

INVASIVE HITCHHIKERS
Fact Sheet # 12

What Campsite Lessees Need To Know!



Invasive species are taking over forest land throughout Pennsylvania, damaging valuable habitat. Luckily campsite lessees can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasives.

“Invasive species” are non-native plants and animals that can cause harm to the economy, environment and human health. Mile-a-minute, for example,

is a vine that can grow up to a foot per day. It can quickly make trails impassable with its painful spines (*see photo below*).

Invasive species are also a concern because they can ruin the beauty of Pennsylvania landscapes and lower biodiversity (the variety of living things in an area).

Plus it’s simply more interesting when a leased campsite is surrounded by a forest full of different shrubs, trees, flowers and grasses, rather than the same invasive plant. But that is exactly what could happen if an invasive species appears...all other species, including wildlife, may be lost.



Make A Difference!

Now that you know why invasive species are a concern, what can you do to help minimize their spread? Luckily there are many small, easy steps you can take to keep invasives in check.

Make sure that you have approval from the forest district office before beginning any work on your campsite lease.

- Know how to identify invasive plants, so you know what species are present on your campsite and how they can be controlled. Look at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm> for more info.
- Only native plants may be planted on the campsite lease. Get permission from the forest district office before beginning any landscape projects on your lease.
- Clean off clothing, shoes and equipment before going to a new area. Bag any dirt, seeds and other plant parts and dispose of them in the trash.
- Don’t more firewood! Buy it locally. This will help prevent the spread of invasive insects like the emerald ash borer beetle. For more details about this dangerous pest go to www.emeraldashborer.info.

