



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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June 1, 2005

### **Subject: Disposal Alternatives for Invasive Weed Management**

**Solid Waste Transport, Composting, & Landfill Owners & Operators:**

It has come to our attention that an immediate alternative to composting is needed for managing invasive weed species that have been collected for eradication. In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resource's Endangered Resources and Enforcement Programs, we are issuing this letter as a means of conveying our position on disposal alternatives for managing invasive weed species.

1. The Department will continue to exercise enforcement discretion to allow landfill disposal of invasive weeds that have been collected for eradication. The invasive weeds must be collected separate from other yard wastes.
2. Specific plant species this pertains to include garlic mustard and purple loosestrife and other invasive plants. Please contact Kelly Kearns, Bureau of Endangered Resources (608-267-5066) for other species included under this action. Other invasive species most likely to be pulled and bagged include spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, crown vetch, dame's rocket, yellow and white sweet clover, wild parsnip, canada thistle, common and cut-leaf teasel, birds-foot trefoil, tansy.
3. Property owners should place the whole plants (or their flower/seed heads) in a clear bag labeled "invasive plants - please landfill" to confirm the bags do not contain other yard wastes which are banned from landfill disposal. For areas with curbside waste collection, property owners should put the bags at the curb with their other garbage according to the regular garbage collection schedule. Waste haulers are advised to inform their customers to notify them if properly labeled bags are not collected during routine collection programs to request pick-up at the time of the next collection, according to the regular garbage collection schedule.
4. Disposal of invasive weeds from public properties should be arranged through the local public works office.
5. Waste transporters and disposal companies are encouraged to provide information to their customers to promote collection and disposal of invasive plants.

While it is sometimes possible to destroy invasive plants and their seeds by composting, the Department does not recommended composting due to the likelihood for viable plant parts and seeds to be spread through distribution of the compost. Only specially designed and carefully managed composting operations should accept invasive plants. For example, a composting operation could use a pre-processing step dedicated for management of invasive plants to ensure destruction prior to mixing with other composting feedstocks.

We appreciate your efforts to help eradicate invasive weeds, and to ensure that these weeds are not inadvertently redistributed. Questions regarding this information may be directed to any of the following department contacts:

Gretchen Wheat, Bureau of Waste Management (608-267-0557)  
Kelly Kearns, Bureau of Endangered Resources (608-267-5066)

Sincerely,

**Suzanne Bangert, Director  
Bureau of Waste Management**

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