



Exotic Invasive Trees and Woody Shrubs

Exotic invasive plants are non-native species that are capable of aggressively taking over a habitat and monopolizing natural resources to the detriment of native species. Exotic invasive plants, if not controlled, compete directly with native species for moisture, sunlight, nutrients, and space. In most cases exotic invasives, in fact, succeed in overwhelming the native species. Exotic invasives hurt native wildlife by changing their habitat and the fruits of exotic invasive species are less nutritious than native fruits.

Realizing that some exotic plants may have been intentionally planted at the historic properties on purpose Historic New England must balance the management of invasive species by controlling the application of exotic species and their eradication. Differentiation must also be made between exotic invasives and non-invasive ornamental exotic plant species as their impact on the landscape and the interpretation of the landscape is different.

Lists of exotic invasive plants are maintained by state conservation authorities. In 2008 the most pervasive exotic invasive plants on Historic New England properties were: Norway Maple (*Acer Platanoides*); Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus Altissima*) and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa Multiflora*) however many other species exist in large numbers on Historic New England property.

Guidelines for the Treatment of Exotic Invasive Species

- Document all plant materials at the historic sites.
- Research historic plantings, document if exotic species were used, and determine if those exotics pose a threat to the landscape.
- Determine in conjunction with the Proactive Preservation Interpretation and Planning (PPIP) committee whether the exotic invasive is integral to the interpretation of the site.
- Monitor historic plantings of exotic invasive plant species to minimize spread of species.
- Inspect sites annually for new infestations of exotic invasive plant species.
- Maintain sites through the continual removal of volunteer exotic invasive plant species.
 - Emphasize manual removal methods as first approach being sure to remove roots systems.
 - Local applications of herbicide may be necessary to eradicate an exotic invasive species.
- Systematically remove exotic invasive plant species from the historic properties with the exception of plantings designated as part of the interpretation of the historic landscape.