

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS—A GROWING PROBLEM

If you are one of the over 100,000 people in New Hampshire who own a woodlot, you are a steward of a diversity of plants and animals that define New Hampshire's forests. This immense diversity can be experienced simply by walking in your woods where you might see dozens of different trees, scores of shrubs and herbs and some of the well over 100 different kinds of wildlife using these plants for shelter or food. Non-native, invasive plants can have a detrimental effect on the plant and animal diversity on your land.

Invasive: A non-native plant capable of moving aggressively into an area, monopolizing light, nutrients, water, and space to the detriment of native species.

The Problem with Invasive Plants

Most invasive plants were intentionally introduced and were selected for their vigorous growth, ability to grow on a wide range of sites, ability to produce abundant fruits, and resistance to diseases, insects and herbivores. This combination of traits enables non-native plants to invade and dominate a site.

Invasive plants often gain a foothold through a disturbance such as an ice or wind storm or a timber cutting. Once established, these plants spread into undisturbed areas out-competing native plants and disrupting natural processes. For example, glossy buckthorn grows just as easily in partial shade in the forest as in direct sun in an old field. This plant also tolerates a wide range of soil from dry to wet sites. Once established, glossy buckthorn out-competes native plants in the lowest layer of the forest—the understory—which contains shrubs that provide food and shelter to wildlife and often tree seedlings that normally will grow up to be

the next forest. With an infestation of glossy buckthorn, the diversity of native shrubs and trees seedlings is diminished or missing.

Some considerations to prevent or control invasives on your property:

Seeds of invasive plants are dispersed by a number of ways including by wildlife, water, wind, horticultural plantings, personal and recreational vehicles, mowers, and forestry and land management equipment.

According to state law, the species listed in Table 1 cannot be sold or moved.

Mulch, fill, gravel, hay and landscaping waste may contain invasive plant material or seed.

Early detection is the best for control.

Disturbance—natural or human—encourages invasive plants.

Careful planning before harvesting timber can create the conditions for native plants to thrive. Conversely, poor planning may encourage invasive plants following a timber harvest.

Established infestations may be expensive to control and eradication may not be practical.

Deer and other browsing wildlife will often ignore invasive plants, instead eating native shrubs and tree seedlings, increasing invasive plant dominance.



Strategies to prevent or control invasives on your property:

Before harvesting timber or firewood from your woods, look for invasive plants. Determine if control is practical or ecologically feasible. Some infestations may too costly or control may negatively impact the environment. Avoiding disturbing the infested area could be the best practice. Be sure equipment used on your property is clean of invasive plant material and seed. Closely monitor newly disturbed sites for invasive plant seedlings—early detection is best. Financial assistance may be available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with control or eradication.

Where can I learn more?

Bennett, Karen P. editor. 2010. *Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire* (second edition). University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, Durham, N.H.
www.goodforestry.org

For a woodlot visit to discuss any of the topics included in this fact sheet, contact your local UNH Cooperative Extension office:

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Table 1: New Hampshire Prohibited Invasive Species List

<i>Scientific Name</i> , <i>Common Name</i>
<i>Acer platanoides</i> , Norway maple
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> , tree of heaven
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> , garlic mustard
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> , Japanese barberry
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> , European barberry
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> , Oriental bittersweet
<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i> , spotted knapweed
<i>Cynanchum nigrum</i> , black swallow-wort
<i>Cynanchum rossicum</i> , pale swallow-wort
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> , autumn olive
<i>Euonymus alatus</i> , burning bush
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> , giant hogweed
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> , dame's rocket
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> , water-flag
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i> , perennial pepperweed
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> , blunt-leaved privet
<i>Lonicera bella</i> , showy bush honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera japonica</i> , Japanese honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> , Morrow's honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> , Tatarian honeysuckle
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> , Japanese stilt grass
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> , Japanese knotweed
<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> , mile-a-minute vine
<i>Reynoutria × bohemica</i> , bohemia knotweed
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> , common buckthorn
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> , glossy buckthorn
<i>Rosa multiflora</i> , multiflora rose

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