



What's Growing Out There? You're on a QUEST!

Do you have any exotic species invading your neighborhood? Find out about any bioinvasives in your region by speaking with local county extension agents, or visiting one of the web sites listed below. Research those species that might grow near you. Learn what type of habitat they grow in and how to identify them by using resources at the library or on the Internet. Take a walk around your neighborhood and see if you can find any of these exotic species. Many of the most harmful species are aquatic – they live in freshwater lakes or ponds. Become familiar with these species and how they spread in order to share the information with family and friends who might go boating. Create a map of where possible suitable habitats are in your neighborhood so that you can keep a “watch” on them.

Some bioinvaders, such as Japanese barberry and purple loosestrife, were originally used as ornamental plantings around homes. Some aquatic species were introduced when they were sold as live aquatic plants for aquariums. These have slowly been taking over the countryside and eliminating the native plant populations. Many wildflower groups encourage nurseries and home owners to cultivate native species rather than import more exotic ornamental plants. Investigate native plant species that might be nice to add to your garden by doing research at the Web sites below. Talk to a local nursery about the availability of native plant species versus ornamental plants for landscaping. Make a list of those exotic species commonly used for home gardening, and alternative native plant species. Share your ideas with your class.

Resources

Botany glossary:

<http://biology.jbpub.com/Botany/glossary.cfm>

Invasive species and natural resource pest information:

<http://pronewengland.org/Content/PROInfoInvasiveNatRes.htm>

A government-sponsored invasive species Web site:

<http://www.invasivespecies.gov>

An invasive plant atlas of New England:

<http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane>



Japanese Barberry
(*Berberis thunbergii*)



Purple Loosestrife
(*Lythrum salicaria*)

Information about loosestrife:

<http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Counties/Hillsborough/loosestr.htm>

New Hampshire Lakes Association: information about aquatic exotics

http://www.nhlakes.org/ed_aqu_exo.htm

New England Wildflower Society – information about invasive plants:

<http://www.newfs.org/conserve/invasive.htm#links>

U.S. Department of Environmental Protection: New England Region – Invasive Species:

<http://www.epa.gov/region1/topics/ecosystems/invspecies.html>

Native plants of New England:

<http://gardening.about.com/cs/msubnativene>

New England Wildflower Society: information about native plants

www.NEWS.org

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