

What Can I Do to Help?

- Know Before You Grow
- Do not plant or transplant any of the listed invasive plants
- Do not share cuttings, divisions, and seeds with other gardeners or in community plant sales
- Do not use berries from plants like Asiatic bittersweet to decorate holiday wreaths
- Identify invasive plants
- Use best methods of removal and disposal for the particular species
- Plant native plants to replace invasive species
- Participate in community programs to remove invasive plants from public spaces and, where possible, roadsides
- Share information about invasive plants with others, including neighbors whose invasive plants could spread to adjacent land
- Participate in the Maine Natural Areas Program's iMap app

Resources

Maine Natural Areas Program :
Invasive Plants fact sheets , identification hints, and control methods.

www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive-plants/invasives.htm

Maine Natural Areas Program for reporting invasive plants

www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive-plants/imap.htm

“Gardening to Conserve Maine’s Native Landscape” from UMaine Cooperative Extension, one among many useful publications.

www.extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/

Removal and control techniques as well as follow-up treatments: Winning the War on Weeds: A Guide to Adaptive Invasive Plant Management.

www.cbisn.wordpress.com

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy, Timber Press, and at the Jackson Memorial Library

St. George School 7th grade video, “Know Before You Grow” Live Feed on www.stgeorgemsu.org

St. George Conservation Commission
Friends of St. George
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Know Before You Grow



St. George Invasive Plant Initiative



What Is an Invasive Plant?

A non-native plant that has naturalized and is reproducing in the wild

That is harming ecosystems by out-competing native plants for sunlight, water, soil nutrients, and space

Why are Native Plants Better?

Native plants support the local web of life. They are the “host” plant for pollinators, insects, birds and other species

They leaf out and blossom in sync with area species to provide nectar, food, propagating material, and survival. For example, the in-sync hatching of insects and caterpillars provides irreplaceable protein for parent birds to feed nestlings. Nestlings cannot digest seeds.

They provide the only “host” plant for pollinators like butterflies and moths for food and laying eggs that become the next generation. For example, Monarch butterflies use only milkweed.

They are native to climate and natural conditions in our area resulting in healthy and hardy growth

How Do Invasive Plants Become a Problem?

In general, invasive plants spread voraciously and choke out native plants that are beneficial

Most are planted by people. For example, barberry was introduced for hedges. It escaped into fields and forests where its impenetrable thickets provide ideal homes for ticks. Norway maple’s fast growth made it a favorite of developers.

Some hitchhike to areas where there are no natural competitors

Many bloom out of sync with area insects, bees, butterflies, and birds so needed food and propagating materials unavailable at the time it is needed.

Some have root systems that release chemicals that make the adjacent soil inhospitable to other plants

Some leaf out early and prevent sunlight from reaching native plants

Many, like Morrow’s honeysuckle, provide fruit that attracts birds with empty calories rather than the lipid rich fruit of native plants. Seeds in are then spread by well-fertilized bird droppings.

Some invasive vines, like bittersweet, smother trees by cutting off sunlight

What Invasive Plants Are a Problem in Maine?

Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry identified 33 land-based plants as invasive and prohibits their sale in Maine.

Trees & Shrubs

Norway maple*
Amur maple
Tree of Heaven
False indigo bush
Japanese barberry*
Common barberry*
Autumn olive*
Burning bush*
Japanese knotweed*
Glossy buckthorn*
Common privet
Japanese honeysuckle
Amur honeysuckle
Morrow’s honeysuckle*
Tartarian honeysuckle
Paulownia
Amur cork tree
White cottonwood
Black locust
Multiflora Rose*

Herbaceous Plants

Bishop’s weed
Garlic mustard
Common mugwort
Cypress spurge
Dame’s rocket
Himalayan Balsam
“jewelweed”*
Yellow iris
Purple loosestrife
Japanese stilt grass

Vines

Asiatic bittersweet*
Porcelain berry
Chinese bindweed
Mile-a-Minute weed
Black swallow wort*

* Dirty Dozen
invasive plants
prominent in
in St. George