

## MANAGING STATE LANDS FOR WILDLIFE

## **Invasive Exotic Plant Control**

Non-native invasive plant species are a serious threat to natural systems. Invasives threaten natural communities by out-competing native plants for light, nutrients and space, altering the physical structure of the vegetation, and altering nutrient cycles. Dense stands of invasives decrease the overall biodiversity and are the second-leading threat to at-risk species nationwide, behind only habitat destruction. The New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan has identified introduced species—including invasive plants—as one of the top five cumulative threats to habitat and wildlife in New Hampshire.

Fish and Game uses mechanical and chemical methods on state lands to control invasives where natural communities are threatened, where early detection and rapid response can prevent spread, and where other habitat projects may be impacted by their presence.



Left: Glossy buckthorn, a small tree originally from Europe, was introduced to the US in the late 1800s. It's an aggressive invader that will deter regeneration of native trees in forested settings. Right: Contractor applying herbicide to invasive exotic plants at the Bellamy River WMA in Dover.

For the list of plants considered invasive in New Hampshire and to learn more about how to identify and control them, visit the following links:

- <u>Invasive Plant info</u> on the NH Department of Agriculture website;
- <u>Picking Our Battles:</u> combat invasives in your community or in your own backyard;
- <u>Managing Grasslands, Shrublands, and Young Forest Habitats for Wildlife: A Guide for the Northeast;</u>