

# INVASIVE PLANTS

Know them—Don't grow them



Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

## What are invasive plants?

These non-native plant species are “overachievers.” Once established in natural areas, they outcompete native species. Invasive plants cause profound environmental and economic damage, and are a major threat to native habitats worldwide. Some invasives have escaped from our home gardens and public plantings into natural areas. Each state has different problematic plants. See other side for our top 20 offenders; for a complete list visit [www.newenglandwildflower.org](http://www.newenglandwildflower.org).

New England  
Wild Flower Society

## Don't buy these plants

Although experts have determined that these plants are invasive in most of New England, and harmful to the environment, the plants listed in **bold** are still widely available in catalogs and nurseries.

Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
<b>Bishop's weed</b>	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
<b>Japanese barberry</b>	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Swallowworts	<i>Cynanchum nigrum</i> and <i>C. rossicum</i>
Autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
<b>Burning bush</b>	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>
Glossy buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>
<b>Yellow flag iris</b>	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
<b>Blunt-leaved privet</b>	<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>
<b>Shrub-like honeysuckles</b>	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> , <i>L. x bella</i> , <i>L. maackii</i> , <i>L. tatarica</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
<b>Purple loosestrife</b>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Water-milfoils	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> , <i>M. heterophyllum</i> , <i>M. spicatum</i>
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
<b>Japanese knotweed</b>	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> )
Common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Water chestnut	<i>Trapa natans</i>

For a list of our recommended substitute plants and information about methods for removing invasive plants visit [www.newenglandwildflower.org](http://www.newenglandwildflower.org).

## How you can help

- Learn which plants are invasive in your state.
- Purchase and grow only non-invasive plants.
- Ask your local garden center/nursery to stop selling invasive plants.
- Volunteer in your community to help control invasive plants.
- Inform your community about the threats posed by invasive plants.

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