



IDENTIFYING INVASIVES

To learn more about the invasives in this brochure—and potential invaders to watch for—visit ilhipp.org. Need help identifying a plant? University of Illinois Extension can help. Visit web.extension.illinois.edu.

ACQUIRING NATIVE PLANTS

To learn more about native plants and where to acquire them, visit ilhipp.org/native-plants. The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has helpful publications and a free app called *Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Plants of the Midwest*; learn more at mipn.org/publications. Watch for native plant sales hosted by Grand Prairie Friends or your Soil & Water Conservation District. And let your favorite garden center know you're looking for natives, too!

HELP STOP THE SPREAD

In addition to banning invasives from your yard, volunteer with local organizations to clean up nearby natural areas. It's a great way to learn about invasives from knowledgeable naturalists. Also, clean your shoes and remove hitchhiking seeds between hikes. Learn more at ilhipp.org.

HEADWATERS INVASIVE PLANT PARTNERSHIP

HIPP is a partnership between local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, private landowners, and university groups in east central Illinois to address the threat of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants across jurisdictional boundaries. Visit ilhipp.org or contact us at hippcwma@gmail.com.



INVASIVE PLANTS & BEAUTIFUL NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

INVASIVE PLANTS are often well-intentioned landscape plants that escape from our gardens and severely damage natural areas.

HELP STOP THE SPREAD! Before you shop for plants, use this guide to avoid invasives and find hardy native alternatives. Natives bring beauty to your yard—and help our ecosystem thrive!

This booklet was originally developed for the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network



HIPP brochure text by Elizabeth Otto, with thanks to Sandy Mason, Mike Daab, and Mike Davis

TREES & SHRUBS

Many invasive plants came to our gardens from faraway lands. But the traits that make them desirable also help them jump fences and harm natural areas. Birds eat their showy (but non-nutritious) fruit and drop the seeds miles away. These tough and fast-growing invaders, unchecked by natural predators, crowd out native plants in our parks and preserves. The invasives in this brochure are available for sale and cause serious damage in our region. In contrast, native plants provide healthy food and habitat for birds and animals. And, compared to other landscape plants, natives are best suited to local conditions—hardy, with few pest problems, and requiring little care. Grow native!

STOP THE SPREAD

DAN NYDICK



Japanese barberry
Berberis thunbergii

MYKOLA SWARNYK



burning bush
Euonymus alatus

*RICHARD GARDNER, UMES



privet
Ligustrum spp.

C.E. PRICE



Callery/Bradford pear
Pyrus calleryana

GROW NATIVES INSTEAD

KERRY WOODS



New Jersey tea
Ceanothus americanus

*ROB ROUTLEDGE, SAULT COLLEGE



chokeberry
Aronia spp.

DOW GARDENS



**viburnum blackhaw,
viburnum witherod** *Viburnum spp.*

HANS



serviceberry
Amelanchier spp.

RINA PITUCCI



ninebark
Physocarpus opulifolius

USEWS MOUNTAIN-PRAIRIE



sumac
Rhus spp.

FRITZ FLOHR REYNOLDS



spicebush
Lindera benzoin

CHRIS EVANS, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



flowering dogwood
Cornus florida

TREES & SHRUBS

PUBLIC LANDS ENEMY NO. 1: BUSH HONEYSUCKLE

Before removal



After removal



Honeysuckle removal opens the forest floor for native species to thrive. Photos courtesy of Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Inset photo: Chris Evans, University of Illinois, bugwood.org

Countless hours and dollars are spent clearing bush honeysuckle from public lands in Illinois. Although it's no longer sold, this escape artist is abundant in many yards. Ban this bully from your garden! Hint: Cut a twig. If it's hollow, it's invasive honeysuckle.



REMOVE NOW Plants with this symbol are illegal to plant, sell, or transport, per the Illinois Exotic Weed Act.

STOP THE SPREAD

*CHRIS EVANS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



autumn olive, Russian olive
Elaeagnus umbellata, Elaeagnus angustifolia

*LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



Amur cork tree
Phellodendron amurense

*LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



Norway maple
Acer platanoides

*LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



European /black alder
Alnus glutinosa

GROW NATIVES INSTEAD

MATT LAVIN



red twig dogwood
Cornus sericea

MARCIN BAJER



red oak
Quercus rubra

NACHUWY HERNANDEZ



red maple
Acer rubrum

CHHE



common hackberry
Celtis occidentalis

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST



American filbert/hazelnut
Corylus americana

ESCUJARO



hawthorn
Crataegus spp.

DENISBIN



black gum
Nyssa sylvatica

PAUL WRAY, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



Kentucky coffeetree
Gymnocladus dioica

HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Don't be fooled by these sly lookalikes. Purple loosestrife is among the worst invaders in the Midwest and defies most control efforts. The purple spikes of native blazing star, on the other hand, are June-flowering jewels of the prairie. Dame's rocket, often found crowding sunny roadsides, has four petals per flower; native wild sweet William has five petals. While invasives may provide flowers for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators, only native plants like swamp milkweed (or its brilliant orange cousin, butterfly weed) provide essential support for the insects' entire life cycle.

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STOP THE SPREAD



dame's rocket
Hesperis matronalis



! **purple loosestrife**
Lythrum salicaria



! **knotweed**
Fallopia japonica, Fallopia sachalinensis



LISA BROWN



WP LYNN



CAMELIA TWU

wild sweet William / phlox
Phlox divaricata
foxglove beardtongue
Penstemon digitalis
blue-eyed grass
Sisyrinchium angustifolium



DOUG GOLDMAN, HOSTED BY THE USDA-NRCS PLANTS DATABASE



CARL LEWIS



SHIGEMI J

swamp milkweed
Asclepias incarnata
blazing star
Liatris spp.
obedient plant
Physostegia virginiana



KERRY WOODS



AHMED M



WP LYNN

false Solomon's seal
Smilacina racemosa
goat's beard
Aruncus dioicus
Solomon's seal
Polygonatum biflorum

GRASSES

Grasses bring beautiful texture to the garden, even in winter. And what could be more fitting to grow in the Prairie State? Just be sure to choose well-behaved natives. Clumps of prairie dropseed make a handsome, undulating groundcover—or use its airy structure in the front of a border. Big bluestem, with its characteristic “turkey foot” seedhead, needs tall native neighbors like compass plant or prairie dock to help it stand straight. A good option is natives—cultivars bred to stay upright better. Choices include “Sioux Blue” Indian grass, “Prairie Blues” little bluestem, and “Northwind” or “Prairie Fire” switchgrass.

STOP THE SPREAD

*LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF,
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



Chinese silvergrass
Miscanthus sinensis

*JOHN RUTER, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



giant reed
Arundo donax

*JOSEPH M. DITOMASO,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS



plume grass
Saccharum ravennae

*LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF,
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



Amur silvergrass
Miscanthus sacchariflorus

GROW NATIVES INSTEAD

DREW AVERY



little bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium

JENNIFER BRIGGS / USFWS



big bluestem
Andropogon gerardii

AARON GUNNER



prairie cordgrass
Spartina pectinata

WILL POLLARD



bottlebrush grass
Elymus hystrix

COLORADO ART STUDIO



prairie dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis

JOSHUA MAYER



Indian grass
Sorghastrum nutans

UNIKORNO



fountain grass
Pennisetum alopecuroides

KATJA SCHULZ



northern sea oats
Chasmanthium latifolium

VINES

The poster child for invasive vines is kudzu, known as “the vine that ate the South.” So far, kudzu has spared east central Illinois, remaining to our south and west. But the invasives listed here are winding through our woodlands right now. When plant shopping, watch for terms like “vigorous,” “rampant growth,” or “establishes quickly.” These plants could be invasive. Or they may just require diligence to keep them in bounds! Some natives are more assertive than others. Colorful trumpet vine, for instance, can spread by suckering freely and may need heavy pruning to restrict its size.

! REMOVE NOW Plants with this symbol are illegal to plant, sell, or transport, per the Illinois Exotic Weed Act.

STOP THE SPREAD



*CHRIS EVANS, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

sweet autumn clematis
Clematis terniflora



ESTEVE CONAWAY

! **Oriental bittersweet**
Celastrus orbiculatus



*CHUCK BARGERON, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

! **Hall's honeysuckle**
Lonicera japonica “Halliana”

MATT FLETCHER



BEAUTIFUL CATAYA



LEONORA ENKING



Dutchman's pipe
Aristolochia durior
trumpet vine / trumpet creeper
Campsis radicans
Virginia creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

*GENA TODIA, WETLAND RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING



CAROL JACOBS-CARRE



USFWS



American wisteria
Wisteria frutescens
riverbank grape
Vitis riparia
American bittersweet
Celastrus scandens

PEGANUM



SB JOHNNY



JOHN HILTY, ILLINOIS WILDFLOWERS



leather flower / bluebill
Clematis pitcheri
virgin's bower / woodbine
Clematis virginiana
grape honeysuckle
Lonicera reticulata

GROUND COVERS

Groundcovers are a welcome alternative to grass lawns—a carpet of varied green texture. But even in your yard, some don't know when to stop. Snow on the mountain (a.k.a. bishop's weed or goutweed) is among those that love to drift. In the wild, invasive groundcovers can smother wildflowers and seedlings of the next generation of trees. When native plants disappear, a chain reaction starts. Next to go are insects that depend on native plants. Then birds who feed on those insects will decline. Ultimately, other wildlife and the entire ecosystem suffer. Planting natives in your garden has the opposite effect. Your homegrown pocket of nature can help insects, birds, and wildlife thrive.

STOP THE SPREAD

*DAN TENAGLIA, MISSOURIPLANTS.COM



**common periwinkle /
common myrtle** *Vinca minor*

JERZY OPIOLA



bishop's weed / goutweed
Aegopodium podagraria

*RICHARD OLD, XID SERV. INC.



Creeping Jenny / moneywort
Lysimachia nummularia

*JAMES H. MILLER, USDA FOREST SERVICE



wintercreeper
Euonymus fortunei

GROW NATIVES INSTEAD

TIM WATERS



bearberry / kinnikinnick
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

JOHN BEETHAM



bloodroot
Sanguinaria canadensis

KRZYSZTOF ZIARNEK, KENRAIZ



Pennsylvania sedge
Carex pensylvanica

*CHARLES T. BRYSON, USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE



fragrant sumac
Rhus aromatica

PATRICE/76500



Allegheny spurge
Pachysandra procumbens

LAHVAK



Canada mayflower
Maianthemum canadense

ANDREY ZHARKIKH



alum root
Heuchera villosa

MICHAEL WOLF



wild ginger
Asarum canadense

AQUATIC PLANTS

The gorgeous native wetland plants shown here provide healthy habitat for fish, frogs, dragonflies, and other wild creatures. Invasive aquatic plants can take over waterways and clog pipes and boat motors. Although common water hyacinth and water lettuce generally prefer warm climates, milder temperatures have brought them into areas previously believed unsuitable. The roster of invasives for a particular region changes as climate shifts and plants migrate, either by natural means or with help from humans. HIPP keeps a “watch list” of potential invaders. You can help by reporting sightings of both current and potential invasives. Visit ilhipp.org to learn more.

STOP THE SPREAD

*FOREST & KIM STARR, STARR ENV.



water lettuce
Pistia stratiotes

ANDREAS KAY



common water hyacinth
Eichhornia crassipes

*ROB ROUTLEDGE, SAULT COLLEGE



narrowleaf cattail
Typha angustifolia

NANCY MAGNUSSON



DAN MULLEN



COREY RAIMOND



lizard's tail
Saururus cernuus
longleaf pondweed
Potamogeton nodosus
**bottlebrush /
longhair sedge**
Carex comosa

KERRY WOODS



PETER GORMAN



CEPHAS



**American white
water-lily**
Nymphaea odorata
green bulrush
Scirpus atrovirens
pickerelweed
Pontederia cordata

JOHN HILTY, ILLINOIS WILDFLOWERS



DANIELLE LANGLOS



JOHN HILTY, ILLINOIS WILDFLOWERS



giant bur-reed
Sparganium eurycarpum
blue flag
Iris versicolor
sweet flag
Acorus calamus

GROW NATIVES INSTEAD