

Appendix B

Invasive Identification and Removal

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What is an invasive?

Invasive species threaten our open space in a variety of ways. The Plant Conservation Alliance describes an *invasive* species as “...one that displays rapid growth and spreads, allowing it to establish over large areas.” These plants are aided by adaptive features such as strong vegetative growth, abundant seed production, high seed germination rate, long-lived seeds, and rapid maturation to a sexually reproductive (seed-producing) stage. These features allow them to out-compete existing vegetation and form dense one-species stands.

How Invasives Damage Our Roadsides

Invasive plants can become a problem due to their rapid and persistent growth. When maintaining a roadside for aesthetic value, invasive species can quickly overwhelm a viewscape by covering stonewalls obstructing a scenic viewscape, or overtaking important safety infrastructure.

Roadsides are often corridors for the spread of invasive plant species as windblown seeds scatter up and down roadways, establishing new populations which can spread and move into other areas of town. Plowing disengages dirt thus transporting seed contaminated soil along road corridors.

How to Control and Remove Roadside Invasives

It is important to identify road corridors that have some of the less established invasive species along them and commit our resources to containing, managing and removing these populations. If we can contain the small roadside populations before they have the opportunity to spread into our less managed areas, we will save the town time and resources for their control in the future.

The following species should be targeted in roadside management due to their relatively small numbers around town, known extremely aggressive behavior, and considerable negative ecological impacts:

- Tree-of-Heaven (*Alianthus altissima*)
- Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
- Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Black Swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*)

Many more invasive species have become established in Lincoln, particularly in roadside stonewalls, thus contributing to the slow disintegration of the walls. Examples are:

- Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)
- Asiatic Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*)

Exotic bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*).

It is imperative that the managers of the roadsides, both public and private, know and understand the plants growing there and their potential impacts on our local and regional landscape.

Control of invasive plants is an ongoing and long term commitment. Each plant will have a different prescription for control method and timing depending upon its biology, where it is growing and what the manager's resources are. The town should develop site specific plans for treatment and removal of the highlighted species mentioned above along roadsides as well as in areas of scenic or historic value. No one technique will work for all invasive plants.

Getting private landowners involved is imperative. Educating the public on what plants are invasive, why we need to control their populations and how to do it will help the town reach its goal of roadside presentation and ecological protection.

For more information

To this end, the Conservation Department, the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, and the Lincoln Garden Club have combined efforts to sponsor events like the Invasive Plant Summit (Fall 2007), Meet and Delete the Invasives workshops (ongoing), and have invited guest speakers to talk about responsible gardening practices. In addition the Conservation Commission has a new webpage on the town website that provides even more details on invasives and their removal.

<http://www.lincolntown.org/Invasives.htm>

The Conservation Commission also welcomes call from residents looking for help in managing invasives.

The following attachment, Invasive Plant Control, was created as a handout for some of the "Meet and Delete the Invasives" workshops.