

April 7, 2026

Testimony in support of S2353 : The RI Invasives Plant Management Bill of 2026

To Chair Sosnowski and honorable members of the Senate Committee on the Environment and Agriculture:

Non-native invasive plants wreak havoc on Rhode Island's ecosystems. These plants spread exponentially, crowding out native plant species, reducing food sources for native wildlife. As the state experiences increasingly severe flooding and drought, areas weakened by the proliferation of non-natives are less likely to recover. Non-native invasive plants thrive in disturbed environments, so their presence contributes to a costly and destructive cycle.

Rhode Island is one of only five states without a prohibited plant sale list, and the only state in New England without one. Regulations are successful in preventing invasive plant invasions, but the continued sale of invasive plant species in Rhode Island jeopardizes the work of neighboring states who are ahead on this issue.¹

Please pass bill S2353 and prohibit the sale of invasive plant species at nurseries, garden centers, and anywhere plants are sold in Rhode Island.

Respectfully,

Jessica Allen



Barrington, Rhode Island

¹ Beaury EM, Patrick M, and Bradley BA. 2021. Invaders for sale: the ongoing spread of invasive species by the plant trade industry. *Frontiers in Ecology and Environment*, [doi:10.1002/fee.2392](https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2392).