



Invasive Non-Native Plants in the Upper Thames River Watershed



The plants listed below are non-native species that have become invasive problem weeds in the Upper Thames River Watershed (Middlesex, Oxford and Perth Counties). They can spread into natural areas and forests, displacing native plants and the wildlife that

depend on them. These non-native species should not be planted under any circumstances and should be removed when possible to prevent further invasion.

Trees, Shrubs, Vines and Woody Groundcovers

Trees

| | |
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| <i>Acer ginnala</i> | Amur Maple |
| <i>Acer negundo</i> | Manitoba Maple or Boxelder |
| <i>Acer platanoides</i> | Norway Maple |
| <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> | Tree of Heaven |
| <i>Betula pendula</i> | European White Birch |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | English Hawthorn |
| <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> | Russian Olive |
| <i>Morus alba</i> | White Mulberry |
| <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> | Scots Pine |
| <i>Populus alba</i> | White Poplar or Silver Poplar |
| <i>Prunus avium</i> | Sweet Cherry |
| <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> | Black Locust |
| <i>Salix alba</i> | White Willow |
| <i>Salix fragilis</i> | Crack Willow |
| <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> | European Mountain-ash |
| <i>Ulmus pumila</i> | Siberian Elm |

Shrubs

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Black Alder |
| <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> | Japanese Barberry |
| <i>Berberis vulgaris</i> | Common Barberry |
| <i>Cynanchum nigrum</i> | Black Swallow-wort or Dog-strangling Vine |
| <i>Cynanchum rossicum</i> | White Swallow-wort or Dog-strangling Vine |
| <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> | Autumn Olive |
| <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> | Common Privet |
| <i>Lonicera japonica</i> | Japanese Honeysuckle |
| <i>Lonicera maackii</i> | Amur Honeysuckle |
| <i>Lonicera tatarica</i> | Tartarian Honeysuckle |
| <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> | Common Buckthorn |
| <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> | Glossy Buckthorn |
| <i>Ribes rubrum</i> | Red Currant |
| <i>Rosa multiflora</i> | Multiflora Rose |
| <i>Syringa vulgaris</i> | Common Lilac |
| <i>Viburnum opulus</i> | European High-bush Cranberry |

Vines and Woody Groundcovers

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> | Asiatic Bittersweet |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | English Ivy |
| <i>Vinca minor</i> | Periwinkle or Myrtle |



Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)

Problem Non-Native Plants

Over 500 species of non-native plants grow "wild" in Ontario. Most of these plants were brought here for food, medicine or gardens. However, their seeds have escaped cultivation and have spread widely across the province. Many alien plants are so common, people think of them as native species.

Invasive Alien Plants

Many non-native plants have characteristics that allow them to invade natural areas and forests:

- These plants produce a lot of seed or have aggressive rhizomes.
- They can grow in a range of soil and moisture conditions.
- Native predators may not feed on them.
- Invasive alien plants out-compete and replace native plants.
- Non-native plants rarely provide the food and habitat required by native insects, birds and animals. Thus, they threaten wildlife.

Removing Invasive Plants

By their nature, invasive plants can be tough to get rid of. Persistence is needed! Methods of removal include:

- Cut or girdle shrubs or trees. Repeatedly cut any suckers (off-shoots) that re-grow.
- For perennials, cut off the top of the plant prior to flowering to weaken the plant and prevent seeding.
- Pull or dig up and remove individual plants or shrubs.
- Lay heavy black plastic over groundcover for a season to smother and kill the plants.
- Apply an appropriate herbicide (spot treatment) for persistent trees, shrubs and plants or for large infestations. Consult a licensed pesticide applicator for advice.

Herbaceous Plants

(Plants that die back every year and re-grow from seed or perennial roots)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> | Goutweed | <i>Lamium purpureum</i> | Purple Dead-nettle |
| <i>Ajuga reptans</i> | Bugleweed | <i>Lapsana communis</i> | Nipplewort |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard | <i>Lathyrus latifolius</i> | Perennial Sweet Pea |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | False Chervil | <i>Leonurus cardiaca</i> | Motherwort |
| <i>Arctium spp.</i> | Burdock | <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> | Butter and Eggs or Yellow Toadflax |
| <i>Asperula odorata</i> | Sweet Woodruff | <i>Lotus corniculata</i> | Birdsfoot Trefoil |
| <i>Butomus umbellatus</i> | Flowering Rush | <i>Lunaria annua</i> | Silver Dollar |
| <i>Campanula rapunculoides</i> | European Bellflower | <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> | Moneywort |
| <i>Centaurea maculosa</i> | Spotted Knapweed | <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | Purple Loosestrife |
| <i>Chelidonium majus</i> | Celandine | <i>Malva moschata</i> | Musk Mallow |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Field Thistle | <i>Melilotus spp.</i> | Sweet Clover |
| <i>Convallaria majalis</i> | Lily-of-the-valley | <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> | Eurasian Water Milfoil |
| <i>Coronilla varia</i> | Crown Vetch | <i>Nepeta cataria</i> | Catnip |
| <i>Daucus carota</i> | Wild Carrot or Queen Anne's Lace | <i>Origanum vulgare</i> | Wild Marjoram |
| <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> | Teasel | <i>Phragmites australis</i> | Phragmites or Elephant Grass |
| <i>Echium vulgare</i> | Viper's Bugloss | <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> | Japanese Knotweed |
| <i>Elymus repens</i> | Quack Grass | <i>Potamogeton crispus</i> | Curly Pondweed |
| <i>Epipactis helleborine</i> | Helleborine | <i>Potentilla argentea</i> | Silvery Cinquefoil |
| <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | Hairy Willow-herb | <i>Potentilla recta</i> | Rough-fruited Cinquefoil |
| <i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i> | Cypress Spurge | <i>Ranunculus acris</i> | Common Buttercup |
| <i>Euphorbia esula</i> | Leafy Spurge | <i>Rumex crispus</i> | Curly Dock or Yellow Dock |
| <i>Galium mollugo</i> | White Bedstraw | <i>Saponaria officinalis</i> | Bouncing Bet or Soapwort |
| <i>Geranium robertianum</i> | Herb Robert | <i>Silene pratensis</i> | White Catchfly or White Cockle |
| <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> | Ground Ivy or Creeping Charlie | <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> | Tansy |
| <i>Helianthus tuberosus</i> | Jerusalem Artichoke | <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> | Dandelion |
| <i>Hemerocallis fulva</i> | Orange Day-lily | <i>Trifolium pratense</i> | Red Clover |
| <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> | Dame's Rocket | <i>Tussilago farfara</i> | Coltsfoot |
| <i>Hieracium pratense</i> | King-devil | <i>Verbascum blattia</i> | Moth Mullein |
| <i>Hieracium piloselloides</i> | Hawkweed | <i>Verbascum thapsus</i> | Mullein |
| <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i> | European Frog's-bit | <i>Veronica officinalis</i> | Common Speedwell |
| <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> | Common St. John's-wort | | |
| <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> | Pink Touch-me-not | | |
| <i>Inula helenium</i> | Elecampane | | |
| <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | Yellow Flag or Yellow Iris | | |

Note: Giant Hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, is non-native but is not considered invasive. However, it can cause skin rashes and should be avoided.



Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)



Phragmites or Elephant Grass (*Phragmites australis*)

Notes

For more information on invasive plants, visit The Ontario Invasive Plant Council website at oiipc@ofah.org

Additional information is available at www.thamesriver.on.ca:

- Gardening with Native Plants and Problem Non-Native Plants
- Recommended Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines
- Recommended Native Wildflowers and Grasses
- Buckthorn Factsheet

List compiled by Upper Thames River Conservation Authority staff, 2011.

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CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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