

What to do if you find any of these species:

1. Document your find. Take pictures and log your location.
2. Take a look around – how extensive is the infestation? If you have time, take notes.
3. Do *not* take samples of plant or animal material. Some of these species can cause nasty reactions (*e.g.*, Giant Hogweed), and many can spread easily.
4. Contact us first at **invasive@grotonma.gov** – let us know what you found.
5. Then, we can help report individual species to the appropriate state or regional authorities.
6. If you find invasive species on private property, be considerate about reaching out to the property owner.
7. Pat yourself on the back – you’re helping us in the battle against invasives!

invasive@grotonma.gov

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10 MOST WANTED

Invasive Species to Watch For in Groton

Spotted Lanternfly		Tree of Heaven	
Jumping Worm		Mile-a-Minute Vine	
Wall Lettuce		Japanese Stiltgrass	
Hardy Kiwi		Browntail Moth	
Kudzu		Giant Hogweed	

These invasive plants and animals have been spotted in or near Groton and represent real threats to our beautiful native landscapes.

The purpose of this flyer is to show you how to identify them and what you can do about the problem.

Have you seen these invasive plants and animals?

Each of the species described here have been documented in New England, including in towns that neighbor Groton. Some may have been here already. All are of serious concern. Here are some characteristics you can use to identify each species.

1. Spotted Lanternfly

- Love grapes, fruit trees
- Adults are 1-1.5" long
- Nymphs develop red patches as they grow



2. Jumping Worm

- 1.5-8" long
- Jump and wriggle actively
- Narrow, whitish clitellum (band) unlike native worms



3. Wall Lettuce

- 2-3' tall, branching herb
- Broken stems exude irritating sap
- Small yellow flowers, June



4. Hardy Kiwi

- Grown for small tasty fruit
- Hardy perennial vine
- Climbs on/over any support and chokes out natives



5. Kudzu

- Fast growing hairy vine
- Late red-purple flowers, flat hairy seedpods
- Roots survive our winters



6. Tree of Heaven

- Native (Asian) host of spotted lanternfly!
- Copious winged seed pods
- Noxious smelling leaves



7. Mile-a-Minute Vine

- Herbaceous, barbed vine
- Arrowhead shaped leaves
- Abundant Purple/metallic blue berry-like fruit



8. Japanese Stiltgrass

- 1-3' tall; forms dense mats
- Bright green; silvery hair stripe in middle of leaves
- Dense thatch layer



9. Browntail Moth

- Caterpillars: up to 1.5", two red spots, toxic hairs
- Adults: White wings, 1.5" span, dark brown tuft



10. Giant Hogweed

- 7-14' tall, hairy irritating stems and toxic sap
- Huge deeply serrated leaves
- Large white flower heads like Queen Anne's Lace



- 1 – Documented in Fitchburg, 2021
- 2 – Documented in Groton
- 3 – Documented in Massachusetts
- 4 – Planted in Massachusetts gardens
- 5 – Documented in Connecticut

- 6 – Documented in Groton
- 7 – Documented in Westford and Littleton
- 8 – Documented in Massachusetts
- 9 – Prevalent in Cape Cod, Maine
- 10 – Earlier population eradicated in Groton