

Vermont Horticultural Professional Non-native Invasive Species Voluntary Code of Conduct



This Voluntary Code of Conduct (Voluntary Code) was developed by GreenWorks/Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association, the Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and the Vermont Invasive Exotic Plant Committee (VIEPC). The intent of the Voluntary Code is to reduce the sale of non-native plants that have been found to be invasive in Vermont yet are currently legal to sell. In 2010 the VIEPC is seeking to add the following species to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Market's (Agency of Agriculture) Quarantine Rule: Japanese barberry, Common barberry, Burning Bush, Norway maple, Amur maple, and Yellow Iris, including all cultivars for these species. Under the proposed quarantine rule, nurseries would be granted a three year phase-out period in which they can sell off existing stock of these species.

Vermont horticultural professionals, including nursery owners, landscape designers, landscape architects, and landscapers are asked to cease the sale and use of these species by March 1, 2011. This voluntary commitment is in anticipation that the Agency of Agriculture will add these four species to the quarantine rule within the next year. Professionals who agree to the conditions outlined below will be recognized for their efforts through websites, press releases, and other media opportunities offered by the organizations listed above. They will also receive a placard that they can hang in their place of business and a decal for office and vehicle windows.

By signing this document, you agree to cease the sale and use of Japanese barberry, Common barberry, Burning Bush, Norway maple, Amur maple, and Yellow Iris, including all cultivars for these species, by March 1, 2011. You understand that these plants will likely be added to the quarantine rule in the near future.

I am committed to reducing the spread of non-native invasive plants that originate from the horticultural industry. I agree to abide by the guidelines outlined below. *Check all that apply.*

- I am a nursery owner.** I will stop propagating and selling the plants listed above prior to March 1, 2011.
- I am a landscape designer or landscape architect (circle which one).** I will stop developing landscape designs that include the plants listed above prior to March 1, 2011.
- I am a landscaper.** My business will stop installing the plants listed above prior to March 1, 2011.
- I will encourage customers and clients to remove invasive plants from their landscaping, and purchase and garden with safe alternatives.

Business Name: _____ Website: _____

Business owner name (please print clearly): _____

Business owner signature: _____ Date: _____

Street: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please return this form to Sharon Plumb, The Nature Conservancy, 27 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. If you have questions about this initiative, go to www.nature.org/vermont/weeds, <http://greenworksvermont.org>, or call Sharon at 802-229-4425 x120 or GreenWorks at 888-518-6484.

