

Garden center and nursery disposal guidelines for water garden plants and animals



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) infestations can occur as a result of the accidental release of water garden plants and animals. Introducing animals and plants from your business into the ecosystems in Minnesota can cause harm to our lakes, streams and wetlands.



Guidelines to help prevent the introduction and spread of AIS:

- **Inspect** and rinse new water garden plants to rid them of seeds, plant fragments, snails and small animals. Rinse into sink, on a vegetated area, or into container where water can't drain to storm sewers. Strain out any sediment, plant fragments and small animals and seal in a plastic bag, freeze for 24 hours and dispose of in the trash.
- **Make sure** that display water gardens are isolated from natural waterways, wetlands and areas that flood.
- **Drain** water in the sink through a strainer or on dry land where water can't flow to storm drains, ditches, wetlands, streams, or other surface waters when cleaning or emptying display water gardens and aquatic plant containers.
- **Over-winter** plants for next season if possible.
- **Freeze** unwanted plants for 24 hours in a sealed plastic bag, or heat in a microwave and then dispose in trash. Composting should be avoided, as seeds and fragments may still grow.
- **Dispose** of nonviable prohibited invasive species and aquatic plants at a legal site at least 300 feet from any water body or seasonally flooded land.
- **Provide** information to your customers on proper disposal of unwanted plants.

Find the current prohibited species list by searching: "MN DNR AIS laws" or directly at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html

If you suspect you may have received a prohibited species in a shipment or a customer brings one in, please contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources AIS specialist, Kelly Pennington, at 651-259-5131 or kelly.pennington@state.mn.us for additional instructions.

Examples of aquatic plants and animals that are invasive in Minnesota's ecosystems



Koi and goldfish



Water hyacinth



Water lettuce



Parrot feather



Yellow iris



Water lilies

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