

# WHAT invasive species are & WHY they should matter to you

**Invasive species** are plants and animals that are not native to a specific region or habitat and out-compete native species.

**The presence** of invasive species impacts the overall health and therefore the productivity of our forests. Less healthy forests are less productive forests, and less productive forests hurt the logging industry and the local economy.

**Important tree species** found in the Northern Wisconsin forests are particularly vulnerable to the impact of invasive species.

- **Sugar Maple** seedlings are vulnerable to the impact the garlic mustard plant has on the soil. Sugar Maple is a major component in these forests and represents great commercial and ecological value.
- **Ash** trees are particularly vulnerable to the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, which burrows under the bark of ash trees ultimately killing them. Ash, a common decorative tree, is also a major component of midtolerant hardwood forests. Which make up a significant portion of the forests in Northern Wisconsin.
- **Oak** forests are at risk of being taken over by buckthorn. Buckthorn plants have been known to invade oak forests. Buckthorns leaf out earlier than most native trees, this gives them a competitive advantage over native tree seedlings. Oak is also a major component of mid-tolerant hardwood forests.

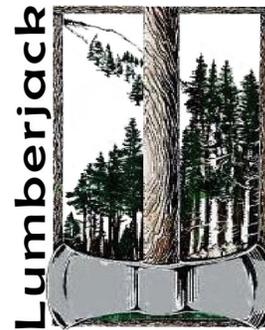
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## FORESTERS

- Inspect sites for signs of invasives as part of your normal inventory and site visits.
- Pay close attention to high traffic areas such as landings, skid trails, and recreational trails.
- Plan access routes and skid trails so that they will not cross over ATV trails.
- Inspect vehicles and equipment that may carry invasives.
- Provide areas where contractors can clean their equipment easily, efficiently, and often.
- Monitor and treat existing infestations to slow their spread.
- Inspect your own equipment, vehicles, and boots as well. Keep them clean of mud and plant materials.



**IT'S IN ALL OUR  
BEST INTERESTS!**



## LOGGERS

- Be sure all equipment is free of mud, bark, caked-on dirt, plant materials, and other debris that may carry invasive species.
- Excess build up of debris can lead to wearing out of bearings, pins, and track rollers. It can even pose a fire hazard if debris builds up in the engine bay. No one likes to spend excess time cleaning their machine from site to site, but cleaning your machines often will make it much easier to perform regular maintenance and keep your machine running smoother longer.
- Be sure all workers and subcontractors on the job site are aware of invasives and the threat they pose to the forest and the industry.
- Report all suspected infestations of invasives to the forester administering the job.

*If it looks like it's  
taking over the  
forest, it  
probably is!*

## “WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT INVASIVES IN THE FOREST?”

As loggers and foresters, you make your living in the woods. You are out there day in and day out, year 'round. You are the foremost stewards of the forest and play a vital role in the fight against invasive forest plants and pests. As such stewards, you can help weed management agencies by being alert and informed. The most important thing you can do is be familiar with invasives found here in the forests of Northern Wisconsin, and how they impact the health and productivity of the forest.

- **Garlic Mustard** – changes relationships between plant roots and soil fungi (mycorrhizal relationships), and shades out the regeneration of seedlings. This impacts Sugar Maple seedlings, a major component of the forests of Northeastern Wisconsin.
- **Common Buckthorn**— leaves out earlier than other plants, shading out seedlings. Also releases allelopathic chemicals into the soil, inhibiting other plants from growing.
- **Emerald Ash Borer Beetle** – kills ash trees, altering the species composition of the forest. Ash is a significant component in much of Wisconsin's forests.



Common Buckthorn. Images courtesy of Mark Mueller.



Infestation of Garlic Mustard. Image courtesy of John Fielding.



Emerald Ash Borer Beetle and Larva. Images courtesy of the University of Minnesota Extension.