



Wisconsin's Urban Forestry Best Management Practices for Preventing the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Species

Invasive species (including plants, insects and diseases) can kill trees, reduce the benefits provided by our forests, decrease overall biodiversity and burden property owners with exorbitant control costs. Managing existing invasive species infestations is difficult, expensive and often requires years of effort. For that reason, two of the most important invasive species concepts include preventing their occurrence and limiting their spread.

Thanks to urban forestry stakeholders across the state, Wisconsin now has a set of voluntary urban forestry best management practices (UF BMPs) for preventing the introduction and limiting the spread of invasive species. These BMPs identify effective and realistic practices that can be integrated into routine urban forestry activities to limit the impact of invasives. The manual was written for arborists, urban foresters, nursery growers and retailers, landscape architects, grounds

managers, landscape contractors and other urban forestry professionals; however, homeowners and other members of the public are encouraged to utilize the manual.

Implementation of the UF BMPs is a logical first step in the management of Wisconsin's invasive species. The BMPs are meant to be incorporated into daily routines and existing systems already in place. The manual recognizes a wide range of possible response options to any invasive species situation. Determining appropriate actions involves complex decisions that are context dependent. Practitioners applying BMPs need to select strategies and responses appropriate for their circumstances. Implementation of the UF BMPs

will need to include education and outreach and will require a long-term commitment.

Ultimately, everyone involved in the care and management of trees, shrubs and other vegetation shares in the responsibility of preventing and controlling invasives. By taking reasonable and practical precautions today, we can help protect Wisconsin's urban forests and other lands into the future.

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Species is available at <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/urban/>.

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