

Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule: Chapter NR 40

Species Lists and Resources for Pet & Aquarium Stores

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 128 species and affects everyone in Wisconsin.

Prohibited Invasive Species

- Not yet in the state or only in a few places
- Likely to cause environmental 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 or economic impacts
- 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.

Under the Invasive Species Rule, any viable part of the species is covered. Certain exemptions do exist with these regulations. Please consult the [website](#) or staff for clarifications.

Go to: dnr.wi.gov type keyword: **invasives**

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/NR40ListsSep292010.pdf>.

Vertebrates (except fish)

The Invasive Species Rule only lists four vertebrate species other than fish. The monk or Quaker parakeet and the red-eared slider are the two vertebrate species most likely to occur in the pet trade. Because of an exemption in the rule, these species can still be legally sold as pets. However, it is important that they are not 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
- Goldfish
- Sterlet
- Bitterling
- Ide
- Weather loach
- Chinese hi-fin banded shark

Regulated fish may only be kept in safe, contained facilities. They should never be released. For more information, please visit our website or view the publication "Not in Our Backyard" PUB – FH-716.

Crayfish

All non-native crayfish are regulated under the Invasive Species Rule. The rusty crayfish, *Orconectes rusticus*, may only be sold under certain circumstances. **The sale or transfer of all other non-native crayfish is prohibited.**

Invertebrates (except crayfish)

The following invertebrates are regulated invasive species. Make sure these invertebrates don't hitch a ride with other organisms or on plants that you sell. They must not be released into waters of the state.

- **Crazy worm** (*Amyntas spp.*, *Amyntus spp.*)
- **Faucet snail** (*Bithynia tentaculata*)
- **Chinese mitten crabs** (*Eriocheir sinensi*)
- **Bloody shrimp** (*Hemimysis anomala*)
- **New Zealand mudsnail** (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)
- **Chinese mystery snail** (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*)
- **Asian clam** (*Corbicula fluminea*)
- **Quagga mussels** (*Dreissena bugensis*)
- **Zebra mussel** (*Dreissena polymorpha*)

Aquatic Plants

The following aquatic plants are regulated invasive species and **CANNOT BE SOLD** without a permit.

- **Cabomba or Fanwort** (*Cabomba caroliniana*)
- **Parrot feather** (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
- **Brazilian waterweed** (*Egeria densa*)
sold as: anacharis or wide-leaf anacharis
- **European frogbit** (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)
- **Hydrilla** (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
- **Yellow floating heart** (*Nymphoides peltata*)
- **Curly-leaf pondweed** (*Potamogeton crispus*)

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.
- Use and promote beautiful non-invasive alternatives.
- **Do not release *any* aquarium plants, fish, or invertebrates.**

Additional Resources

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. Go to: dnr.wi.gov keyword: **invasives**.

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