



**What are other states doing? Massachusetts  
Invasive Plant Advisory Group**



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CIPWG: Invasive Plant Symposium  
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**How did it all get started in Massachusetts?**

**A Guide to  
INVASIVE  
PLANTS  
in Massachusetts**



by  
Pamela B. Weatherbee, Paul Somers and Tim Simmons

**The Massachusetts Biodiversity Initiative**

 *Massachusetts*  
**Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

## **Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG)**

- formed in 1999 by the Ad Hoc Native Plant Advisory Committee**
- to address the invasive plant issue in MA**
- recognized by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs as part of the Massachusetts Council on Invasive Species (coordinating mechanism for invasive species management activities within the Massachusetts)**



## **Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG)**

- **voluntary collaboration among public and private organizations concerned about the problem of invasive plants in Massachusetts**
- **eighteen entities are represented**
  - **state and federal governmental agencies**
    - **fish and wildlife**
    - **agriculture**
    - **natural resources**
  - **horticulture industry (MNLA, NENA, ANLA)**
  - **academic science institutions**
  - **conservation organizations**
    - **land management**
    - **non-profit**



# To evaluate plants for invasiveness:



## Step 1. MIPAG worked Les Mehrhoff, UConn

- to adopt definitions
  - \* native and non-native species
  - \* minimally and intensively managed habitats
- create a list of plant to be evaluated
- develop a set of biologically-based criteria to be used to evaluate invasiveness

## Step 2. MIPAG contracted with Les Mehrhoff

- to gather data about selected species
- help assess which currently are invasive or have the potential to become problematic

## Step 3. Ongoing evaluation of new species and update old



**Dr. Les Mehrhoff**



85 species were evaluated and identified as ***Invasive, Likely Invasive, or Potentially Invasive.***

Species in which sufficient information or evidence is currently lacking for an adequate evaluation were designated as ***Do not list at this time.***

An annotated list of all species evaluated was developed.

**Massachusetts Invasive  
Plant Advisory Group**

**[www.massnrc.org/mipag/](http://www.massnrc.org/mipag/)**

**Web search: Massachusetts  
Invasive Plant Advisory Group**



## Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List

MA General Law Chapter 128 Sec. 2 & 16 - 31A

- MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), worked with the MA Nursery and Landscape Association
- effective January 1, 2006 -  
limited to the importation, sale, trade, and distribution and **does not impact existing plantings**
- provides a “**phase-out**” exception to minimize financial impacts on MA ornamental nursery industry
- “**No-exception species**”  
Importation Ban & Propagation Ban - January 1, 2006

**Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List**  
**MA General Law Chapter 128 Sec. 2 & 16 - 31A**

[http://www.mass.gov/agr/farmproducts/Prohibited\\_Plant\\_Index2.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/farmproducts/Prohibited_Plant_Index2.htm)

**Sterile cultivar issue:**  
**remains OPEN, subcommittee currently working**

## **Massachusetts Nursery Industry Response:**

- propagating and/or selling new species**
- promoting environment resposibilitiy**

MIPAG developed and outlined invasive-plant-management objectives for the Commonwealth in ***Strategic Recommendations for Managing Invasive Plants in Massachusetts.***

- development of early detection and rapid response system
- research, management and education priorities

[www.massnrc.org/mipag/](http://www.massnrc.org/mipag/)  
then click on **“Publications”**

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## Strategic Recommendations

for Managing Invasive Plants in Massachusetts

Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group  
Final Report • February 28, 2005

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# Guidance for the Effective Management of Invasive Plants

## Guidance for the Effective Management of Invasive Plants



Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group (MIPAG)

Version 1  
August 2012

**THANK YOU!!!!!!**  
**Have a Great 2016 Season!!!**  
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