

**The following information is being provided by
the Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST)
in partnership with the East Amwell Environmental Commission, April 2010**

“Go Native” Homeowner’s Brochure: [://cjisst.org/pdf/CJISST_Brochure.pdf](http://cjisst.org/pdf/CJISST_Brochure.pdf)

Comprehensive "Do Not Plant" list: [://www.cjisst.org/pdf/DoNotPlantList.pdf](http://www.cjisst.org/pdf/DoNotPlantList.pdf)

ABOUT THE INVASIVE PLANT PROBLEM IN NEW JERSEY

People have been moving plants and animals around the world for centuries.

We all rely on plants from other regions of the world for food, construction materials, ornamental plants and fiber. Plants and animals that have been moved from their native habitat to a new location (a different ecological system other than the one in which the organism is naturally occurring) are referred to as non-native or exotic to the new environment.

Most U.S. food crops and domesticated animals are non-native species and their beneficial value is obvious - corn, wheat and oats are examples.

A small percentage of exotics cause serious problems in their new environments because they spread rapidly, displacing native plants and animals. They are collectively known as **invasive exotic species**.

Invasive species typically exhibit the following characteristics:

- Rapid growth and maturity
- Highly successful reproduction and colonization
- Ability to out-compete native species
- High cost to remove or control

Invasive species are rapidly becoming one of the earth’s greatest threats to biodiversity as well as a serious economic problem. It is difficult to determine the precise financial impact of invasive plants, but in the United States it is estimated to be upwards of \$140 billion each year! This estimate includes the money we spend to find and remove them from public and private lands as well as the costs associated with lost agricultural and forest productivity and public health.

Some 1,400 plant species are listed as invasive across the nation. In New Jersey, 29 invasive plants have been identified as widespread. Over 70 others have been identified as newly emerging, meaning that they are not yet found throughout the state.

Early detection and rapid response offers the opportunity to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Fact sheets for many invasive species (including some of the widespread species that aren't CJISST targets) go to: [://www.cjisst.org/factsheets.html](http://www.cjisst.org/factsheets.html)

CJISST Website go to: [://cjisst.org/index.html](http://cjisst.org/index.html)

For more information contact CJISST project partners:

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