



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD INVASIVE SPECIES MUNICIPAL POLICY

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Next Review: TBD

Department: Public Works
Subject: Invasive Species Policy
Policy Number: 2016-03

Invasive species are a growing environmental and economic concern for the Township of Southwold.

Alien species are plants, animals, and micro-organisms introduced by human action outside their natural past or present distribution. Invasive species are defined as harmful alien species whose *introduction* or *spread* threatens the environment, the economy, or society, including human health (Government of Canada 2004)

Ontario's definition of an invasive species may include species native to Ontario, that have been introduced to a new geographic region due to human activity. Species may be considered invasive if their introduction or spread can be linked to our changing climate.

The ecological effects of invasive species are often irreversible and, once established, they are extremely difficult and costly to control and eradicate.

The Township of Southwold will look to the Ministry of Natural Resources, The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs for support and guidance when dealing with invasive plants and will take steps when practical to protect against the impacts of invasive species.

The Township of Southwold will provide Education and Outreach to its residents on our website with regards to Invasive Species. The links will include but are not limited to:

- 1) **Ontario Invasive Plant Council**, <http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/> which provides extensive information and links to new up to date information on new invasive threats as well as strategies to deal with these threats.
- 2) **Ontario Invasive Plant Council's Best Management Practices** <http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/index.php/managecontrol>, This page will provide information to landowners on how to best manage and control Invasive plants.
- 3) **Grow Me Instead** guide http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/files/GMI_Booklet_spreads_2011_Final_web.pdf which provides detailed information to homeowners on how to utilize non invasive plants in their gardens.
- 4) **OMNRF Invasive Species Fact Sheets** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-fact-sheets> were detailed identification information and steps that you can do to help prevent the spread are available

Township of Southwold
Tree Trimming, Removal & Replacement Policy
Resolution No. 2016-209