
Best Low-Impact Practices to Deter Invasive Plant Dispersal: A Comprehensive Listing

NNIPS Introduction (Outside PAs)

NNIPS Dispersal (Inside PAs)

Visitors:

- Thoroughly clean footwear, hooves, tire treads to remove all mud/seeds. Also inspect and remove mud/seeds from the tops of footwear, all clothing and pet or livestock fur, and from vehicles.
- Shake out tents, ground tarps, packs or other gear to remove seeds at home when preparing for a trip.
- Don't bring livestock feed that contains viable seeds into a PA.
- Avoid livestock pasturage or feed containing noxious weeds/seeds for 2–3 days prior to entering a PA.
- Don't transport firewood or plant materials into or within a PA.

Agencies:

- Develop effective visitor, agency, volunteer, and contractor staff education programs, practices, and regulations that deter the introduction of NNIPS.
- Provide and advocate the use of seed removal educational signs, boot brushes, and cleaning stations at trailheads. Develop and require mud/seed removal practices for agency staff.
- Control/remove NNIPS in proximate areas and at all access points.
- Obtain and use locally available native species and the purest seed mixes in all restoration work.

Visitors:

- Stick to marked formal trails to reduce dispersal of NNIPS to new areas. Off-trail traffic can disperse NNIPS or create disturbed areas that support them.
- Camp on designated or well-established campsites to restrict or contain the spread of NNIPS.
- Wear gaiters and other clothing (e.g., trousers without cuffs and open pockets) that minimise seed attachment and dispersal.
- During travel periodically check and remove mud/seeds from footwear, hooves, tires, clothing (particularly fleece and Velcro), pet or livestock fur, and vehicles.
- When packing up at a campsite, shake out tarps, tents, and other camping gear to remove any mud/seeds. Note that wet surfaces cause seeds to stick tight and need to be physically brushed off.

Agencies:

- Develop and implement effective visitor, agency, volunteer, and contractor staff education programs, practices, and regulations that deter the dispersal of NNIPS.
- Educate agency and volunteer staff to recognise and remove NNIPS from footwear, clothing, and equipment when traveling within PAs.
- Implement NNIPS monitoring, control, removal, and restoration programs with staff and volunteers.
- Minimise vegetation and soil disturbance as many NNIPS are disturbance-associated species.
- Implement an early-detection NNIPS program to locate and remove small and isolated populations before they spread more widely.
- Include NNIPS risk evaluations into project planning and work to prevent dispersal by altering the timing of work or the practices employed. Implement PA zoning to prioritise areas of greatest management concern based on NNIPS risk evaluations.