

Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule: Chapter NR 40

Species Lists and Resources for Pet & Aquarium Trade

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that cause harm to the economy, environment or human health. The DNR works to reduce the damage invasive species may cause and supports local partnerships to slow the spread of invasive species throughout the state. Since many types of organisms can be invasive, Wisconsin's regulations include invasive plants, fish, invertebrates, mammals, birds, pests and pathogens.

The Invasive Species Rule

The Invasive Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule (Chapter NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code) classifies invasive species in Wisconsin as **Prohibited** or **Restricted** and regulates the **transportation, possession, transfer and introduction** of those species. This rule also establishes "Preventive Measures" to show actions we can take to slow the spread of invasive species. The Invasive Species Rule covers over 245 species and affects everyone in Wisconsin.

Prohibited Invasive Species*

- Not yet in the state or only in a few places
- Likely to cause environmental and/or economic harm
- Eradication and prevention is feasible

Regulations: Cannot transport, possess, transfer, or introduce without a permit.**

Control is required. DNR may order or conduct a control effort.

Restricted Invasive Species*

- Already widely established in the state
- High environmental and/or economic impacts are evident with these species
- Complete eradication is unlikely

Regulations: Cannot transport, transfer, or introduce without a permit.**

Possession is allowed except for fish or crayfish.

Control is encouraged but not required.

*Any viable part of the species is covered by these regulations.

** Certain exemptions do exist with these regulations. Please consult with the website or staff for clarifications.

Invasive Species in the Pet & Aquarium Trade

The scope of your business will largely determine how much you need to know about the Invasive Species Rule. The sections below describe some considerations for species groups that you are likely to encounter in the pet and aquarium trade. This listing is not comprehensive. A complete list of all regulated invasive species in Wisconsin can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/nr40lists.pdf>.

Vertebrates (except fish)

The Invasive Species Rule only lists four vertebrate species other than fish. The monk or Quaker parakeet is the only regulated vertebrate species detected in the pet trade. Pet stores **may not sell or give away** monk parakeets. It is also important to be aware that this species may not be introduced to the wild.

Fish

All non-native fish are regulated under the Invasive Species Rule. Non-native fish species that are nonviable in Wisconsin, however, can still be sold in the aquarium trade. This means all salt water fish species and fish species that cannot survive in water colder than 38°F can still be sold. Additionally, the following viable nonnative fish **may be sold** in the aquarium trade:

Koi carp	Bitterling	Chinese hi-fin banded shark	Sterlet
Goldfish	Ide	Weather loach	

Regulated fish may only be kept in safe, contained facilities. They should never be released. For more information, please visit our website dnr.wi.gov keyword: invasives.

Crayfish

All non-native crayfish are prohibited in Wisconsin. There is one exception, rusty crayfish, which is restricted under NR 40 and is the only non-native crayfish that may be possessed live without a permit when lawfully harvested, for the limited purpose of disposal (which may include consumption) so long as no specimens are introduced, and the crayfish are not transported back onto another body of water. For information on using crayfish as bait, view the current fishing regulations pamphlet found online. **All other live non-native crayfish may not be possessed, transported, transferred (bought or sold) or introduced in Wisconsin.**

Invertebrates (except crayfish)

The following invertebrates are regulated invasive species. These species **may not be sold** in Wisconsin, and it is important to be aware that they may not be introduced into the wild. Make sure these invertebrates don't hitch a ride with other organisms or on plants that you sell.

Asian clam
(*Corbicula fluminea*)

Bloody shrimp
(*Hemimysis anomala*)

Jumping worm
(*Amyntas spp.*, *Amyntus spp.*)

Faucet snail
(*Bithynia tentaculata*)

Quagga mussel
(*Dreissena bugensis*)

New Zealand mudsnail
(*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

Chinese mitten crabs
(*Eriocheir sinensi*)

Malaysian trumpet snail
(*Melanooides tuberculata*)

Chinese & banded mystery snail
(*Cipangopaludina chinensis* or *Viviparus malleatus*)

Aquatic Plants

The following aquatic plants are regulated invasive species and **may not be sold** without a permit.

Cabomba or Fanwort
(*Cabomba caroliniana*)

Parrot feather
(*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Yellow floating heart
(*Nymphoides peltata*)

Water lettuce
(*Pistia stratiotes*)

European frogbit
(*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)

Water hyacinth, floating and anchored
(*Eichhornia crassipes* and *Eichhornia azurea*)

Hydrilla
(*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Brazilian waterweed
(*Egeria densa*) also sold as: anacharis, wide-leaf anacharis, elodea

Aquatic plants must not be released or dumped into waters of the state. These are the aquatic plants that are most likely to be seen in the pet and aquarium trade, but this is not a complete list of regulated invasive plants. A complete list of regulated plants can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/NR40plantlist.pdf>.

What Can You Do?

- **Get to know the regulations, and make sure that your store does not sell regulated invasive species.**
- **Learn to identify invasive aquatic plants and animals.**
- **Help your customers learn about the importance of keeping pets and plants contained.**
- **Check your orders for unwanted hitchhikers like snails or invasive plants.**
- **Plant and use native alternatives.**
- **Do not release *any* aquarium plants, fish or invertebrates.**

The pet and aquarium trade is one industry among many that is helping Wisconsin win the fight against invasive species. The Department of Natural Resources is working with businesses, community groups and agencies across the state. We are working with boaters and anglers to stop aquatic hitchhikers from entering our waterways, and we are working with landowners to slow the spread of invasives across the landscape. Visit our website to learn more about efforts across the state and to learn more about individual invasive species.



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For more information: visit: dnr.wi.gov keyword: [invasives](#) or email: invasive.species@wi.gov

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