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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
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## OFFICIAL 2019 ENDORSEMENT OF THE ADVISORY LIST OF INVASIVE PLANTS

The Advisory List of Invasive Plants (“Advisory List”) is a list of non-native plants found to pose a threat to habitats and natural resources in Maine. Listed plants are identified through a scientific evaluation process that focuses on the plants’ ecological impacts and biological traits. Plant species identified as invasive are ranked in one of four categories ranging from “severely invasive” to “potential to be invasive – monitor.” The Advisory List is an informational tool available for use by landowners, wildlife biologists, foresters, land stewards, conservation commissions, and others interested in controlling invasive plants and preventing their spread. It is intended for education and outreach, land management, and other non-regulatory uses. The Advisory List is maintained by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), within the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). The Terrestrial Invasive Plants Scientific Advisory Committee (TIPSAC), which is composed of biologists, resource managers, and land stewardship professionals, assisted with the development of the Advisory List, and has unanimously endorsed it.

A preliminary list, a precursor to the Advisory List, was first developed in 1999, and was last updated in 2006. At that time, invasive plants were identified based on a review of plant traits and distributions by a group of botanical professionals. Since then, rigorous, quantitative assessments have become the preferred method for evaluating plant invasiveness. In 2017-2018, with TIPSAC guidance, MNAP developed two tools for use in developing the Advisory List: 1) a brief *Screening Process* addressing non-native plant climatic suitability and dispersal capabilities, and 2) a *Full Evaluation* addressing multiple ecological impacts and species’ biological traits. The Screening Process allows for quick evaluation of new non-native plants suggested by the TIPSAC and/or gleaned from review of other New England states’ invasive plants lists, to assess whether they merit review in the lengthier, quantitative Full Evaluation. Plants already on the preliminary list or Do Not Sell list went directly into the Full Evaluation; 123 plants received Full Evaluation. Notable results include:

- 52 plants received a ranking of “Severely invasive”
- 31 plants received a ranking of “Very invasive”
- 20 plants received a ranking of “Invasive, habitat specific threats”
- 12 plants received a ranking of “Potential to be invasive, monitor”
- 6 plants had insufficient information to evaluate their invasiveness
- 2 plants scored below the threshold for invasiveness at this time

The results were reviewed by the TIPSAC which unanimously endorsed the Advisory List. MNAP, with guidance from the TIPSAC, has established a nomination form with which anyone can propose a

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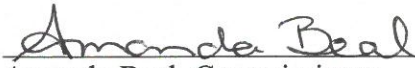
new species for an invasiveness evaluation. MNAP and the TIPSAC intend to review any nominations annually.

Public input on the proposed Advisory List was solicited through an advertised public meeting which was held at the Deering Building in Augusta from 5-7pm on June 4, 2019, and during a month-long comment period. A copy of the proposed list and an overview explaining the purpose and origin of the list were provided to stakeholders via email listserves.



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Molly Docherty, Director  
Maine Natural Areas Program

6/12/19  
date



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Amanda Beal, Commissioner  
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

6/12/19  
date

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Proposed Advisory List of Invasive Plants

Attachment B – Overview of the Advisory List of Invasive Plants

Attachment C – Public Comments and Responses