

Voluntary Codes of Conduct For The Gardening Public Regarding Invasive Species

1. Ask for only non-invasive species when you acquire plants. Plant only environmentally safe species in your garden. Work towards and promote new landscape design that is friendly to regional ecosystems.
2. Seek information on which species are invasive in your area. Sources could include botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies. Remove invasive species from your land and replace them with non-invasive species suited to your site and needs.
3. Do not trade plants with other gardeners if you know they are species with invasive characteristics.
4. Request that botanical gardens and nurseries promote, display and sell only non-invasive species.
5. Help educate your community and other gardeners in your area through personal contact, and in such settings as garden clubs and other civic groups.
6. Ask garden writers and other media to emphasize the problem of invasive species and provide information. Request that garden writers promote only non-invasive species.
7. Invite speakers knowledgeable on the invasive species issue to speak to garden clubs, master gardeners, schools and other community groups.
8. Seek the best information on control of invasive plant species and organize neighborhood work groups to remove invasive plant species under the guidance of knowledgeable professionals.
9. Volunteer at botanical gardens and natural areas to assist ongoing efforts to diminish the threat of invasive plants.
10. Participate in early warning systems by reporting invasive species you observe in your area. Determine which group or agency should be responsible for reports emanating from your area. In no 800 number exists for such reporting, request that one be established, citing the need for a clearinghouse with an 800 number and website links to information about invasive plant species.
11. Assist garden clubs to create polices regarding the use of invasive plant species not only in horticulture, but in activities such as flower shows. Urge florists and others to eliminate the use of invasive plant material.

