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HELPING GARDENERS CREATE A LANDSCAPE

FREE OF

INVASIVE PLANTS



As influencers in the Gardening and Environmental field you have an opportunity to help gardeners create gardens and landscapes filled with the appropriate plants for the growing conditions and garden design. This includes avoiding and replacing invasive plants in their gardens and landscapes. As you know, it starts with awareness followed by an understanding of the importance of managing invasive plants for their landscape, the environment and economy.

About the Presenters

Melinda Myers, info@melindamyers.com

Melinda and her team are all about educating and inspiring gardeners to have fun and be successful in their gardening efforts. We have always promoted the right plant for the growing conditions and space while avoiding invasive plant species. We teamed up with University of Wisconsin Madison Extension Natural Resources Institute Aquatic Invasive Species Program in 2019. Some of you have helped us in our joint outreach efforts. Thanks!

Starting in Fall of 2023 we began working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on Terrestrial Invasive Species outreach and education. Working together and with all of you our goal is to increase awareness and encourage individuals to help manage this problem.

Jeanne Scherer, UW Madison Natural Resources Institute Aquatic Invasive Species Program jeanne.scherer@wisc.edu

Jeanne has been gardening all her life, so when she noticed that the materials she provides to people for aquatic invasive species outreach didn't have much for gardeners, the first step was partnering with Melinda and her team to help us reach water gardeners. Later we expanded our education efforts to people doing shorelines and rain gardens. Over the years, we have expanded from identification, basic management and disposal information to more emphasis on prevention and protecting our landscapes by keeping them filled with species like native plants. This webinar and our new Landscaping Alternatives brochures are part of that effort.

Liz Tanner, Organisms in Trade (OIT) Coordinator for Wisconsin DNR elizabeth.tanner@wisconsin.gov

Liz became the Organisms in Trade Coordinator for the WI DNR in 2021. Shortly after beginning her position, she learned about the successful partnership between Melinda's team and UW-Extension on educating water gardeners on invasive species topics. Recognizing a need for similar efforts with upland gardeners, Liz formed a new partnership to expand Melinda's efforts to include terrestrial topics in 2023. Liz also works with various other industries to address invasive species in the trade, including plant nurseries, pet stores, online sales, biological supply, and the food trade.

Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach

Wisconsin's aquatic invasive species (AIS) program focuses on preventing the introduction of new invasive species to Wisconsin, containing the spread of invasives that are already in the state, and managing established populations when possible. In close cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Extension Lakes program, UW-Madison Division of Extension education efforts focus on working with resource professionals and citizens statewide to teach boaters, anglers and other water users the steps they should take to prevent transporting aquatic invasives to new waters. Efforts also address other potential mechanisms of introduction, including aquarium pet release and water gardening.

Invasive Species ID and Impacts

Report an Invasive Finding



Extension
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**AQUATIC INVASIVE
SPECIES OUTREACH**

What is an invasive plant?

- A **weed** is a plant out of place, could be a dandelion or a desirable plant out of place
 - Common Weed Seedlings of the North Central States
- **Aggressive plants** are the bullies of the garden. They crowd out nearby plants, but stay within the confines of the landscape. These can be native or non-native plants.
- **Noxious weeds** are plants that have been identified as harmful to people, animals, crops, livestock and the environment and should be removed. Each state or Province has a listing as well as the USDA.
- What is the Difference Between Native, Non-native, and Invasive Plants?

Why Manage Invasive Plants?

- They outcompete and displace native plants causing:
 - Degradation of the natural habitat
 - Decrease diversity of plants
 - Serve as vectors for disease
- They negatively impact soil and water quality
 - Degrade soil structure
 - Increase the risk of soil erosion
 - Decrease water quality
 - ♦ Create dense patches or stagnant areas
 - * Lower oxygen levels
 - * Alter hydrology by trapping sediments
 - Contribute to climate change
 - ♦ Invaded habitats release more carbon through more severe uncontrolled fires
 - ♦ Invasive species reduce water flow in streams with low water levels due to persistent drought

- ♦ Invasive tree pests reduce carbon sequestration rates in forests
- ♦ Aquatic invasives decrease the resilience of green infrastructure to resist flooding and sea level rise
- ♦ Aquatic invasive species can also increase water temperature, which negatively influences the hydrologic cycle

Economic Impact - We All Pay For

- High cost of managing a species once established

Impact on Human Health

- Create habitat for disease carrying ticks
 - Honeysuckle and barberry
- Allergic reactions to invasive plants

Organisms in Trade Program

The sale and trade of invasive species presents a pathway for the introduction and spread of invasive species in WI. As a result, the WI DNR developed an OIT program to address this pathway. The OIT program works to educate pathway users, monitor industries for invasive species sales, and seek compliance with state regulations. Work targets many industries including garden and landscaping, pet trade, internet sales, live food trade, commercial fishing, bait dealers, biological supply and more.



Invasive Species Rule NR-40

"The invasive species rule creates a comprehensive, science-based system with criteria to classify invasive species into two categories: "prohibited" and "restricted." With certain exceptions, the transport, possession, transfer and introduction of prohibited species is banned.

Restricted species are also subject to a ban on transport, transfer and introduction, but possession is allowed, except for fish and crayfish. The department may issue permits for research or public display of any listed invasive species. For species other than invasive fish and crayfish, permits may also be issued for other purposes. The rule also defines the terminology used." WI DNR

Prohibited Plants

- Rare or not present in the state, but has a large potential to cause harm. Eradication and prevention are feasible.
- Ban on transport, possession, transfer and introduction prohibited

Restricted Plants

- Already established in the state and the impacts are evident. Complete eradication is unlikely.
- Ban on transport, transfer and introduction, but possession is allowed

How You Can Help

- Increase awareness of the problem in your outreach and educational efforts
- Assist gardeners in plant selection, helping them avoid invasive plants
- Help with identification of invasive plants

- Instruct gardeners on proper disposal of invasive plants

Helpful Free Resources for You and Those You Advise

- [Wisconsin DNR website](#)
- Videos
 - [Identifying 8 Aquatic Invasive Species in Wisconsin](#)
 - [Top Invasive Plants to Avoid](#)
 - [Grow Beautiful Water Gardens While Protecting Our Lakes and Waterways](#)
 - [Avoid Invasive Plants When Growing a Water Garden](#)
 - [Summer Care for Your Water Garden](#)
 - [Fall Water Garden Clean Up to Keep Lakes and Waterways Healthy](#)
- Publications
 - [Aquatic Invasive Species Publications and Products](#)
 - [Protect Your Pond or Water Garden](#)
 - [Use Your Gardening Skills to Protect Our Native Habits](#)
 - [Landscape Alternatives for Common Invasive Wetland and Aquatic Plants](#)
 - [Landscape Alternatives for Common Terrestrial Invasive Flowers and Grasses](#)
 - [Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Great Lakes Region](#)
 - [Regulated Aquatic Invasive Plants in Wisconsin](#)
 - [Common Wetland Invasive Plants in Wisconsin](#)
 - [Invasive Species Wildcards](#)
 - [Use Your Gardening Skills to Protect Our Native Habitats](#)



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook 2nd Edition* released 2022, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and Instant Video, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
[**melindamyers.com**](http://melindamyers.com)

- Ordering WI DNR Publications
- WI DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Publications
 - ♦ DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov
- WI DNR Terrestrial Invasive Species Publications
 - ♦ Invasive.Species@wisconsin.gov
- Wisconsin Invasive Species Calendar
 - ♦ This resource from the Wisconsin First Detector Network can help you identify invasive plants based on the time of year and their lifecycle

February 28th Free Webinar

Create a Beautiful Landscape Free of Invasive Plants

Horticulturist, author, and speaker Melinda Myers will discuss key invasive plants in Wisconsin, share tips on identification, provide ways to control some of the more common problem plants, and suggest alternative plants for your landscape. We hope you can join Melinda to learn more about this important issue.

- Encourage people to watch
- Share our Facebook posts on the event
- Use free graphic to promote the webinar on your social media
 - Available from info@melindamyers.com
- Host a viewing party and be available to answer questions, share resources and more

Opportunities

- National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW)
 - Take advantage of this National Event
 - ♦ Make social media posts
 - ♦ WI DNR AIS also has a [Facebook page](#)
 - ♦ Mention in your February newsletter
 - * We sent an article to many of your groups, if you did not receive it and want to distribute it to members, please ask for a copy at info@melindamyers.com
 - ♦ NISAW [Events](#) and [Toolkit](#)

- June is Wisconsin's Invasive Species Action Month (ISAM)
 - Another opportunity to promote awareness and the importance of managing invasive plants
- Check the [Larry Meiller Show](#) June schedule on Wisconsin Public Radio
 - DNR & UW Madison Extension Invasive Species Specialists often appear during ISAM

Nominate Someone for the 2024 Invader Crusader Award ***The deadline is February 18, 2024***

"Invader Crusaders are Wisconsin residents and organizations who made significant contributions in 2023 to prevent, control or eradicate invasive species that harm Wisconsin's native wildlife, wetlands, forests, prairies, lakes and rivers. Nominees can be individuals, groups or organizations who showed exemplary efforts to address issues surrounding terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants and animals. This year marks 20 years of Invader Crusaders, with 166 awards given out to date." WI DNR

Volunteer to Do More

- Some of you may already be doing some of these things and can help us encourage more people to get involved
 - Become familiar with the invasive species in your area
 - ♦ Invasive Species lists for your state
 - ♦ Plant identification resources:
 - * [Basic Plant Identification](#) terminology video
 - * [WI DNR Regulated Species](#)
 - * Plant ID apps - this is not an endorsement for any
 - iPhones have one - just click on the image and then the leaf at the 'i' along the bottom of the page
 - [Picture This](#)
 - [Seek](#) by iNATURALIST
 - Always double check the answer using an internet image search

- Avoid spreading invasive plants
- Scout for invasive plants
 - ◆ Watch for invasive plants when shopping and enjoying natural areas
- Volunteer to help manage them from natural spaces
 - ◆ Contact your county **Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator**. They can help you connect with the local Terrestrial Invasive Species Specialist.

What to do if you find invasive plants?

- Good news - the number of invasive plants found during nursery inspections is decreasing
- Online sales of invasive plant species is a growing concern
 - Vendors not aware, not up to date or not complying
- For sale at a nursery or online
 - Email **Elizabeth.Tanner@wisconsin.gov**
 - ◆ Include pictures if possible
 - Some Restricted invasive plants reported for sale in Wisconsin
 - ◆ Plant Name (% of all those reported)
 - * Japanese barberry (24%)
 - * Woodland forget-me-not (9.5%)
 - * Bishop's goutweed (7.4%)
 - * Burning bush (6.3%)
 - * Amur maple (4%)
 - * Ribbon grass (3.7%)
 - * Moneywort (3.6%)
 - * Common buckthorn (3.3%)
 - * Black alder (2.9%)
 - * Japanese honeysuckle (2.5%)
- Growing in public spaces
 - Document and report
 - **Aquatic Invasive Species**
 - **Terrestrial Invasive Species**
 - ◆ **Properly identify the species**
 - ◆ Photograph the species as close as possible

- ◆ Photograph the plant in its location
- ◆ Submit the photos and your notes
 - * **invasive.species@wisconsin.gov**
- In private gardens
 - Make a connection
 - ◆ Keep in mind
 - * Many people are unaware the plant is a problem
 - ◆ Advise on **removal and management**
 - * Start with outliers to minimize spread into new areas
 - * Next the advancing front
 - Minimize spread from site of the core population
 - * Core - highest density of invasive plants
 - ◆ Disposing of invasive plants
 - * Check with local municipality for disposal recommendations
 - * Composting is not always an effective option
 - Most compost piles do not heat up sufficiently to kill the seeds
 - * Bag, label as invasive and throw in trash if allowed

Contact Information

- Jeanne Scherer - **Jeanne.Scherer@wisc.edu**
- Elizabeth Tanner - **Elizabeth.Tanner@wisconsin.gov**
- **DNR AIS Biologists**
- **County AIS Coordinators**
- **Wisconsin Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA)**
- **Department Invasive Species contacts**
- **What is the Difference Between Native, Non-native, and Invasive Plants?**

Thanks for Your Help - Together We Can Make a Difference



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AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES OUTREACH



*Special Thanks to the
University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension
Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach
and Wisconsin DNR for Sponsoring this Webinar!*

Melinda's Garden Moment AUDIO TIPS

Melinda's Garden Moment VIDEO TIPS

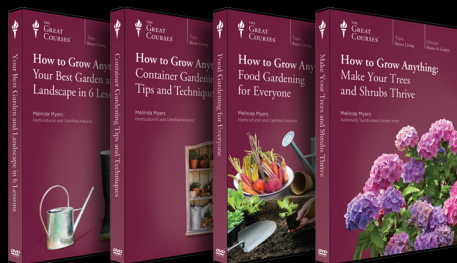
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLISTS & MORE

BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR MY E-NEWSLETTER TO GET TIMELY GARDENING TIPS AND A CHANCE TO WIN



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THE GREAT COURSES "How to Grow Anything"

DVD SERIES

Food Gardening for Everyone

Make Your Trees and Shrubs Thrive

Your Best Garden and Landscape

Container Tips and Techniques

BOOKS

Midwest Gardener's Handbook

Small Space Gardening

Midwest Lawn Guides

Minnesota & Wisconsin Getting Started Garden Guide

Month-by-Month Gardening in Minnesota & Wisconsin

Michigan Getting Started Garden Guide

Month-by-Month Gardening in Michigan

Month-by-Month Gardening in Iowa



Birds & Blooms Magazine

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