

North Haven Conservation Partners

Invasive Plants of North Haven

What are they and why should I care?



Glossy Buckthorn
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What is an invasive plant? The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry defines an invasive as “a plant that is not native to a particular ecosystem, whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.”

Why should you care? The Maine Natural Areas Program states that “invasive plants are a direct threat to what we value about Maine’s natural and working landscapes. The aggressive growth of invasive plants increases the costs of agriculture, can affect forest regeneration, threatens recreational experiences, and potentially decreases property values.”

NHCP encourages landowners to be responsible stewards of the land by learning more about this topic and replacing invasive plants on your property, when possible, with a native, non-invasive alternative. Plants that support our birds, pollinators, and other island wildlife are all great choices.

This brochure will help you identify some North Haven invasive plants; what they look like and why they might be a problem; and we include suggested replacement native plants on the following page.



More information on identifying and dealing with Maine invasive plants is available from these resources:

Maine Natural Areas Program:
https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm

Maine Department of Conservation, Agriculture & Forestry:
<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/invasiveplants.shtml>

University of Maine Cooperative Extension:
<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2536e/>

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England:
<https://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/>

Suggested native plants for North Haven: With ornamental garden plants, there are great replacements for invasive species depending on your site requirements. The USDA and Maine Natural Areas Program have some suggestions. Before choosing a native plant alternative, first think about the characteristics of the invasive plant you are replacing.

<u>Invasive</u>	<u>Replacement</u>
Glossy buckthorn	Shadbush Witchhazel Nannyberry viburnum
Asiatic bittersweet	American bittersweet American wisteria
Japanese barberry	Mapleleaf viburnum Shrubby St. Johnswort Lowbush blueberry Bayberry
Purple loosestrife	Swamp milkweed Coneflower Sweet pepperbush
Burning bush	Arrowwood viburnum Serviceberry Spicebush



Swamp milkweed
 A beneficial and beautiful native plant

Invasive Plants of North Haven

Glossy buckthorn - *Frangula alnus*

Glossy buckthorn reduces native tree seedling density and diversity in white pine forests. Its extensive shallow root system may make it a strong below-ground competitor, and the dominance of glossy buckthorn in New England pine forests may delay filling canopy gaps. Birds and small mammals are major dispersal mechanisms for glossy buckthorn. The laxative effect of the fruits facilitates its spread. In wetlands, glossy buckthorn can degrade wildlife habitat and the wetlands' natural benefits to humans.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut,
Bugwood.org

Asiatic bittersweet - *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Asiatic bittersweet poses a serious threat to other species and to whole habitats due to its aggressive habit of twining around and growing over other vegetation. With a high reproductive rate, long-range dispersal mechanisms, and the ability to root-sucker, the vines can strangle trees and shrubs and

spread to nearby areas. Also of concern to islanders, thickets of Asiatic bittersweet have the potential to harbor tick populations. Asiatic bittersweet can also serve as an alternate host for a bacterium that can transmit several crop diseases and tree diseases such as variegated chlorosis.



Richard Gardner, Bugwood.org

Japanese barberry - *Berberis thunbergii*

Japanese barberry has escaped from cultivation and is progressively invading natural areas. It is a particular threat to open and second-growth forests, and can grow thick enough to crowd out native understory plants. Birds eat the red berries, thereby spreading the shrub into new areas. Research in Connecticut links barberry with ticks and tick-borne diseases. Barberry has denser foliage than most native species, creating a humidity "dome" which ticks love. Ticks die from dehydration when humidity levels drop below 80% for prolonged periods. Relative humidity under a barberry at night is about 100%. Barberry also provides nesting areas for white-footed mice and other rodents, which

are primary sources for larval ticks' first blood meal, and reservoirs for Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut,
Bugwood.org

Tansy ragwort - *Jacobaea vulgaris*

Tansy ragwort, a native of Europe and Asia, is poisonous to livestock and considered a noxious weed in many parts of the world. It is easily spread in contaminated hay and can become perennialized in our warming climate. It is a cause of toxins in milk and causes kidney damage in most livestock.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut,
Bugwood.org

Purple loosestrife - *Lythrum salicaria*

An attractive but invasive perennial, purple loosestrife has become established in a wide range of habitats including stream banks, pond shores, irrigation ditches and roadsides. Plants grow in clumps and can have 30 to 50 stems growing from a single rootstock producing 1-3 million seeds each year. Purple loosestrife invades wetland areas where it crowds out native plants and degrades wetland habitat.



Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Japanese knotweed - *Polygonum cuspidatum*

Japanese knotweed is a robust perennial herb that emerges early in the spring and forms dense thickets up to nine feet in height. Thickets may be so dense that virtually all other plant species are shaded out. Reproduction from rhizomes (horizontal underground stems), even small fragments,

enables the plant to be easily transferred to new sites by flowing water and by soil used as fill. Unchecked, this plant can colonize extensively and once established, it is difficult to remove.



Randy Westbrooks, Invasive Plant Control, Inc., Bugwood.org

Shrubby honeysuckle family - *Lonicera* non-native species, incl. Tartarian, Morrow, and Belle species

Shrub honeysuckles can rapidly invade and degrade native plant communities. They form a dense layer that shades the ground, interfering with the growth of many native woody and herbaceous species, including rare plants. The ground under a honeysuckle thicket is often void of other vegetation. Shrub honeysuckles leaf out earlier than native species and they retain their leaves longer into the fall, giving them a competitive edge. Their success on high pH, dry, exposed soils has made them a threat to some of the Northeast's unique limestone plant communities. The fruit of these shrubs is eaten by common birds,

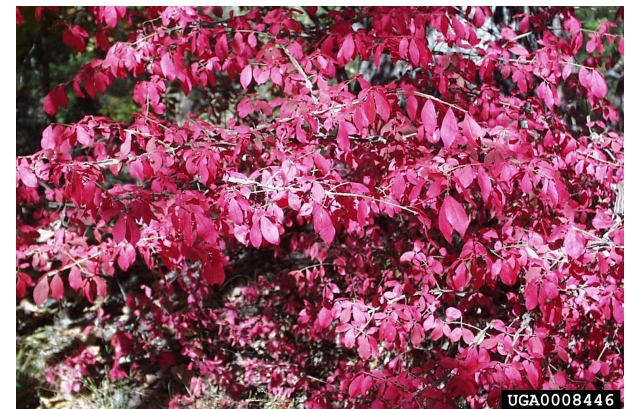
which helps spread the seed into new locations and makes the shrub even more difficult to control.



Richard Webb, Bugwood.org

Burning bush - *Euonymus alatus*

Burning bush spreads from our yards to forests and fields after birds consume the fruit and carry the seeds long distances. Fruits left uneaten fall to the ground, creating a "seed shadow" around the plant's base. Left unchecked, burning bush will crowd out most other vegetation.



Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

North Haven Conservation Partners Invasive Plants of North Haven - *Ok, they're here ... What can I do?*

Here are some helpful tips from the Maine Natural Areas Program:

- Verify that plants you buy for your yard are not invasive. Ask your supplier to include native species.
- Replace invasive plants in your garden with non-invasive alternatives.
- For aquatic invasives, clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to another body of water.
- Learn what plants are problematic in Maine and volunteer to help remove them from wild areas.
- Visit the Maine Natural Areas Program website for fact sheets with species-specific control information.

Helpful resources:

Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP):

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap>

Maine Invasive Species Network:

<https://extension.umaine.edu/invasivespecies>

The Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health:

<https://www.invasive.org/control/index.cfm>

MNAP Invasive Plant Fact Sheets:

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invsheets.htm

33 Plants currently Prohibited from Sale or Import in Maine

Acer ginnala (amur maple)
Acer platanoides (Norway maple)
Aegopodium podagraria (bishop's weed)
Ailanthus altissima (tree of heaven)
Alliaria petiolata (garlic mustard)
Amorpha fruticosa (false indigo bush)
Ampelopsis glandulosa (porcelain berry)
Artemisia vulgaris (common mugwort)
Berberis thunbergii (Japanese barberry)
Berberis vulgaris (common barberry)
Celastrus orbiculatus (Asiatic bittersweet)
Elaeagnus umbellata (autumn olive)
Euonymus alatus (winged euonymus)
Euphorbia cyparissias (cypress spurge)
Fallopia baldschuanica (Chinese bindweed)
Fallopia japonica (Japanese knotweed)
Frangula alnus (glossy buckthorn)
Hesperis matronalis (dame's rocket)
Impatiens glandulifera (ornamental jewelweed)
Iris pseudacorus (yellow iris)
Ligustrum vulgare (common privet)
Lonicera japonica (Japanese honeysuckle)
Lonicera maackii (amur or bush honeysuckle)
Lonicera morrowii (Morrow's honeysuckle)
Lonicera tatarica (Tatarian honeysuckle)
Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife)
Microstegium vimineum (Japanese stilt grass)
Paulownia tomentosa (paulownia, princess tree)
Persicaria perfoliata (mile-a-minute)
Phellodendron amurense (amur cork tree)
Populus alba (white cottonwood)
Robinia pseudoacacia (black locust)
Rosa multiflora (multiflora rose)

30 Plants to be added to list in 2024

Alnus glutinosa (European alder)
Angelica sylvestris (woodland angelica)
Anthriscus sylvestris (wild chervil)
Aralia elata (Japanese angelica)
Butomos umbellatus (flowering rush)
Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian olive)

Euonymus fortunei (wintercreeper)
Festuca filiformis (fine-leaved sheep fescue)
Ficaria verna (lesser celandine)
Glaucium flavum (yellow hornpoppy)
Glechoma hederacea (ground ivy)
Glyceria maxima (great mannagrass)
Hippophae rhamnoides (sea buckthorn)
Ligustrum obtusifolium (border privet)
Lonicera xylosteum (dwarf honeysuckle)
Lythrum virgatum (European wand loose)
Miscanthus sacchariflorus (Amur silvergrass)
Petasites japonicus (butterbur)
Phalaris arundinacea (reed canary grass)
Photinia villosa (photinia)
Phragmites australis (common reed)
Phyllostachys aurea (golden bamboo)
Phyllostachys aureosulcata (yellow groove bamboo)
Pyrus calleryana (Callery/Bradford pear)
Ranunculus repens (creeping buttercup)
Rubus phoenicolasius (wineberry)
Silphium perfoliatum (cup plant)
Sorbus aucuparia (European mountain ash)
Tussilago farfara (coltsfoot)
Valeriana officinalis (common valerian)

