

Invasive Plants Guide

Japanese Knotweed

Description: A perennial reaching 10' in height and width.

Stems: Greenish, hollow and jointed, similar to bamboo.

Leaves: Alternate, broadly ovate, 3-7" long.

Flowers: Small, whitish forming panicles in August-September.

Habitat: Found in woodland sites, open spaces, ditches, roadsides, riverbanks.

Prefers moist, well drained soils.

Spreads: By stem & root fragments and by seed.

Comments: Aggressive, spreads quickly along surface waters and right of ways.



Burning Bush - Euonymus



Description: Deciduous shrub reaching 20' in height and width.

Stems: Are greenish with corky wings.

Leaves: Oppositely arranged simple and elliptic, 1-3" long by half as wide.

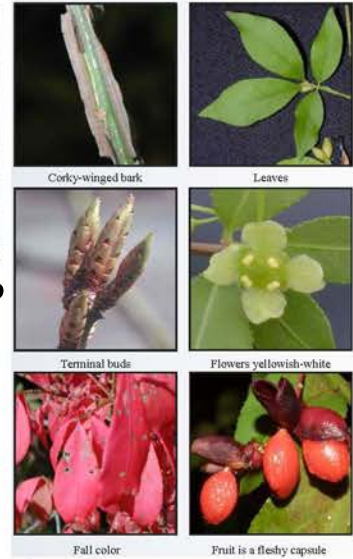
Flowers: Inconspicuous greenish yellow, May - June.

Fruit: Fleshy green capsule turns red in fall.

Habitat: Prefers dry upland soils, full sun to heavy shade.

Spread: Seeds are dispersed by birds and wildlife.

Comments: outcompetes and displaces native species.



Oriental Bittersweet



Description: Deciduous vine reaching 40'-60' in height.

Bark: Tannish, furrowed.

Leaves: Alternate, ovate, bluntly toothed, 3'-4' long by 2/3's as wide, tapered at base.

Flowers: small greenish blooming in spring.

Fruit: Yellow open capsule surrounding an orange-red fleshy seed covering, occurring at base of stems.

Habitat: Disturbed edges, roadsides, fields, forests and along rivers and streams.

Spread: by birds and humans.

Comments: Very aggressive, climbs over trees and smothers them.



Common Buckthorn

Description: Deciduous shrub or small tree measuring 20' by 15'.

Bark: Grayish to brown with raised pores.

Stems: Cinnamon colored

Leaves: Opposite, simple and broadly ovate with toothed margins.

Flowers: Inconspicuous 4 petaled, greenish yellow, mid June.

Fruit: Fleshy, 1/4" turning black in fall.

Habitat: Adapts to most conditions - full sun to heavy shade.

Spread: Seeds are dispersed by birds.

Comments: Aggressive and fast growing, out-compete native species.



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Autumn Olive



Description: Weedy deciduous shrub measures 20' by 20'.

Bark: Silvery grey with smooth whitish pores.

Stems: Cinnamon brown.

Leaves: Elliptical, 2"-3" long, glossy green above silverish below,

Flowers: Solitary, whitish, 4 petaled, mid-June.

Fruit: Fleshy, thin skin

Habitat: Naturalizes in open spaces exposed to full sun.

Spreads: Seeds dispersed by birds and wildlife.

Comments: Very aggressive, outcompetes and displaces native species.

Giant Hogweed



Description: Biennial grows up to 15' in height.

Stems: Are greenish with purple splotches, 2"-4" in diameter with coarse hairs, hollow.

Leaves: Large, compound, deeply incised 3'-5' wide, hairy underside.

Flowers: White inflorescence, 1'-2' in diameter, May - June.

Seeds: Flattened, 3/8" long, ovate with brown canals.

Habitat: Found in wet areas, roadsides, gardens, open spaces, full sun to partial shade.

Spread: Seeds dispersed by water, wildlife & humans.

Comments: Clear sap is phototoxic to human skin, causes severe blistering and burns, spreads readily.

Garlic Mustard



Description: Cool season biennial, 2nd year plants flower and reach 2'-3' tall.

Leaves: Triangular, coarsely toothed, heart-shaped.

Flowers: Clustered, small, 4 petals, white, April - May.

Fruit: Pods, seeds turn black when mature.

Habitat: Prefers moist shaded floodplains, forests and roadsides, adaptable to most soil and light conditions.

Spread: By water and wildlife.

Comments: Plants spread quickly into natural areas, outcompetes and displaces native species.

Japanese Barberry



Description: Deciduous shrub measuring 2'- 4' tall.

Leaves: Ovate, simple, color varies on variety.

Stems: Brown with thorns.

Flowers: Small yellowish, bloom in May, clusters of 2-4.

Fruit: Fleshy, turning red in summer.

Habitat: Prefers well drained soils in semi-shade, often occurring in forests, roadsides and open fields.

Spread: Seeds are dispersed by wildlife.

Comments: Forms dense thickets in natural environments becoming established impacting native plants.

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Multiflora Rose



Description: Hardy shrub climber reaches 15' height 10' in width.

Stems: Long, arching, forms dense clumps, thorns may be present.

Leaves: Alternately arranged, compound with 7-9 leaflets, feathery at base.

Flowers: Clusters of white or pink June - July.

Fruit: Rosehips turn red in fall.

Habitat: Prefers moist, well drained soils, full sun.

Spreads: Seeds dispersed by birds.

Comments: Very aggressive, outcompetes and displaces native species.



Bush Honeysuckle

Description: Shrub reaches up to 20' in height & width.

Stems: Are greenish to tan with corky wings.

Leaves: Oppositely arranged, simple, elliptic, 1"-3" long, half as wide, light green.

Flowers: White, yellow or pink, May to early June.

Fruit: Fleshy red, forming pairs at leaf axis.

Habitat: Prefers dry upland soils, full sun to heavy shade.

Spread: Seeds dispersed by birds.

Comments: Spreads into natural areas forming dense stands, displacing native species.



Phragmite - Common Reed

Description: Perennial rhizomatous grass growing 14' tall.

Stems: Called "culms" are large, hollow and grow up to 1" in diameter/

Leaves: Lance-like, up to 24" long, bluish-green in color.

Flowers: Branching clusters, with many spiklets, having 7 small, reddish flowers.

Habitat: Mostly found in marshlands but grows in freshwater wetlands and aquatic systems, full to partial sun.

Spread: Primarily by rhizomes.

Comments: Forms dense colonies that suppress native species and alters wildlife habitat.



Purple Loosestrife

Description: Perennial growing 30"- 80" tall by 2/3's as wide.

Stems: 4-6 sided, turning woody in summer.

Leaves: Opposite to whorled, lance-like 2"-4" long.

Flowers: Spiked clusters of separate flowers attached by short stems, purple to magenta, June - October.

Fruit: Capsule.

Habitat: Mostly found in wetlands and aquatic systems, full to partial sun.

Spread: Plants make millions of seeds, seeds are dispersed by water, wildlife and humans.

Comments: Invades wetlands suppressing native plants and destroys wildlife habitat.

