

SPECIAL ATTENTION

INVASIVE SPECIES

The statutory authority of NH Department of Agriculture RSA 430:55 and NH Department of Environmental Services RSA 487:16-a prohibits the spread of invasive plants listed on the NH Prohibited Species list. Construction activities should avoid impacting areas containing invasive plant species in order to avoid spreading these plants to new sites. If invasive plants cannot be avoided, then the following suggested best management practices (BMPs) should be incorporated into all projects. These BMPs have been summarized from the NHDOT manual “*Best Management Practices for Roadside Invasive Plants.*”

Earthwork:

- Minimize soil disturbance whenever possible outside the limits of excavation.
- Stabilize disturbed soils by seeding and/or using mulch, hay, rip-rap, or gravel that is free of invasive plant material.
- Materials such as fill, loam, mulch, hay, rip-rap, and gravel should not be brought into project areas from sites where invasive plants are known to occur.

Movement of equipment:

- Equipment movement should be from areas not infested by invasive plants to areas infested by invasive plants whenever possible.
- Staging areas should be free of invasive plants to avoid spreading seeds and other viable plant parts.

Removing vegetation:

- In areas where invasive plants will be impacted by construction activities, vegetation should be cut or removed prior to seed maturation (approximately August 1st).
- These invasive plants have the ability to sprout from stem and root fragments: purple loosestrife, phragmites, and Japanese knotweed. Mowing these plants should be avoided. When these plants are cut by other means, all plant material must be destroyed and extra care should be taken to avoid spreading plant fragments.
- Equipment used to cut or remove invasive plants should be cleaned at least daily, as well as prior to transport.

The NHDOT manual “*Best Management Practices for Roadside Invasive Plants*” and supporting fact sheet documents are available on line at www.nh.gov/dot/org/projectdevelopment/environment/documents.htm or through the NHDOT Records Section (603-271- 1601).

Items will be included in the contract under Sections 201 or 697 for projects that will require these control methods.