

Invasive species, both plant and animal, create many problems for our native plant and wildlife communities and have a high economic cost to our agricultural, timber, and tourist industries. Invasive plants out-compete native species and disrupt native plant communities and wildlife habitat. They invade agricultural fields and limit reproduction and growth of forest trees. Aquatic invasives disrupt fishing and water-based recreation.

The Taylor County Invasive Species Work Group was started by representatives of the Land Conservation Department, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and USDA-Forest Service. The group also includes members of other agencies and organizations and interested private citizens. The group has been working to increase public awareness of problems associated with invasive species, especially invasive plants.

Targeted plants include purple loosestrife, glossy buckthorn, non-native honeysuckles, garlic mustard, European marsh thistle, reed canary grass, and Eurasian water milfoil.

An invasive species display was created and has been used at the County Fair, Sports Show, Medford Public Library, and conservation workshops in conjunction with classes from the Medford Area Middle School, buckthorn removal projects have been carried out along the Riverwalk and on the grounds of the County-USDA Service Center.

If you would like help in identifying invasive species, information about controlling them, a list of alternative plants to use in your landscaping, or other information about invasive species, please contact the Land Conservation Department.

Anyone interested in having a presentation on invasive species or using the display may also contact the Land Conservation Department.