

Lou Mansolillo

From: David and Diane Madsen <ddmadsen00@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 2:22 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Kazarian, Katherine S.; Sen. Lawson, Valarie J
Subject: Support for H7071

You don't often get email from ddmadsen00@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

January 21, 2026

Chair Bennett and honorable members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Diane Madsen and I live in East Providence..

I am writing to urge you to support H7071, which would prohibit the importation, transportation, disbursement, distribution, sale, or purchase of any species of non-native (exotic) invasive plants.

Biodiversity is the main concern associated with invasive species. Native plants have been adapting to Rhode Island's conditions for thousands of years, but competition from new species can lead to extinction. In fact, 42% of Endangered Species in the U.S. have become endangered due to non-native invasive species.

(Today's Forest, Tomorrow's Legacy, Forest Health Fact Sheet).

Personally, this bill is important because when I bought my home 26 years ago, I didn't know how much my garden could be overtaken by non native plants. So much that it motivated me to become certified as a master gardener. What I learned is that invasive plants which filled my yard grow rapidly because they produce many seeds, this in turn crowds out other plants. 26 years later I continue to work relentlessly to remove those invasive plants that continue to pop up in my yard. The good news is my yard has become a habitat that attracts pollinators. However, the typical homeowner does not recognize why it is important to not purchase or distribute invasive plant species. That is why we need to pass bill H7071, so plants which are sold in RI are not only attractive but also beneficial to nature's biodiversity.

RI is one of only five states without a prohibited plant sale list, a list that restricts the sale and distribution of invasive plants, and the only state in New England without one. Invasive plants have been shown to wreak havoc on local ecosystems by spreading exponentially and crowding out native plants species.

This bill would prohibit the sale of these plant species at nurseries, garden centers and anywhere plants are sold in the state.

Please pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Diane Madsen

East Providence/Rumford

URI Master Gardener Class of 2005