There are long-term financial benefits and marketing advantages to replacing invasive plants in your inventory. Growers and sellers play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasive species.

WHAT GROWERS AND SELLERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVASIVES

- Invasive species are those nonnative plants, animals, and diseases that can cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.
- Most introduced plants do not cause problems; however, those that do have significant economic and environmental costs.
- Invasive species pose a threat to Wisconsin’s urban landscapes which provide important environmental, social, and economic values such as reduced storm water run-off, improved air quality, energy conservation, improved public health, and increased property values.
- Invasive plants reproduce and grow quickly, easily invading adjacent natural areas, woodlands, and even landscaped areas.
- Invasive insects and diseases weaken and sometimes kill trees.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH GROWERS AND SELLERS?

- Invasive propagules, insects, and diseases are easily moved in nursery stock.
- Invasive species displace, weaken, or kill desirable plants resulting in loss of diversity; degrade wildlife habitat; interfere with recreational activities; disrupt urban ecosystems; and divert millions of dollars for their control.
- Some of the worst plant invaders were introduced as ornamentals and conservation plantings.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Do not purchase, sell, or propagate known invasive plant species and cultivars.
- Do not purchase or sell plant or landscape material you suspect may contain invasive species.
- Purchase, sell, and propagate species, cultivars, and varieties known to be less susceptible to invasive pests.
- Plant propagators, wholesalers, and retailers should educate themselves and their customers about invasive plants, insects, and diseases.

More research is needed to identify current and future potentially invasive plants.

For more information on this and other Urban Forestry groups (landscapers, arborists, gardeners, designers), visit the Urban Forestry Best Management Practices at: http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/