

Best Practices for Prevention of Spread of Invasive Species

Aquatic Plants and Prohibited Invasive Species

In order to prevent the spread of invasive species into and within the state, all equipment intended for use at a project site must be free of all 'aquatic plants' and 'prohibited invasive species' **prior** to being transported into or within the state.

State law prohibits transportation of **all** aquatic plants (with a few exceptions) on public roads. This law not only helps prevent the spread of Eurasian water milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants, but it also reduces the risk of zebra mussels and invasive snails being transported while attached to aquatic plants. And it will reduce the inadvertent transport of other harmful aquatic plants into the state.

State law requires that **all** aquatic plants, prohibited invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels, New Zealand mudsnails), and other non-native animals (e.g., spiny waterfleas, mystery snails, faucet snails), must be removed from equipment, boats, and trailers **prior** to being placed into state waters.

Aquatic Invasive Species and Infested Waters

State law prohibits the transport of water from infested waters, except by permit. DNR General Permit to MnDOT (GP 2004-0001) authorizes work in infested waters and requires that all equipment, used in state waters that are known to contain aquatic invasive species and that are designated as *infested waters*, shall be inspected by MnDOT or its contractors and adequately decontaminated prior to being transported. The DNR is available to train MnDOT site inspectors and may be able to assist in these inspections.

A list of designated *infested waters* by county can be found at:
http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/infested_waters.pdf

Best Practices: To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and ensure compliance with state laws:

1. Prior to transporting equipment **into** the state:
 - ⇒ All equipment must be free of all 'aquatic plants' and 'prohibited invasive species' **prior** to being transported into or within the state.
2. Prior to placing equipment **into** state waters:
 - ⇒ All equipment, boats, barges, and trailers must/should be free of aquatic plants and nonnative animals.
3. At **all** work sites in the state:
 - ⇒ Before transporting equipment from a work site, inspect all equipment that had been in contact with the water and emergent vegetation areas along the shore, and remove all visible aquatic remnants [plants, seeds, mud, soil, and animals].
4. At sites on designated **infested waters**, all equipment in contact with the water must be treated as follows:
 - ⇒ **Clean** – *Before* being transported, power washing/spraying, preferably with hot water, (followed by drying for 7 days) is an acceptable method to ensure killing and removal of invasive species.
 - ⇒ **Drain** - *Before* transporting equipment from a work site, drain all water from equipment where water may be trapped, such as tanks, pumps, hoses, silt curtain, and water-retaining components of boats/barges.
 - ⇒ **Dry** - *After* spraying and draining, dry equipment that has been in infested waters for a minimum of 7 days before re-use.

Should the methods above not be able to be met, contact Peter Leete, DNR Transportation Hydrologist at peter.leete@state.mn.us or 651-366-3634 to determine alternative treatments.

Examples of practices to prevent the spread of invasive species



Zebra mussels are small and prolific.



Removal of specimens is required before transporting.



Purple Loosestrife exists in various wet ditches or wetlands. To prevent the spread of this invasive plant, excavated or grading material from wet ditches or wetlands where Purple Loosestrife is present shall not be utilized for grading or fill in other areas.



Eurasian Water Milfoil, and all other aquatic plants: All aquatic plants must be removed prior to transporting. Drying also insures killing of microscopic specimens and fragments.



Lay out materials to dry.



This is not considered drying.

To prevent the spread of roadside invasive species:

- Excavated or grading material from areas of known infestation shall not be utilized for grading or fill in other areas.
- State law requires road authorities to delay mowing roadside backslopes and ditch bottoms until August 1. However, control of invasive species, including mowing, prior to this date may be done on targeted basis before they go to seed.