

Non-Native Invasive Plants to Avoid and Eliminate From Your Landscapes

“When an alien (non-native) species escapes into natural areas, there is a measurable chance that it will be able to grow faster and reproduce more successfully than the native vegetation in the area... Typically it takes decades for the population of the escapees to build to the point where we start to notice... By that time, they have become invasive species that expand their populations at exponential rates... Many gardeners vigorously oppose the notion that their beloved garden plants can and do escape from cultivation... What most gardeners do not see is the local mockingbird or migrating warbler swoop down, pluck a berry from the bush, and fly off ... (T)he bird will perch ... and relieve itself of the load of alien seeds in its gut. If any of the seeds germinate the following spring, the escape from your garden is complete... Aliens that do not produce animal-dispersed fruits or nuts rely on the wind to carry their seeds. To date, over 5000 species of alien plants have invaded the natural areas of North America.” ~ Douglas Tallamy, ***Bringing Nature Home***

Some invasive plants are pretty and easy to grow. Why not plant them?

1) They're degrading our natural areas, threatening the habitat of native plants and wildlife, and preventing the succession of forests. 2) They can become a problem in urban and suburban landscapes. It is much easier to *prevent* an invasion than to *control* one! This list includes the most commonly-planted invasive plants. There are others (see websites below).

Some native plants spread all over my yard. Aren't they invasive?

Some native plants (e.g. jewelweed, Northern sea oats, coneflower) can indeed enthusiastically spread in your yard. This might be annoying, but they aren't a threat to the greater ecosystem as are what are officially called non-native invasive plants.

The following are considered invasive species and some are **sold at nurseries. DO NOT PURCHASE OR PLANT!** Plant the suggested alternatives (**ALT**).

TREES

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)

ALT: American beech, sugar maple, black gum, red maple

Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), Autumn olive (*E. umbellata*)

ALT: spicebush, No. bayberry, gray dogwood, winterberry, buttonbush, serviceberry, dogwoods, witchhazel, wild hydrangea, elderberry, ninebark, native viburnums

Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

ALT: redbud, serviceberry, black haw, fringe tree

VINES

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)

ALT: Va. Creeper, wild ginger, lady fern, creeping phlox, foamflower

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

ALT: trumpet creeper, trumpet or coral honeysuckle

Oriental (Asian) bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

ALT: native bittersweet, trumpet honeysuckle, trumpet creeper

Periwinkle (vinca, myrtle) (*Vinca minor*)

ALT: Virginia creeper, wild ginger, creeping phlox, NY fern

Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)

ALT: virgin's bower, trumpet creeper, trumpet honeysuckle, heartleaf ampelopsis (*A. cordata*) - native

Purple wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei* 'Colorata')

ALT: wild ginger, virgin's bower, Virginia creeper

SHRUBS

Amur, Morrow, Tatarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. morrowii*, *L. tatarica*)

ALT: bayberry, spicebush, red/black chokeberry, nine-bark, dogwoods, viburnum, winterberry, serviceberry, summersweet, American hazelnut, Witch-hazel, black haw viburnum, sumac

Buckthorns: common (*Rhamnus cathartica*), glossy (*R. frangula*)

ALT: winterberry, dogwoods, white cedar, serviceberry

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

ALT: red chokeberry, silky dogwood, itea, serviceberry

Butterfly bush (*Buddleia* spp.)

ALT: butterflyweed, clethra, itea, liatris, NY ironweed

European cranberry-bush (*Viburnum opulus* var. *opulus*)

ALT: native viburnums

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

ALT: clethra, bayberry, highbush blueberry, pasture rose

Japanese spiraea (*Spiraea japonica*)

ALT: clethra, silky dogwood, ninebark, leatherleaf, aromatic sumac

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

ALT: common blackberry, pasture rose, flowering raspberry

Privets: border (*Ligustrum obtusifolium*), common (*L. vulgare*)

ALT: inkberry, spicebush, red or black chokeberry

GROUNDCOVERS

Chameleon Plant (*Houttuynia cordata* 'Chameleon')

ALT: wild ginger, creeping phlox, *sedum ternatum*

Crown-vetch (*Coronilla varia*)

ALT: wild ginger, native sedges, creeping phlox, wild stonecrop (*sedum ternatum*) common blue violets, gro-low fragrant sumac

Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

ALT: wild ginger, native sedges, creeping phlox, wild stonecrop (*sedum ternatum*) common blue violets, gro-low fragrant sumac

Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*)

ALT: wild ginger, native sedges, creeping phlox, wild stonecrop, common blue

violets, gro-low fragrant sumac,

Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

ALT: wild ginger, native sedges, creeping phlox, wild stonecrop, common blue violets, gro-low fragrant sumac,

GRASSES

Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

ALT: native grasses such as northern sea oats, side oats grama, purple love grass, switchgrass, little bluestem, big bluestem, Indian grass, bottlebrush grass, Canada rye, prairie cord grass

Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*)

ALT: same as above

Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)

ALT: same as above

WETLAND

Common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*)

ALT: turtlehead, joe-pye-weed, rose mallow, native iris, blazing stars (*Liatris* spp.), cardinal flower, great blue lobelia, bee balm, wild bergamot, swamp rose, common arrowhead, lizard's tail, ohio spiderwort, tall ironweed, blue vervain, Culver's root

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) *L. virgatum* sold at nurseries - **DO NOT BUY**

ALT: same as above

Yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*)

ALT: same as above

HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Bamboo spp.

ALT: big bluestem, bottlebrush grass, little bluestem, Indian grass

Dames rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)

ALT: garden phlox

Common daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*)

ALT: Canada lily, Turk's cap lily, three-lobed coneflower

Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*)

ALT: foamflower, bloodroot

DANGEROUS (POISONOUS) NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) causes skin lesions

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) killed Socrates

Mile-a-Minute weed or Asiatic tearthumb (*Persicaria perfoliata*) thorny

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) contains small amount of cyanide

Swallowwort (*Cynanchum louiseae*) fatal to monarch butterfly larva!

ALT: native honeyvine (*Cynanchum laeve*) and other native vines

WEBSITES

Alien Plant Working Group 'Weeds Gone Wild' --

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force -- <http://www.anstaskforce.gov>

Ecological Society of America -- www.esa.org/education/edupdfs/invasion.pdf

Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States --

<http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/index.html>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center -- <http://www.wildflower.org>

Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council -- <http://www.ma-eppc.org>

National Audubon Society -- <http://www.stopinvasives.org>

National Invasive Species Council -- <http://www.invasivespecies.gov>

National Park Service EPMT --

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/invasivespecies>

Invasipedia -- <http://wiki.bugwood.org/Invasipedia>

Ohio Invasive Plants Council -- www.oipc.info

Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group FACT SHEETS:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/factmain.htm>

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Leopold, Donald. *Native Plants of the Northeast*

Stein, Sara. *Noah's Garden*

Summers, Carolyn. *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East*

Tallamy, Douglas. *Bringing Nature Home-How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*

Xerces Society. *Attracting Native Pollinators*

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY:



A native plant advocacy organization

National Website: www.wildones.org

Greater Cincinnati Chapter Website: www.cincinnatiwildones.org

Contact: Chris McCullough cincywildones@fuse.net

All programs free and open to the public