

Invasive Ornamental Plants

Did you know that roughly half of the most serious invasive plants in our region arrived by way of our gardens? For over a century, we’ve scoured the world for beautiful garden plants. Now we know to be more careful in our plant selections. Birds, butterflies, and other wildlife depend on specific plants for habitat (native plants); when garden plants colonize natural areas, the world becomes a little less wild. Shop at nurseries that have committed not to sell high priority invasive plants – visit HabitatMatters.org, and click on “Go Beyond Beauty.”

Below are four lists of invasive ornamental plants, broken down according to threat level and commonality in landscapes. **The first two pages list high threat plants; these plants we’ve asked nurseries to remove from sales.** For plants listed on pages three and four, please begin exploring alternatives. Learn other ways to help by visiting HabitatMatters.org.

I. Ornamentals in the Top 20.		
The plants below are among the most serious threats to natural areas in northwest Michigan. Avoid planting these species, and take appropriate steps to ensure that plants in your garden do not impact surrounding natural areas.		
Common Name	Latin Name	Form
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Shrub
oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Vine
bull thistle *	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Forb
autumn olive / Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> / <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Shrub/Tree
baby’s breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Forb
dame’s rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Forb
lyme grass	<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	Grass
non-native honeysuckles	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> , <i>L. maackii</i> , <i>L. morrowii</i> , <i>L. tatarica</i> , <i>L. xbella</i> , <i>L. xylosteum</i> .	Shrub/Vine
purple loosestrife*	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Forb
ribbon grass (aka reed canary grass)	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Grass
Japanese knotweed* / giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia cuspidatum</i> / <i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Forb
common buckthorn / glossy buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> / <i>Frangula alnus</i>	Shrub
multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Shrub
* Banned in the State of Michigan pursuant to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994, Section 324.41301.		



NORTHWEST MICHIGAN INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK

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2. On the Horizon – Early Detection Species.

The plants below are not yet common in our region, but have proven highly invasive in other areas. Although you might be surprised to see plants like kudzu or water hyacinth listed, populations of both species now overwinter in Michigan. Our efforts as a community to minimize new plantings and manage existing populations now will help decrease future risk.

Common Name	Latin Name	Form
black alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Tree
flowering rush *	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Forb
Brazilian waterweed *	<i>Egeria densa</i>	Aquatic
water hyacinth #	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Aquatic
reed manna grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Grass
giant hogweed *	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Forb
Japanese hops	<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	Vine
hydrilla *	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Aquatic
European frog-bit *	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Aquatic
Himalayan balsam *	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Forb
dotted duck-weed	<i>Landoltia punctata</i>	Aquatic
moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Forb
European water-clover	<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	Aquatic
parrot feather *	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Aquatic
lesser naiad	<i>Najas minor</i>	Aquatic
sacred lotus	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Aquatic
yellow floating heart *	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Aquatic
cotton thistle	<i>Onopordon acanthium</i>	Forb
coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Forb
amur cork-tree	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Tree
water lettuce #	<i>Pistea stratioides</i>	Aquatic
kudzu	<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	Vine
giant salvinia *	<i>Salvinia spp.</i>	Aquatic
water chestnut *	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Aquatic
black swallow-wort	<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i>	Vine
pale swallow-wort	<i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i>	Vine

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Nurseries selling water hyacinth or water lettuce may still participate in Go Beyond Beauty by displaying signage developed by the Invasive Species Network that describes appropriate seasonal management of either species.



3. Invasive plants commonly used in landscapes.

The plants listed below are commonly planted in ornamental landscapes, and are either invasive in our region or may become increasingly invasive over time. Explore alternative options for future plantings. When appropriate for your site and budget, replace these plants with alternative options to reduce future weeding. Use a diversity of native plants to create more habitat for wildlife.

Common Name	Latin Name	Form
amur maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Tree
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Tree
snow-on-the-mountain (aka goutweed)	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Forb
chocolate-vine	<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Vine
porcelain berry	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Vine
common barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Shrub
butterfly bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Shrub
lily-of-the-valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Forb
burning bush (aka winged wahoo)	<i>Euonymus alatus (including "compacta")</i>	Shrub
wintercreeper	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Vine
tall fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Grass
sweet woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Forb
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Vine
orange day lily	<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Forb
yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Forb
border privet	<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Shrub
common privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Shrub
forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Forb
Austrian pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Tree
Scotch pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Tree
callery pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Tree
black jetbead	<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	Shrub
wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Shrub
European highbush cranberry	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Shrub
bigleaf periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	Vine
myrtle / periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Shrub



4. Invasive plants occasionally or historically planted in ornamental landscapes.

The plants listed below are no longer commonly planted, yet many still thrive in ornamental landscapes. When appropriate for your site and budget, replace these plants with alternative options to reduce future weeding. Use a diversity of native plants to create more habitat for wildlife.

Common Name	Latin Name	Type
tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree
false indigo	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Shrub
smooth brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Grass
celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Forb
queen-anne's-lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Forb
great hairy willow-herb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Forb
spindle tree	<i>Euonymus europaea</i>	Shrub
cypress spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Forb
meadow fescue	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Grass
common St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Forb
kalopanax	<i>Kalopanax septemlobus</i>	Tree
golden archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Forb
everlasting pea	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Forb
European fly honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Shrub
birdfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Forb
money plant	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Forb
white mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	Tree
perilla mint	<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Forb
lady's thumb	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Forb
white poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	Tree
Lombardy poplar	<i>Populus nigra var. italica</i>	Tree
rough-fruited cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Forb
sawtooth oak	<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	Tree
lesser-celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Forb
black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Tree
white willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	Tree
crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Tree
basket willow	<i>Salix purpurea</i>	Shrub
bouncing bet	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Forb
common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Forb
white clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Forb
Chinese elm (aka lace bark elm)	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Tree
Siberian elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Tree
mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Forb