

I'm writing to you in reference to HB #5122.

*Phyllostachys aurea* is an invasive plant, there really is no argument in this. It's insidious and harmful to the native plants of Connecticut.

I work in a historic garden where the plant was introduced in the 1920s or 1930s. It began as a small plant, probably a single tuber or possibly several. The plant now takes up over an acre. Efforts have been made to contain it over the past 80 years by mowing but it simply has not worked. 1.

There is no containing this plant. Once it gets down to the river (in this case, the Housatonic on one side and the Shepaug on the other) it will be a complete disaster for the ecosystem.

Please ban this nasty invasive in Connecticut. As a master gardener and professional gardener, I've never seen a plant that behaves in quite this way and that is so aggressive. It's readily available at nurseries and even Agway and Home Depot/Lowes. Nurseries are aware how dangerous the plant is and will not carry it, but many (especially the larger chains) simply do not care.

If you have any more questions, please feel free to contact me.

Irene Skrybailo

New Milford, CT

860-350-9103