

## What is an Invasive Plant?

Controlling invasives costs \$138 billion / year, they spread 3 million acres / year, and inhabit 100+ million acres. Introduced plants cost \$23.4 billion in annual crop losses.

An invasive plant thrives and spreads aggressively outside its natural range. An invasive that colonizes a new area may have an ecological edge, since its natural controlling insects, diseases, and foraging animals are absent.

Some invasive plants are worse than others. A naturally aggressive plant may be especially invasive when it is introduced to a new habitat. Many invasive plants continue to be admired by gardeners who may not be aware of their aggressive nature. Others are recognized as weeds, but property owners fail to prevent their spread. Some plants become invasive only if they are neglected.

### Invasive Plants:

-  Tolerate many soil types and weather conditions.
-  Produce large numbers of new plants each season.
-  Grow rapidly, allowing them to displace slower growing plants.
-  Spread easily and efficiently, usually by wind, water, or animals.
-  Spread rampantly when they are free of natural checks and balances found in their native range.

### Don't plant:

**Mile-A-Minute**, *Polygonum perfoliatum*  
**Purple Loosestrife**, *Lythrum salicaria*

**Siberian Elm**, *Ulmus pumila*  
**Tartarian Honeysuckle**, *Lonicera tatarica*

### Warning: If you see them, remove them, they will spread if not controlled:

**Garlic Mustard**, *Allaria petiolate*  
**Lesser Celandine**, *Ranunculus ficaria*

**Multiflora Rose**, *Rosa multiflora*  
**Tree-of-heaven**, *Ailanthus altissima*

### Caution: Not problems, if MANAGED WISELY:

**Butterfly Bush**, *Buddleia* spp.  
**Common Daylily**, *Hemerocallis fulva*  
**English Ivy**, *Hedera helix*

**Lilyturf**, *Liriope muscari*  
**Wintercreeper**, *Euonymus fortunei*

## What Can You Do?

-  Learn to identify locally important invasive plants.
-  Remove invasive plants on your property or prevent their spread.
-  Only use non-invasive plants when landscaping your property.
-  If your property borders a natural area, consider using only native plants in your landscape.
-  Find non-invasive or native alternatives for invasive landscape plants.
-  Use systemic herbicides carefully as a last resort to remove invasive plants.
-  Make others in your neighborhood aware of invasive plants.
-  Contact your local native plant society or state Department of Natural Resources to find out which plants are invasive in your area.

### Links:

**The US National Arboretum:** <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html>

**Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group:** <http://cipwg.uconn.edu/>