

# WEED WARRIORS

**YOUR MISSION: Help protect nature by removing invasive plants to make room for native flowers and wildlife!**

## **MATERIALS**

- Gloves
- Garbage bags
- **Images of common invasive species**

- 1.** Talk about native species (plants and animals that belong in an area) and invasive species (plants and animals that don't belong and can cause harm). Explain that one way we can help is by removing invasive species.
- 2.** Explain that you are going to go outside to remove invasive species. Show pictures of the plants and go through safety precautions (see tips for invasive species removal below).
- 3.** Head outside and start removing invasive species. Keep track of what you have found so you can share with the school community.



## **Tips for invasive species removal**

- 1.** Ensure you have permission to remove invasive species from the area.
- 2.** Wear gloves, long sleeves and pants to avoid skin irritation and insects like ticks.
- 3.** Check for bugs first to avoid disturbing helpful insects like bees or caterpillars.
- 4.** Grab the plant close to the ground and pull gently to get the roots.
- 5.** Throw plants in the trash – if you compost them, they might grow back.
- 6.** Wash your hands when you've finished

## COMMON INVASIVE SPECIES

The following plants are common invasive species that can be removed fairly easily by children with proper precautions. Click on the name of the species for more information about that species.



**Garlic Mustard**



**Creeping Charlie**  
(Ground Ivy)



**Purple Loosestrife**



**Common Burdock**