



‘Top’ Invasive Plants

From Pat Curran
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Invasive Plants, aka ‘The Dirty Dozen’ (a baker’s dozen)

‘Invasive’ defined: Introduced plants (not natives) that outcompete the native vegetation in the landscape and the environment; they often perform as weeds in gardens as well.

Common name

Comments

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| • Barberry, Japanese | shrub spreads by fruits; forms thorny thickets in the woods; harbors ticks |
| • Buckthorn | shrub spreads by fruits; grows into small tree and shades out natives |
| • Burning Bush | shrub spreads by fruits and suckers; large bush shades out natives |
| • English ivy | evergreen vine; adult form climbs trees and spreads by fruits; |
| • Garlic mustard | herbaceous biennial; evergreen rosettes the first year in stands; |
| • Honeysuckle shrubs (not vines) | shrub spreads by fruits and suckers; shades out natives; |
| • Japanese knotweed, aka ‘bamboo’ (not a true bamboo) | herbaceous perennial of shrub size; |
| • Multiflora rose | shrub spreads by fruits and suckers; white flower clusters in spring |
| • Myrtle | evergreen groundcover carpets the forest floor, shading out wildflowers |
| • Norway maple | tree spreads by seed; produces heavy shade and outcompetes natives; |
| • Oriental bittersweet | woody vine spreads by fruits; climbs trees and kills them; |
| • Privet | shrub spreads by fruits; stays green into late fall; keep it pruned as hedge |
| • Swallowwort spp. | herbaceous perennial vines in the milkweed family; spread by wind |

Learn more:

Alternatives to Ornamental Invasive Plants: A Sustainable Solution for New York State

<https://nysipm.cornell.edu/agriculture/ornamental-crops/greenhouse-resources/alternatives-ornamental-invasive-plants-sustainable-solution-new-york-state>

Garden Guidance

www.gardening.cornell.edu

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