Illinois Regulations Regarding Invasive Plant Species
*Updated 12-1-2015*

Individual invasive plant species are regulated in Illinois primarily through three regulations: the Illinois Exotic Weed Act and Illinois Injurious Species Rule (IDNR) and the Illinois Noxious Weed Law (IDOA). Collectively, these three rules restrict the sale and movement of sixty-two invasive plant species*. 

*- Two plants listed on the Illinois Exotic weed act are actually genera, so any species within those genera are regulated.

Additionally, movement of weed seeds is regulated by the Illinois Seed Law (IDOA) and movement of aquatic plant material is regulated by the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act (IDNR).

**Illinois Exotic Weed Act (525 ILCS 10/)**


**Species listed:**

- Oriental bittersweet  
- Poison hemlock  
- Teasel  
- Russian olive  
- Thorny olive  
- Autumn olive  
- Japanese knotweed  
- Giant knotweed  
- Bohemian knotweed  
- Lesser celandine  
- Glossy buckthorn  
- Giant hogweed  
- Spring honeysuckle  
- Japanese honeysuckle  
- Amur honeysuckle  
- Morrow’s honeysuckle  
- Tatarian honeysuckle  
- Purple loosestrife  
- Kudzu  
- Saw-toothed buckthorn  
- Common buckthorn  
- Dahurian buckthorn  
- Japanese buckthorn  
- Chinese buckthorn  
- Multiflora rose  
- Salicedar

**General Description of Legislation:**

It is illegal for anyone to buy, sell, distribute, or plant any parts of listed species without a permit. One exception is the commercial propagation of listed species intended for sale outside of the state of Illinois. Permits may be obtained to for the sale of exotic olive (autumn and Russian) if the seeds are rendered unviable.
Illinois Noxious Weed Law (505 ILCS 100/)

Hyperlink:  http://www.agr.state.il.us/Laws/Regs/8iac220.pdf

Species listed:

Common ragweed*  Ambrosia artemisiifolia  
Giant ragweed*  Ambrosia trifida  
* Within corporate limits of cities, villages and incorporated towns
Marijuana  Cannabis sativa
Musk thistle  Carduus nutans
Canada thistle  Cirsium arvense
Kudzu  Pueraria montana
Perennial sowthistle  Sonchus arvensis
Sorghum†  Sorghum almum  
† includes Johnsonagrass X sorghum crosses with rhizomes
Johnsonagrass  Sorghum halepense

General Description of Legislation:

This law, administered by the Director of the Department of Agriculture of the State of Illinois, gives county governments the authority and responsibility to survey for, control, and govern the distribution of noxious weeds within their jurisdiction. The law also provides an avenue for the establishment of both a Weed Control Superintendent and Noxious Weed Control Fund within each county. Depending upon the situation, new infestations will be managed by the landowner, by the county and billed to the landowner, the county and landowner split the costs, or at the expense of the county.

Boat Registration and Safety Act (625 ILCS 45/5-23 new)


Species Listed:

All aquatic plants and/or animals excluding duckweed

General Description of Legislation:

No person may place or operate a vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object of any kind in waters of this State if it has any aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached to the exterior of the vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object (excluding duckweed).
Illinois Injurious Species Rule (17 IAC Sec. 805)

Hyperlink: http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/017/01700805sections.html

Plant Species Listed:

Mosquito fern
Azolla pinnata
Flowering rush
Butomus umbellatus
Mediterranean killer algae
Caulerpa taxifolia
Brazilian elodea
or Brazilian waterweed
Egeria densa (syn. Elodea densa, Anacharis densa)
Anchored water hyacinth
Eichhornia azurea
Hydrilla
Hydrilla verticillata
European frogbit
Hydrocharis morsus-ranae
Miramar weed
or Indiana swampweed
Hygrophilia polysperma
Chinese waterspinach
or swamp morning-glory
Ipomoea aquatica
Yellow flag iris
or tall yellow iris
Iris pseudacorus
Oxygen weed
or African elodea
Lagarosiphon major
Asian marshweed/ambulia
Limnophila sessiliflora
Arrowleaf
or false pickerelweed
Monochoria hastata
Heartshape
or false pickerelweed
Monochoria vaginalis
Parrot feather
Myriophyllum aquaticum
Eurasian watermilfoil
Myriophyllum spicatum
Brittle naiad
or brittle water nymph
Najas minor
Yellow floating heart
Nymphoides peltata
Duck lettuce
Ottelia alismoides
Curlyleaf pondweed
Potamogeton crispus
Arrowhead
Sagittaria sagittifolia
Giant salvinia
Salvinia auriculata
Giant salvinia
Salvinia biloba
Giant salvinia
Salvinia herzogii
Giant salvinia
Salvinia molesta
Exotic bur-reed
Sparganium erectum
Water soldier
Stratiotes aloides
Water chestnut
Trapa natans

General Description of Legislation:

This law, administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, does not only focus on weeds but also regulates injurious animals. It is illegal for any species on this list to be possessed, propagated, bought, sold, bartered or offered to be bought, sold, bartered, transported, traded, transferred or loaned to any other person or institution unless a permit is first obtained, except persons engaged in interstate transport for lawful commercial purposes who do not buy, sell, barter, trade, transfer, loan or offer to do so in Illinois may transport injurious species across Illinois without an injurious species permit from the Department.
**Illinois Seed Law (505 ILCS 110/)**

**Hyperlink:** [http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/008/00800230sections.html](http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/008/00800230sections.html)

**Species Listed:**

**-Prohibited (Primary) Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field bindweed</td>
<td>Convolvulus arvensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoary cress/whitetop</td>
<td>Cardaria draba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnsongrass*</td>
<td>Sorghum halepense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* includes Sorghum alnum and all seeds indistinguishable from Johnsongrass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian knapweed</td>
<td>Acroptilon repens (syn. Centaurea picris)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perennial sowthistle</td>
<td>Sonchus arvensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy spurge</td>
<td>Euphorbia esula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada thistle</td>
<td>Cirsium arvense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serrate tussock</td>
<td>Nassella trichotoma</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**-Restricted (Secondary) Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrowleaf plantain</td>
<td>Plantago lanceolata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina horsetail</td>
<td>Solanum carolinense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s lace</td>
<td>Daucus carota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxeye daisy</td>
<td>Leucanthemum vulgare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curly dock</td>
<td>Rumex crispus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dodders</td>
<td>Cuscuta sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild garlic</td>
<td>Allium vineale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giant foxtail</td>
<td>Setaria faberi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mustards</td>
<td>Brassica juncea, B. kaber (syn. Sinapis arvensis), and B. nigra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild onion/meadow garlic</td>
<td>Allium canadense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird rape</td>
<td>Brassica campestris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quackgrass</td>
<td>Elymus repens (syn. Agropyron repens)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Description of Legislation:**

This law does not focus only on weed seeds, but includes sections on labeling, storing, and certifying agricultural seeds. It does prohibit the sale or transport of any seeds or seed mixtures that contain any seeds from prohibited (primary) species or that contains seeds from restricted (secondary) species in excess of the proportions of 1 weed seed to 1000 agricultural seeds. Agricultural seeds that contain greater than 3% weeds seeds and total inert matter (20% for bluegrasses, redtop, bentgrasses, orchardgrass, creeping red fescue, and smooth brome) cannot be sold in Illinois.