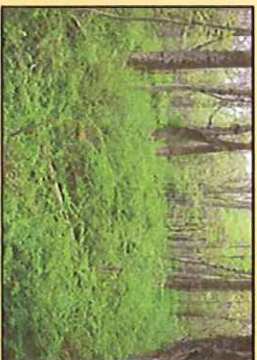
Prepared by the Three Lakes Natural-Cultural Resources Committee  
<http://townofthreelakes.com/>

**Welcome** to Three Lakes — a special place to experience beautiful nature in Northwoods Wisconsin. While you are here, we'd like to bring attention to a serious threat to this ecosystem — invasive plants.

In 2013 the Town conducted a roadside survey to identify terrestrial invasive plants. This brochure based on those results, was designed to raise awareness about what each of us can do.

### **What are invasive plants?**

A newly introduced plant will either coexist with native species or start eliminating them through outcompeting for access to nutrients and/or altering environmental conditions to favor their survival. An introduced species is labeled "invasive" if it pushes a native species out of its niche, resulting in a greatly reduced population.



Japanese barberry infestation

### **Where do they come from?**

They are transported from other regions by vehicles, boats, pets, clothing, or in construction material and topsoil. Some are escapees from flowerbeds and ornamental plantings.

### **What is the problem?**

- Native plants can be crowded out, diminishing the Northwoods' natural biodiversity.
- Animals that are dependent on native plants for food and shelter will struggle to adapt, which may reduce or eliminate their populations.
- Invasive aquatic plants can completely choke out an area, making it uninhabitable for fish and wildlife, and unsuitable for swimming and boating.

**The result is that our native ecosystem is threatened.**

### **Why should we care?**

There can be serious economic impact, affecting tourism, hunting/fishing, agriculture, and gardening.

Impenetrable forest understories can lead to an increase of Lyme disease-carrying deer ticks. Outdoor recreation can be hindered, as illustrated below. Hunting could be impacted by changes in species density and composition.



Eurasian milfoil infestation

### Controlling the damage

Some of the invasive plants identified in Three Lakes have spread to the point where they can't be controlled. Spotted knapweed is an example.



Spotted knapweed

The invasive plants listed below can be controlled and even eradicated.

**Do you have any of these on your property?**



Cypress spurge



Purple loosestrife



Japanese knotweed



Forget-me-not



Garlic mustard



Leafy spurge



Various invasive thistles



Invasive Bush honeysuckles

### Existing efforts:

The Three Lakes Natural-Cultural Resources Committee is putting energy into eradicating Japanese barberry and other invasive species.



Japanese barberry

The Three Lakes School is working on eliminating Buckhorn on the school's property.



Buckhorn