



**Town of Weston
Conservation Commission**
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Town of Weston's Guidelines for Invasive Plant Removal Applications

Approved by the Conservation Commission: January 17th, 2023

Process for approving requests:

1. The applicant must complete the Invasive Plant Removal Request Form along with all required details, including proposed management and replacement vegetation. This form must be submitted to the conservation staff of Weston for review.
2. After review, a conservation staff member will conduct a site visit to confirm the invasive species present as well as assess site conditions. If during both the permit review and the site visit, the site and project meets the following criteria, the request process continues to item 3. If a project will not meet these criteria, the project cannot be administratively approved under this permit and the applicant will be directed to complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) or Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) under the Mass Wetlands Protection Act.
 - a. Soil will not be disturbed to the point that would warrant erosion control barriers;
 - b. Soil won't be unreasonably exposed between plantings or remain exposed after the project is completed;
 - c. Herbicide won't be utilized in such a way that would endanger the resource area;
 - d. All herbicide applications will be done by a licensed professional;
 - e. All plant material will be disposed of properly according to established guidelines and replaced in kind with native alternatives so as to sufficiently keep a similar habitat, stability and coverage;
 - f. Hand pulling and mechanical removal practices will be used exclusively (no machinery);
 - g. No part of the project is proposed within the Resource Area itself.
3. Proof of replacement vegetation (if applicable) via purchase receipt or visual inspection is required prior to the start of work.
4. If the applicant has provided all necessary information, and the project does not appear to pose any threat of disturbance to the wetland resource area, then the invasive plant removal request may be administratively approved. Conservation staff will issue an Administrative Approval Permit, add any conditions deemed necessary (time frame, replacement vegetation requirements, management plan, etc.), and return the original to the owner. A copy shall be filed by Conservation staff.
5. The applicant does NOT have to submit a new application yearly, but the applicant should send annual reports including restoration progress, herbicide treatments, color photos, and a brief summary to Conservation staff at the end of each growing season for two (2) years following completion of the initial work.