



# Aquatic Invasive Species Issues – the MDA Perspective

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# Overview

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- **MDA Role**
- **Federal Permits**
- **Concerns**
- **NREPA**
- **Needs & priorities**

# MDA Role

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- **Inspection of plants to intercept pests**
- **Inspection for interstate/export markets**
- **Eradicate & manage plant pests**
- **Enforcement – quarantine & plant pest laws**
- **Partnership with USDA – Federal Permits**

# Federal Permits

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- USDA - Permits for Interstate Movement
- Federal noxious weeds, insects, diseases
- Terrestrial and aquatic weed species
- USDA conditional approval - state concurrence
- Usually for educational & research use

# MDA Concerns

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- Smuggling of plants i.e. giant hogweed
- Contamination of aquatic ornamentals with exotic pests
- Misidentification of plants
- Escapes & Releases

# NREPA

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- Lead agency - Dept of Natural Resources
- Amended in 2005
- Identifies certain prohibited & restricted species
- MDA advisory role

# Needs/Priorities

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- Examination of incoming material at dealers
- Education & training of staff
- Increased partnering with industry; outreach
- Continued interaction with DNR & DEQ
- Plant Pest Law reform with pest risk focus



**Questions?**

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