



## New York Sea Grant: Defending Against Invasive Species

“**B**iological pollution” - hundreds of invasive species in the Great Lakes and in our estuaries and marine waters - costs New Yorkers millions of dollars annually in environmental degradation and economic, aesthetic, and public health impacts. For two decades, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) has been the “go to” organization for research-based outreach information on preventing, identifying and controlling aquatic invasive species.

In 2006, NYSG took on a leadership role helping NY cope with dry-land invasives as well. As a member of the NYS Invasive Species Task Force, Sea Grant helped craft a report on the impact of invasive species on NY with recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on how to respond to the invasive species threat.

NYSG is developing a NYS Invasive Species Clearinghouse and is co-chairing an Invasive Species Program Work Team, which will help guide invasive species research and outreach at Cornell University. Together, NYSG and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) constitute the largest, most comprehensive research-based education outreach program in the state. Working together, under the



*Asian longhorned beetles, first found in NY in 1996, attack horse chestnut trees, maples, and other hardwoods, and could cause more damage than Dutch elm disease, chestnut blight, and gypsy moths combined. Economic impacts could reach \$138 billion per year.*  
Photo: Kenneth Law,  
USDA APHIS PPQ,  
<http://www.forestryimages.org>



*The invasive aquatic plant, giant hogweed can make a bad case of poison ivy seem like a mild itch.*  
Photo: Terry English,  
USDA APHIS PPQ,  
<http://www.forestryimages.org>

direction of Sea Grant Sr. Extension Associate Chuck O’Neill, NYSG and CCE are developing a statewide outreach program to help stakeholders deal with invasions by aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, insects, and pathogens.

Surface water-dependent industrial, power generation and drinking water plants save hundreds of millions of dollars utilizing NYSG information. Elected officials use Sea Grant information to make invasive species-related decisions which affect the lives of millions of New Yorkers. To reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species, New Yorkers are changing the way they think about which pets to buy, which plants to use in landscaping, which bait to fish with, and which agricultural products to consume. Stakeholders are learning ways to protect the state’s agricultural, forest, aquatic and “built” resources, human and animal health, and economy from the negative impacts of invasive species through NYSG’s research-based education outreach program.

*New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University.  
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