

Major Partners:



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Grant Program



PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT:

Native Alternatives to Invasive Ornamentals

To learn more about the Invasive Species Network, visit www.HabitatMatters.org

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They're
BEAUTIFUL

They're
HARDY

They're
NATIVE

**NATIVE PLANTS.
GOOD FOR YOUR GARDEN.
GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.**

The next time you add new plants to your garden, double check that your selections benefit our region's natural areas. About half of the most serious invasive plants in our region arrived by way of our gardens. Fortunately, we have a wealth of spectacular non-invasive options from which to choose, many of which you will find listed throughout this guide.

We list only native plants for two reasons: 1) they go beyond beauty to create habitat, and 2) they are less familiar to most people. Most nurseries can help you find non-native alternatives without trouble. If you wish to purchase a non-native plant as an alternative, we recommend checking it against the invasive ornamental plant list posted at [HabitatMatters.org](https://www.habitatmatters.org).



Julie Falk

More native plants mean more of the insects that songbirds need to thrive.

KEY:



Good to Grow



Stop the Spread



Remove Now

HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Although these invasive plants look great in the garden, we have a wealth of beautiful alternative options to consider. Baby's breath now spreads throughout Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Dame's rocket forms large monocultures along forest edges, entirely replacing whole native plant communities. Forget-me-not re-seeds readily, and now appears in natural areas throughout our region.

STOP THE SPREAD



Steve Dewey, USU
baby's breath
Gypsophila paniculata



Rob Routledge, Sault College
dame's rocket
Hesperis matronalis



Jerzy Opiola
forget-me-not
Myosotis scorpiodes



*bugwood.org



Frank Mayfield



Johnida Dockens

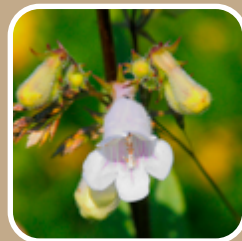


Gertrud K.

flowering spurge
Euphorbia corollata
 pearly everlasting
Anaphalis margaritacea
 white heath aster
Symphyotrichum ericoides



Zen Sutherland



Dan Mullen



Cindy Reiterford

blue phlox
Phlox divaricata
 foxglove
Adonis vernalis
 blue-eyed grass
Sisyrinchium angustifolium



Rachel Ford James



Billy Liar



Blue Ridge Kitzies

wild bleeding-heart
Dicentra eximia
 Jacob's ladder
Polemonium reptans
 heartleaf foamflower
Tiarella cordifolia

GOOD TO GROW

TREES & SHRUBS

Whether planted for their flowers, unique foliage, or the small size of some cultivars, each of these non-native species packs an unwelcome surprise. The buckthorns, non-native shrub honeysuckles, and Japanese barberry are among our region's most serious invasive plants, each replacing entire natural communities as aggressively as does the more familiar autumn olive.

Remember, native trees and shrubs provide more food for birds and other animals than do most any other type of plant.

GOOD TO GROW

James Gather



ninebark
Physocarpus opulifolius



Julie Weisenborn



bush honeysuckle
Diervilla lonicera



Tom Hilton



New Jersey tea
Ceanothus americanus



iStockPhoto



ninebark 'little devil'
Physocarpus opulifolius
'little devil'



Dan Mullen



nannyberry
Viburnum lentago



Tom Potzerfeld



northern spicebush
Lindera benzoin



Matt Lavin



chokecherry
Prunus virginiana



Dan Mullen



Allegheny serviceberry
Amelanchier laevis



STOP THE SPREAD

Frankenstoer



honeysuckle spp.
Lonicera spp.



*Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U of Conn.



Japanese barberry
Berberis thunbergii



*Rob Rourke, Sault College



buckthorn
Frangula alnus/Rhamnus cathartica



Public Domain



callery pear
Pyrus calleryana



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GRASSES & VINES

Grasses and vines bring welcome texture to the garden, but some play nicer than others. Lyme grass poses a serious threat to dune communities along the Great Lakes shoreline. Ribbon grass now completely dominates many wetlands throughout our community, and oriental bittersweet is remarkably aggressive in natural areas. Our native grasses and vines offer perks like vibrant and attractive foliage, seasonal color, and edible seeds or berries. They also sustain unique insects that birds like to eat.

GOOD TO GROW

Colorado Art Studio



prairie dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis



Drew Avery



little bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium



Gardentrek



tufted hair grass
Deschampsia caespitosa



Matt Lavin



switchgrass
Panicum virgatum



Phillip Merritt



virgin's bower
Clematis virginiana



Julie Christensen



Virginia creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia



Carol Jacobs-Carre



red honeysuckle
Lonicera dioica



Chris Kreussling



trumpet honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens



STOP THE SPREAD

Kristian Peters



lyme grass
Leymus arenarius



*Richard Old, XID Serv. Inc.



ribbon grass
Phalaris arundinacea



Estee Conaway



Oriental bittersweet
Celastrus orbiculatus



Carol Foil



Japanese honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica



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GROUND COVERS

The groundcovers on the left are a problem in natural areas for the same reason they have been desirable in landscapes. Given time they dominate spaces that once showcased trilliums, morels, jack-in-the-pulpits, and other important members of the natural community. Most native alternatives will also fill in landscaped areas – simply disperse them throughout the intended landscape and keep early weeds down.

STOP THE SPREAD



*bugwood.org



bearberry
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

wintergreen
Gaultheria procumbens

Canada anemone
Anemone canadensis



bloodroot
Sanguinaria canadensis

Canada mayflower
Maianthemum canadense

christmas fern
Polystichum acrostichoides



Canada wild ginger
Asarum canadense

bluehead lily
Clintonia borealis

starry false lily of the valley
Maianthemum stellatum

GOOD TO GROW

GROUND COVERS

Some say these invasive groundcovers do not spread outside confined urban landscapes. However, it is not uncommon to see acres of periwinkle carpeting forest floors. While these plants might spread more slowly than other invasive plants, over time little prevents them from dominating spaces that once showcased diverse natural communities. We can do better for our gardens and for natural areas.

STOP THE SPREAD

*Richard Old, XID Serv, Inc.



moneywort
Lysimachia nummularia



*James H. Miller, USDA Forest Serv.



wintercreeper
Euonymus fortunei



Randi Hausken



sweet woodruff
Galium odoratum



*bugwood.org

Joshua Mayer



pe_ma



Jessica Norman



partridge berry
Mitchella repens

spring cinquefoil
Potentilla neumanniana

Pennsylvania sedge
Carex pennsylvanica

GOOD TO GROW

Grand Traverse Conservation District



Arghman



Superior National Forest



fragrant sumac
Rhus aromatica

sheep laurel
Kalmia angustifolia

creeping snowberry
Gaultheria hispida

Steve Guttman



Brent Miller



Zen Sutherland



wild geranium
Geranium maculatum

bunchberry dogwood
Cornus canadensis

big-leaf aster
Eurybia macrophylla

AQUATIC PLANTS

Invasive aquatic plants can clog pipes and boat motors, take over waterways, and dampen your day at the beach. Although water hyacinth and water lettuce generally prefer warmer climates, milder winters and hotter summers have increasingly become the norm. Scientists have now observed water hyacinth in downstate Michigan in areas previously believed unsuitable. The gorgeous native wetland plants depicted provide habitat for fish, frogs, dragonflies, and other wild creatures.

STOP THE SPREAD

*Wilfredo Robles, Miss. St. U.



water hyacinth  
Eichhornia crassipes

*Forest & Kim Starr, Starr Env.



water lettuce  
Pistia stratiotes

*Nancy Loewenstein, A.U.



parrot feather  
Myriophyllum brasiliense

*bugwood.org

John Beetham



pickerelweed 
Pontederia cordata

Jason Hollinger



American white waterlily 
Nymphaea odorata

Peter C. Gorman



green bulrush 
Scirpus atrovirens

eyeweed



coontail 
Ceratophyllum demersum

Leo Papandreou



water smartweed 
Polygonum amphibium

Corey Raimond



bottle brush sedge 
Carex comosa

GOOD TO GROW