



Plants that develop and grow in one geographic area or region are said to be native to that area.

Native plants are good because they:

- ❖ Provide food for wildlife.
- ❖ Give shelter to fish, birds, insects and other wildlife.
- ❖ Keep soil in place and clean pollution from water.

Plants that are moved on purpose or by accident to new areas are called non-native. Sometimes these plants invade and take over forests, lakes, ponds and streams. These are called invasive plants.

Invasive plants are bad because they:

- ❖ Grow fast and spread across large areas.
- ❖ Ruin areas for wildlife to live and for people to swim, boat, fish and hike.
- ❖ Are difficult and costly to control.

Here are some ways that plants may "hitchhike" and accidentally get carried to new areas by our own activities:



HIKING

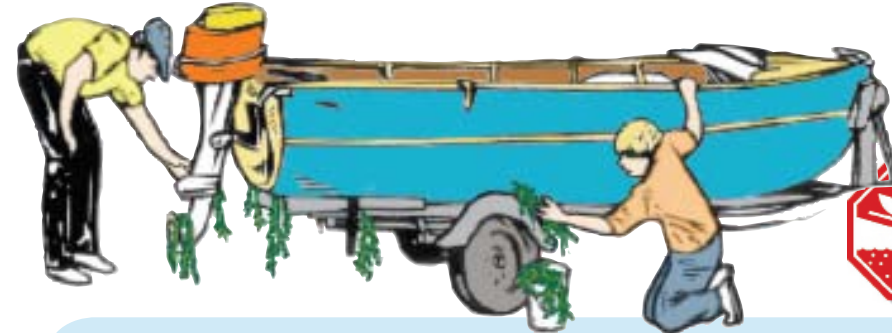


PICKING FLOWERS



BOATING

Circle all of the areas where plant fragments may attach and "hitchhike" on a boat and trailer.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Checklist to Stop the Spread of Invasive Plants:

- After boating, inspect the boat, trailer and gear and remove any "hitchhiking" plant fragments and dispose on dry land.
- After hiking, check your boots and clothing for any "hitchhiking" seeds before leaving the trailhead.
- Enjoy all native plants and wildflowers where you find them.