

## Tips for Control or Removal of Invasive Species

- Be vigilant. Walk your property occasionally to check for seedlings or small plants. Remove them when you see them.
- When possible, remove the plant before there are flowers, fruit or seed. Remove flowers or fruit if they are present.
- If removing plants with fruit or seed, bag on site and dispose of in the trash. Note: do not transport Japanese stiltgrass that has seed.
- Some vines (wintercreeper is an example) may root if left on the ground.
- Disturb the ground as little as possible when working since this will reduce the number of seeds that sprout there.
- Most plants are more easily removed when the ground is moist.

### Vines

- Vines on the ground can be removed by hand, best done when the ground is moist. Be sure to get the roots for those plants that will form roots at a node.
- Older vines with large stems where the vine originated can be treated like shrubs.
- When “removing” vines from trees, work near the base of the trees and make two cuts on each vine to that there is a space; try not to cut into the bark. Pull the vines at below the cut away from the tree if possible. Leave the vines above the cut to die. Do not pull the vines off the tree since that can pull off bark. Also, if the tree is badly infested, you may pull down dead limbs and nests.

The link below includes information for shrubs and small trees and other techniques such as mowing, smothering and herbicides.

[Managing Invasive plants: Methods and Control](#)

The last resort should be the use of an herbicide. There are several considerations:

- Some herbicides are more effective on certain plants.
- The season will impact the effectiveness. As a general rule, herbicides work best when there is movement of nutrients down to the roots, taking the herbicide with it.
- The weather forecast will determine when you should do the work.
- There are effective methods for using herbicides on trees and shrubs that use very little product and do not have the hazards that spraying does.

**We urge you to consult someone who has knowledge and experience with using these products.**