



Removing Invasive Species in Your Backyard

*Town of Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
In collaboration with
the Bar Harbor Garden Club*

Invasive Species – Goals II.1.B.iv and II.5.A.iv of the Open Space Plan

Thank you for reviewing the Invasive Species PowerPoint; now, the Bar Harbor Conservation Commission and the Bar Harbor Garden Club invite you to get out there and eradicate some invasives!

We have developed a log so you can document your efforts to remove these unwanted plants and to “thank you,” we will send the first 50 participants a package of seeds of NATIVE lupines (*Lupine perennis*).

After you have filled out your log, please submit it to:

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission
c/o Planning Department
Municipal Building
93 Cottage Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Be sure to include your name and address so we can mail the lupine seeds to you.

The seeds are a donation from the Bar Harbor Garden Club and the cost of mailing is donated by the Bar Harbor Conservation Commission.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the members of the Bar Harbor Conservation Commission at the Town of Bar Harbor website – barharbormaine.gov.

Thank you for helping to restore native plant species to MDI!

Bar Harbor Garden Club

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission

Spring invasive species and why to remove them

- Lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*)
- Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
- Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)

What is a native species?

- *Plants indigenous to Maine prior to colonization.*
- *Co-evolved over millennia with Maine wildlife.*



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Why Use Native Plants?



- Supports Maine bees, butterflies, and other life forms that use native plants for food or to complete their life cycle.
- When there are many species of native plants, there is an increased diversity of wildlife.
- Native plants use less water and don't need fertilization.

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What is an invasive species?

Typically brought into Maine for horticultural purposes or accidentally by hitching a ride on ship ballasts or truck wheels, invasive species have no natural predators or diseases in Maine and grow out of control.



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Why are invasive species bad?

Non-native plants can choke out native plants and/or diminish the habitat or food sources of insects and animals that rely on native species.



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What can you do?

- *Eliminate non-native species in your yards.*
- *Purchase native species for landscaping.*
- *Do not purchase and plant known invasive species.*

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Photo by Dusty Warner, NPS

Lupinus polyphyllus

- Grows aggressively.
- Crowds out native lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) such that no native lupine are present on MDI.
- Loss of native lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) removed the only food source for the Karner blue butterfly, now extirpated in Maine.
- Crowds out native milkweed, the only food source for monarch butterflies.

*Invasive Lupine
(Lupinus polyphyllus)*



Photo by Dusty Warner, NPS

- Flower color: white, pink, purple
- Flower stalk generally over two feet
- Leaflets: 9 to 17
- Seeds: brownish to black
- Habitat: cool, moist

*Native Lupine
(Lupinus perennis)*



Photo by Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org

- Flower color: violet or purple
- Flower stalk under two feet
- Leaflets: 7 to 11
- Seeds: off-white to grey
- Habitat: dry, sunny, sandy

A stylized illustration of a purple lupine flower with a thickened crown, growing on a green hill. The background features rolling hills in shades of blue and white, and a blue sky. The flower has a dark purple stem with small curls and a cluster of orange and brown flowers at its base.

What can you do?

- Remove non-native lupine by pulling out the plant when the soil is soft and before it flowers. The root system should be severed below the thickened crown.
- Place all pulled plants in a trash bag. Do not place in a home compost pile or contribute to a municipal compost pile.
- Plant native lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), also known as the Sundial Lupine, these can be purchased through the Wild Seed Project.

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Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)



Photo by Mark Frey, The Presidio Trust, Bugwood.org

Can grow in conjunction with garlic mustard, which is in the same family



Photo by Mark Frey, The Presidio Trust, Bugwood.org

Allelopathic tendencies (the ability to produce chemicals that prevent or reduce the growth of other plants).



Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Can form a monoculture within a few seasons.

What can you do?



- In moist soil, remove the entire root from the ground. The root can regrow, so be sure to pull it all.
- Mow before seedpods form. The plant may reflower, so you may have to mow again.
- Place all pulled or mowed plants in a trash bag. Do not place in a home compost pile or contribute to a municipal compost pile.

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Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)



Photo by [Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org](#) (first year growth)

Most aggressive in moist shady locations, such as forested areas but can grow almost anywhere.

Grows in dense colonies, reducing wildflower diversity and their availability to wildlife.

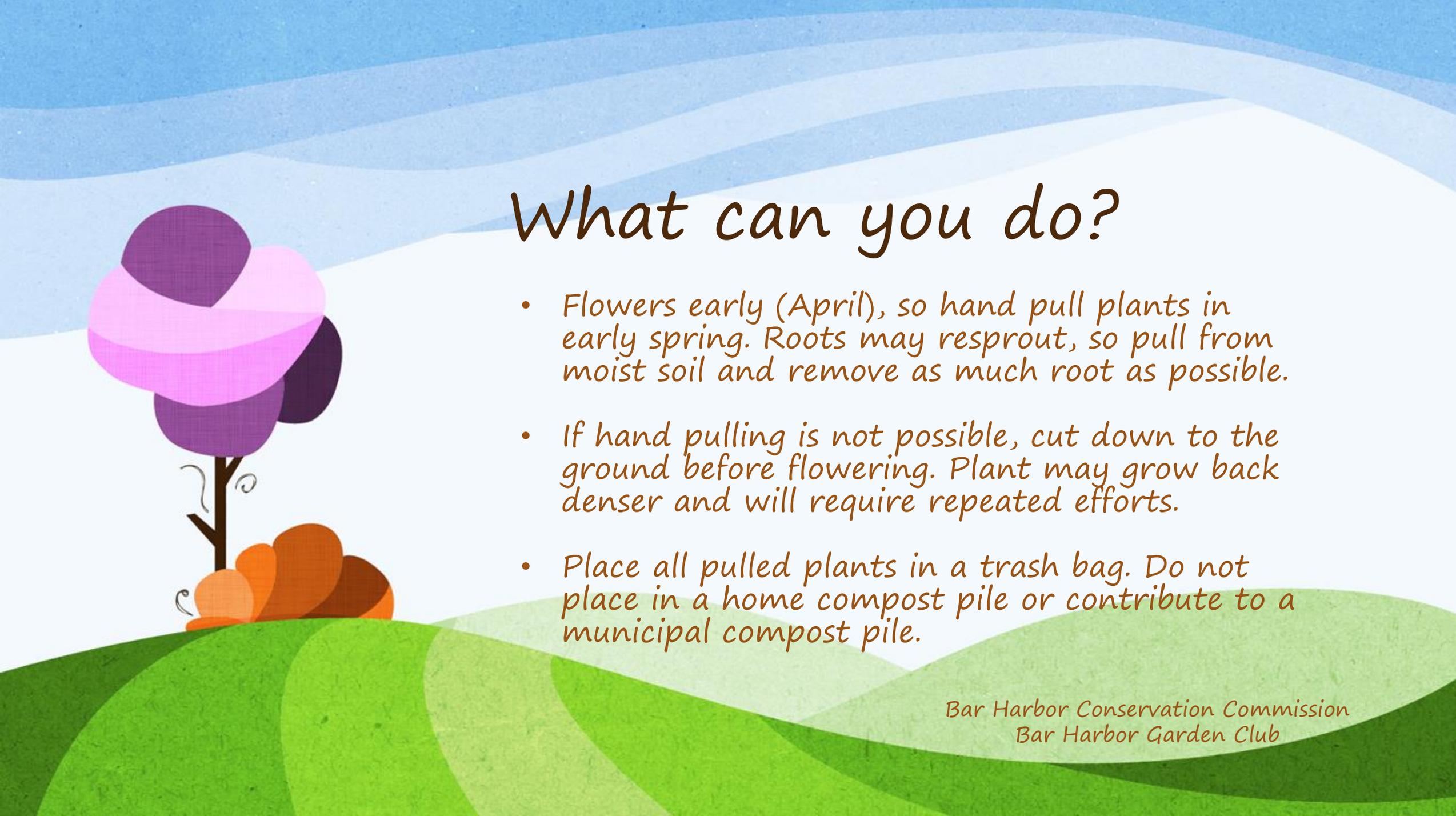
One plant can produce thousands of seeds.



Photo by [Mary C Legg, Mary C Legg, Bugwood.org](#) (second year and beyond)

A biennial plant that produces low basal leaves its first year that can photosynthesize over the winter giving it a head start over native plants in the spring.

One plant can produce thousands of seeds during its second year when it produces flowers.



What can you do?

- Flowers early (April), so hand pull plants in early spring. Roots may resprout, so pull from moist soil and remove as much root as possible.
- If hand pulling is not possible, cut down to the ground before flowering. Plant may grow back denser and will require repeated efforts.
- Place all pulled plants in a trash bag. Do not place in a home compost pile or contribute to a municipal compost pile.

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)



Photo by [Jan Samanek, Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org](#)

A perennial herb, it can grow in dense stands ten feet tall. Fast-growing, it colonizes quickly.



Photo by [Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org](#)

Also known as Mexican bamboo, the one to two inch stem is hollow.

Shades out other plant species.



What can you do?

- *Can take years to eradicate.*
- *Small patches should be cut or mowed weekly. Large patches require professional assistance.*
- *Digging up roots is not suggested, as root fragments can lead to more growth.*
- *Place all pulled plants in a trash bag. Do not place in a home compost pile or contribute to a municipal compost pile.*

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Resources

Photo gallery of invasive plants:

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives_gallery.htm

Gardening to preserve Maine's native landscape:

<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/>

Native Gardens of Blue Hill Native Plant List

https://c4123590-33ce-4741-a3ee-7f579f8810bc.filesusr.com/ugd/b1349b_8ae30f2a2d764f8a9669d9b2aa45b204.pdf

Seed resource for Maine native plants

<https://wildseedproject.net/>

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