



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](https://www.HabitatMatters.org), and click on “Go Beyond Beauty.”

Below are three lists of invasive ornamental plants, broken down according to threat level and commonality in landscapes. **The first two pages (List 1) list high threat plants; these are plants Go Beyond Beauty garden professionals have agreed to remove from sales.** For plants in Lists 2 and 3, please explore alternatives. Learn more by visiting [HabitatMatters.org](https://www.HabitatMatters.org).

I. High-Priority Invasive Ornamentals

The plants below are among the most serious threats to natural areas in northwest Michigan, or those that are not yet common in our region which have proven highly invasive in other areas. Avoid planting these species and take appropriate steps to ensure that plants in your garden do not impact surrounding natural areas. Our efforts as a community to minimize new plantings and manage existing populations now will help decrease future risk

Common Name	Latin Name	Form
tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree
black alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> or <i>A. vulgaris</i> , <i>Betula alnus</i>	Tree
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> (all cultivars)	Shrub
Common barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> or <i>B. sylvestris</i>	Shrub
flowering rush *	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i> or <i>B. vulgaris</i> , <i>B. floridus</i>	Forb
oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Vine
water hyacinth #	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Aquatic
glossy buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i> could also be listed under <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> (all cultivars)	shrub
reed manna grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Grass
baby's breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Forb
giant hogweed *	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Forb
dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Forb
Japanese hops	<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	Vine
European frog-bit *	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Aquatic
Himalayan balsam *	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> or <i>Balsamina glandulifera</i>	Forb
blue lyme grass	<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	Grass

The Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN) is a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) which works directly with over 60 partners in Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Manistee counties to protect, enhance, and promote northwest Michigan's natural communities through terrestrial invasive plant management and outreach. It is currently funded through grants from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP), as well as private donations. Learn more at www.HabitatMatters.org.



I. High-Priority Invasive Ornamentals (continued)

Common Name	Latin Name	Form
non-native bush honeysuckles	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i> , <i>L. maackii</i> , <i>L. morrowii</i> , <i>L. tatarica</i> , <i>L. xbella</i> , <i>L. xylosteum</i>	Shrub
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Vine
moneywort / creeping Jenny	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Forb
purple loosestrife *	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Forb
European water-clover	<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	Aquatic
sacred lotus	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> or <i>Nymphaea nelumbo</i>	Aquatic
yellow floating-heart *	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Aquatic
ribbon grass (aka reed canary grass)	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Grass
amur cork-tree	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	Tree
water lettuce #	<i>Pistea stratiotes</i>	Aquatic
kudzu	<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	Vine
Japanese knotweed* / giant knotweed / Bohemian knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> / <i>R. sachalinensis</i> / <i>R. xbohemica</i> ; could also be listed under <i>Fallopia</i> spp. or <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Forb
common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> (all cultivars)	Shrub
Callery/Bradford/Cleveland pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Tree
multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Shrub
coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Forb
black swallow-wort / pale swallow-wort	<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i> / <i>V. rossicum</i>	Vine
Aquatic plants listed on the State of Michigan Invasive Species page		
* Banned in the State of Michigan pursuant to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994, Section 324.41301.		
# 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.		



2. Awareness: Ornamental Invasives (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 spread. We recommend use of 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 bishop's 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</i> (including "compacta")	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
money plant / annual honesty	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Forb
Chinese silvergrass	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Grass
garden forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Forb
butterbur	<i>Petasites hybridus, P. japonicus</i>	Forb
Austrian pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Tree
Scotch pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</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



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

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

Common Name	Latin Name	Type
smooth brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Grass
celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Forb
bull thistle *	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Forb
autumn olive * / Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> / <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Shrub/Tree
queen-anne's-lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Forb
great hairy willow-herb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Forb
hellebore orchid	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Forb
spindle tree	<i>Euonymus europaea</i>	Shrub
leafy spurge / cypress spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i> / <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
white mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	Tree
Scotch/cotton thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Forb
perilla mint	<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Forb
Austrian/black pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Tree
lady's thumb	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Forb
white poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	Tree
Lombardy poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i> var. <i>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
Himalayan blackberry	<i>Rubus bifrons</i>	Shrub
Japanese wine raspberry	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Shrub
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