

## Nip Invasive Species in the Bud by Avoiding These Common Invaders

Have you seen a new type of plant in your garden that has “suddenly appeared” out of nowhere? Has a plant crowded out others or escaped the garden? It might be an invasive species. An invasive species is one that is not native to the area and causes harm to the environment, economy, or human health. Invasive species can outcompete native plant species, eliminate critical habitat and food sources for native organisms, kill desired trees by girdling them, and cost homeowners time and money when trying to get rid of them. They can also spread when birds and wildlife eat the seeds and excrete them elsewhere or when the wind carries the seeds. Common species to avoid planting and allowing to become established include the following:



Japanese knotweed



Dame's rocket



Oriental bittersweet



Bush honeysuckles



Purple loosestrife



Norway maple



Canada thistle



Parrot feather

Photo credit: Shikha Singh (unless otherwise indicated)

### HOW TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES!

- Inspect your gear, shoes and clothing and remove all seeds
- Prior to composting, check the State of Michigan's "Guide to Invasive Plant Disposal" (see references)
- Buy plants and seeds from reputable retailers or organizations (avoid garage sale purchases)
- Don't dig up "wild" plants for your garden until you confirm they are not invasive or a protected species
- Submit invasive species sightings to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) at [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu)
- **PLANT NATIVE SPECIES IN YOUR GARDEN (SEE BACK FOR EXAMPLES)**

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the JLW CISMA coordinator: Dr. Shikha Singh at (517) 395 - 2089 or via email at [shikha.singh@macd.org](mailto:shikha.singh@macd.org). Our website is: <https://jlcisma.weebly.com/>

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## Native Species to Consider Planting in Your Garden

Native plants have many benefits, one of which is preventing invasive species from taking over or from coming back after removal. Once native plants have become established, they generally require less water and maintenance as they are adapted to regional environmental conditions. Native plants have also evolved along side native pollinator species such as bees, butterflies and birds to be optimal hosts or a source of food and have been shown to support higher incidences of biodiversity. Research shows that there is a 14 to 15 fold increase in the number of moths and butterflies supported by native plants compared to introduced ornamentals (Tallamy and Shropshire, 2009). Below are pictures of some native plant species you can consider planting!



**Butterfly weed**



**Ohio spiderwort**



**Prickly Pear**



**Cup plant**



**Wild lupine**



**Purple coneflower**



**Common milkweed**

Invasive Species!	Native Alternatives!
Autumn Olive ( <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> )/Russian Olive ( <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> )	Flowering dogwood ( <i>Cornus florida</i> ), Red osier dogwood ( <i>Cornus sericea</i> ), Wild plum ( <i>Prunus Americana</i> ), Elderberry ( <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> )
Canada thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> )	Rough blazing star ( <i>Liatris aspera</i> ), Cylindrical blazing star ( <i>Liatris cylindracea</i> )
Dame's rocket ( <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> )	Woodland phlox ( <i>Phlox divaricata</i> ), Purple coneflower ( <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> )
Japanese barberry ( <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> )	Wild lupine ( <i>Lupinus perennis</i> ), Blue wild indigo ( <i>Baptisia australis</i> )
Japanese honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera japonica</i> )	Trumpet honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> ), Virgin's bower ( <i>Clematis virginiana</i> )
Japanese knotweed ( <i>Reynoutria japonica</i> )	Red cedar ( <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> ), Joe pye weed ( <i>Eutrochium purpureum</i> )
Norway maple ( <i>Acer platanoides</i> )	Red maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> ), Sugar maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> ), White Oak ( <i>Quercus alba</i> )
Oriental bittersweet ( <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> )	American bittersweet ( <i>Celastrus scandens</i> ), Lowbush blueberry ( <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> )
Reed canary grass ( <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> )	Switchgrass ( <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ), Big bluestem ( <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> ), Bottlebrush

### References:

- Department of Entomology. 2019. Regional Plant Lists. MSU Website: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/plant\\_facts/local\\_info/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/plant_facts/local_info/index)
- State of Michigan. 2018. Michigan Citizen's Guide to Invasive Plant Disposal. State Website: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/invasives/Invasive\\_Plant\\_Disposal\\_Guide\\_accessible\\_word\\_626157\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/invasives/Invasive_Plant_Disposal_Guide_accessible_word_626157_7.pdf)
- Tallamy, D. and K.J. Shropshire. 2009. Ranking Lepidopteran Use of Native Versus Introduced Plants. *Conservation Biology*. 23(4): 941-947