

We moved to Essex from Los Angeles in 2000. The property we bought had a stand of bamboo which originated from the house next door. We hired a man to cut it and dig up the roots, but he soon discovered that the rhizomes were too thick and woody for a shovel and had to be removed with a back hoe. We thought the problem was eliminated, but more and more shoots began coming up and we were astounded at how fast they grew. I called UConn Extension Center in Haddam and was told that this is invasive yellow groove running bamboo and it will run rampant if not eradicated or contained.

Our neighbor will not remove the bamboo which originated on his property, so we continue to dig and cut and mow. It is an ongoing and exhausting maintenance problem and the bamboo has now grown thick and approx 40 feet high and has moved on to 2 other properties. All 4 of these properties are stigmatized and probably would not sell, but we also live close to the Connecticut and Falls Rivers with many underground streams that are ideal for further growth.

The spread of this bamboo into the surrounding wetland and natural areas could be stopped if the law was clear.

1. Add the words "or to grow" which will clarify the 40 foot buffer zone.
2. Add subsection G authorizing private enforcement.

Thank you for your consideration.

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