

Lou Mansolillo

From: Heather at Design Your Wild <heather@designyourwild.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 5:31 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Cc: Rep. Speakman, June
Subject: Support for H7071

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

My name is Heather Evans and I live in Bristol. I also write the leading Substack newsletter about North American garden design, with 25,000 subscribers, including many in Rhode Island.

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

Rhode Island 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 are a specific category of non-native plant that have been shown to wreak havoc on local ecosystems by spreading exponentially and crowding out native plants species.

There are more than enough non-invasive plants available to create extraordinary gardens, residential and commercial, in any style you can dream up. There is no reason for nurseries to sell invasive plants. In my experience, consumers expect that plants they buy at nurseries are safe for the environment, and I hope you will choose to ensure that they are.

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,

Heather Evans
Bristol, Rhode Island
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No. 1 Substack about North American garden design