

Illinois Invasive Plant Species

Definition: species of plants that were directly or indirectly, deliberately or accidentally introduced by human activity that impact native plant and animal communities by displacing native vegetation and disrupting habitats as they become established and spread over time.

Why should I not allow invasive plants to grow in my yard?

Every day more than 4600 acres of Public Land in the USA becomes dominated by invasive plant species, which amounts to more than 3 million acres per year. Invasive plants not only hurt the environment, they also hurt the economy. For example, more than \$45 million are spent each year on the control and eradication of purple loosestrife in the 36 states that it is found in. Though these plants may seem harmless in your yard they can still cause problems in our local natural areas, even if you do not live near a preserve. Many of the plants are spread by animals, like birds eating the berries of buckthorn and then transporting the seeds to new places.

The list of invasive plant species below was taken from the Illinois Natural History Survey website which lists species that are particularly problematic in Illinois. The **Conservation@Home** program encourages you to remove invasive plant species from your yard and replace them with appropriate native species. This does not have to happen all at once, but can occur overtime as you address different areas of your home landscape. Please feel free to contact us for suggestions of native plants and trees to replace plants that you may be removing.

Diversity is the key to a healthy ecosystem; invasive species threaten that health by crowding out native species that did not evolve to compete with these introduced species. Proper management can help to keep invasive species under control, and in some cases eradicate them altogether. Many of the tree species require the careful use of herbicides to kill the tree after it has been cut down otherwise it will grow back again. Some herbaceous species are greatly reduced by the use of fire, while others thrive when burned. Links below will take you to sites with specific directions on how to manage for a particular species.

Websites:

Illinois Natural History Survey Invasive Vegetation Management site

<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/VMG/VMG.html>

Invasive Plants of the Eastern U.S.

www.invasive.org/eastern

Chicago Botanical Gardens - Invasive Species Control

http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/invasive_chicago.html

Trees & Shrubs		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Family
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Aceraceae
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Simaroubaceae
Mimosa	<i>Albizzia julibrissin</i>	Mimosaceae
Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Berberidaceae
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Elaeagnaceae
Burning Bush	<i>Euonymus alata</i>	Celastraceae
Rose-of-Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Malvaceae
Common Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Oleaceae
Hybrid Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera X bella</i>	Caprifoliaceae
Amur Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Caprifoliaceae
Morrow's Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Caprifoliaceae
Tatarian Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Caprifoliaceae
White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	Moraceae
Princess Tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Scrophulariaceae
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Polygonaceae
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	Salicaceae
Sawtooth Oak	<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	Fagaceae
Common Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Rhamnaceae
Smooth Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Rhamnaceae
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>	Fabaceae
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Rosaceae
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Ulmaceae
Wayfaring Tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Caprifoliaceae
European Highbush	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Caprifoliaceae
Cranberry		
Woody & Herbaceous Vines		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Family
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Celastraceae
Crown Vetch	<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Fabaceae
Chinese Yam	<i>Dioscorea batatas</i>	Dioscoreaceae
Purple Wintercreeper	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Celastraceae
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Araliaceae
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Caprifoliaceae
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	Fabaceae
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Solanaceae
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Apocynaceae
Chinese wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Fabaceae
Flowering Plants		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Family
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Brassicaceae

Smooth Brome Grass	<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Poaceae
Nodding Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Asteraceae
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Asteraceae
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Asteraceae
Cut-leaved Teasel	<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Dipsacaceae
Common Teasel	<i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i>	Dipsacaceae
Leafy Spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Euphorbiaceae
Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Poaceae
Creeping Charlie	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Lamiaceae
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Brassicaceae
Sericea Lespedeza	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Fabaceae
Bird's-foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Fabaceae
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Lythraceae
Moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Primulaceae
White Sweet Clover	<i>Melilotus alba</i>	Fabaceae
Yellow Sweet Clover	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Fabaceae
Eulalia, Japanese Grass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Poaceae
Eurasian Water Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Haloragaceae
Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Apiaceae
Reed Canary Grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Poaceae
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Poaceae
Kentucky Bluegrass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Poaceae
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Polygonaceae
Johnson Grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Poaceae