Watch for Invasive Species!

What are Invasive Species?

Invasive species are known as either plants or animals that are non-native to an ecosystem and when introduced, aggressively out-compete and cause environmental harm to an ecosystem. They are primarily spread through human activities by being able to "ride along" on the clothes we wear, vehicles that businesses or we use, and even on animals or pets that we love and adore.

Why Should I Care?

Invasive Species are very aggressive and often thrive in disturbed areas. Trails are a pathway of disturbed ground that provides ideal conditions for the introduction of invasive species. They drive out beneficial plants, disrupt the ecosystem, and some species are harmful to people or animals

What Can I Do?

Educate and Report! Educate others to the dangers of these pests! Education is the best tool of defense. Reporting and marking these sightings is the second best tool. Mark and report the sighting to the DNR so the sights can be removed before becoming a bigger eye sore!

Report any findings to the DNR:
Grayling Field Office: 989-348-6371 x 7440
Hartwick Pines: 989-348-7068

Helpful Resources:

Michigan DNR:
http://www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies

MISIN: Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN). Useful phone app for identifying and reporting invasive species.
http://www.misin.msu.edu

Garlic Mustard:
Triangular toothed leaves, basal rosette. Numerous, small, white, four-petaled flowers. Blooms in April-early June

Giant Hogweed:
Small white flowers clustered into large umbels. Has purple-mottled stems with white hairs. Deeply divided and dissected leaves (hairy underneath). Often confused with Cow Parnsip.

Wild Parsnip: DO NOT TOUCH, CONTACT CAUSES SEVERE SKIN IRRITATION. Numerous, small yellow, 5-petaled flowers. Long, pinnately compound leaves form a basal rosette.

Japanese Barberry:
Simple, alternate, oval to spoon shaped leaves. Single or small clusters of 2-4 blossoms on small, yellow stalked.