



## IDENTIFYING INVASIVES

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

## ACQUIRING NATIVE PLANTS

To learn more about native plants and where to acquire them, visit [ilhipp.org/native-plants](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://ilhipp.org) or contact us at [hippcwma@gmail.com](mailto: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*

USFWS 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

\*ROB ROUNTLEDGE, SAULT COLLEGE



**dame's rocket**  
*Hesperis matronalis*

\*LINDA WILSON,  
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO



 **purple loosestrife**  
*Lythrum salicaria*

\*JOHN CARDINA,  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



 **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 nativars—cultivars bred to stay upright better. Choices include “Sioux Blue” Indian grass, “Prairie Blues” little bluestem, and “Northwind” or “Prairie Fire” switchgrass.

## GROW NATIVES INSTEAD

COLORADO ART STUDIO



**prairie dropseed**  
*Sporobolus heterolepis*

DREW AVERY



**little bluestem**  
*Schizachyrium scoparium*

JOSHUA MAYER



**Indian grass**  
*Sorghastrum nutans*

JENNIFER BRIGGS / USFWS



**big bluestem**  
*Andropogon gerardii*

## STOP THE SPREAD

\*LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF,  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



**Chinese silvergrass**  
*Miscanthus sinensis*

\*JOHN RUTER, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



**giant reed**  
*Arundo donax*

UNIKORNO



**fountain grass**  
*Pennisetum alopecuroides*

AARON GUNNER



**prairie cordgrass**  
*Spartina pectinata*

\*JOSEPH M. DITOMASO,  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS



**plume grass**  
*Saccharum ravennae*

KATJA SCHULZ



**northern sea oats**  
*Chasmanthium latifolium*

WILL POLLARD



**bottlebrush grass**  
*Elymus hystrix*

\*LESLIE J. MEHRHOFF,  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT



**Amur silvergrass**  
*Miscanthus sacchariflorus*

# 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.

## GROW NATIVES INSTEAD

PATRICE/76500



**Allegheny spurge**  
*Pachysandra procumbens*

TIM WATERS



**bearberry/kinnikinnick**  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

LAHVAK



**Canada mayflower**  
*Maianthemum canadense*

JOHN BEETHAM



**bloodroot**  
*Sanguinaria canadensis*

ANDREY ZHARKIKH



**alum root**  
*Heuchera villosa*

KRZYSZTOF ZIARNEK, KEN RAIZ



**Pennsylvania sedge**  
*Carex pensylvanica*

MICHAEL WOLF



**wild ginger**  
*Asarum canadense*

\*CHARLES T. BRYSON, USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE



**fragrant sumac**  
*Rhus aromatica*

## STOP THE SPREAD

\*DAN TENAGLIA, MISSOURI PLANTS.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*

# 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](http://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