

**INSERT YOUR LOGO OR LETTERHEAD**

Contact: **Your Name, Title, Phone Number, Email Address**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Slow the Spread: [Your local organization] [hosts/encourages/etc.] [your event or call to action] during National Invasive Species Awareness Week — May 16-23**

**Your local city, State** – “Slow the spread” is an unexpected catchphrase of this spring. Due to the global coronavirus pandemic, we are all learning what invasive species managers have been doing for years.

**On [date + time], [your local organization name] is [hosting/encouraging/etc.] people to [do a particular invasive species engagement activity.]**

A nationwide event, the 10<sup>th</sup> annual National Invasive Species Awareness Week seeks to slow the spread of invasive plants, animals, pests, fungi and other organisms in land and water. The term "invasive" is used for aggressive species that grow and reproduce rapidly, displace native species, and cause major disturbance to the areas in which they are present.

A nationwide event May 16 through 23, NISAW encourages local organizers to raise awareness of the threat of invasive species and what people can do to prevent their spread.

“Invasive species don’t respect boundaries, which makes them a continent-wide problem that starts at home,” said Belle Bergner, director of the North American Invasive Species Management Association. “The good news is that solutions start with everyone looking out their windows from home at what is on your property. If you are able to get to your local park, lake, or river, go with clean shoes and gear. Find a local event to learn how our invasive species managers and nonprofit organization leaders work hard making sure our lands and waters are friendly to native species of North America.”

Local environmental organizations are concerned the most with **[list species of local concern and highlight their impacts on the natural landscape.]**

“Everyone can do something to prevent invasive species from taking over agricultural and natural environments, and we encourage organizations and individuals to take leadership teaching their community about how to solve invasive species issues locally,” Bergner says. For instance, **[what’s a good way everyday local people can help with invasive species in this time?]**

**[You can add any level of detail you’d like to the end of this article. It’s a good idea to include quotes from major organizers and people making presentations.]**

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[Add some basic information about your organization or agency here, including a URL for your website, if applicable.]

*The North American Invasive Species Management Association's mission is to support, promote, and empower invasive species prevention and management in North America. For twenty-six years, NAISMA has been growing programs that bridge jurisdictional and geographic divides. In addition to organizing a variety of professional development opportunities, housing the Weed Free Forage & Gravel program, and operating the PlayCleanGo program, NAISMA is the lead partner on NISAW. Learn more at [naisma.org](http://naisma.org).*