

Choose Native Plants!

Individual actions can prevent the spread of invasive plant species and enhance the health of our landscapes.

Invasive species cause significant environmental and economic harm. Of the 235 woody plants known to invade natural areas in the United States, 85 percent were introduced primarily for ornamental and landscape purposes, while another 14 percent were introduced for agricultural uses. They alter 3 million acres of habitat annually and cost \$36 billion dollars a year to control and eradicate. This is why many states in New England have enacted legislation to ban the sale, propagation, and distribution of known invasive species and also monitor new species on the landscape for possible threats.



In recent years, some growers and nurseries have tried to satisfy customers who like plants they can no longer easily obtain by developing sterile cultivars of invasive species. This creates confusion for the public, land managers, and state agencies, and also adds plants to the landscape that have little wildlife value.

For your garden, you can choose from among the many species native to New England that perform well in designed spaces, are adapted to conditions, and have tremendous wildlife value. Using native species helps connect your garden with the larger landscape and helps heal the damaging effects of invasive species.



INVASIVE PLANTS

Native Plant Trust

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use.

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Please join today at
www.NativePlantTrust.org

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What Are Invasive Plants?

Some non-native plant species become "overachievers": they thrive in their new locations without the insects and diseases that would normally limit their growth. Once established in natural areas, they outcompete native species and become a major threat to habitats. Some invasive plants have escaped from our home gardens and public plantings into natural areas, causing profound environmental and economic damage.

Each state has developed a list of problematic plants, including ones that are illegal to sell but are still available through catalogs and the internet. Please learn about the species considered invasive in your area, identify the invasives on your property ((see Go Botany at NativePlantTrust.org), and create a plan for eliminating them. Replace them with native plants that are both beautiful and beneficial for pollinators and wildlife.

Native Plant Trust
Conserving and promoting
New England's native plants

Invasive Plants



Norway maple
(*Acer platanoides*)



Border privet
(*Ligustrum obtusifolium*)



Autumn olive
(*Elaeagnus umbellata*)



Yellow iris
(*Iris pseudacorus*)



Multiflora rose
(*Rosa multiflora*)



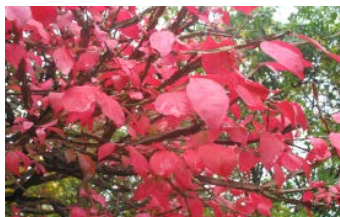
Shrub-like honeysuckle
(*Lonicera morrowii*, *L. maackii*,
and *L. tatarica*)



Glossy buckthorn
(*Frangula alnus*)



Bishop's goutweed
(*Aegopodium podagraria*)



Burning bush
(*Euonymus alatus*)



Asian bittersweet
(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Native Alternatives

These alternatives offer the same color and texture as the invasive species, while also providing important food and habitat for insects and birds.



Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
replaces Norway maple



Inkberry holly (*Ilex glabra*)
replaces border privet



Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
replaces autumn olive



Blue iris (*Iris versicolor*)
replaces yellow iris



Carolina or Virginia Rose
(*Rosa carolina*, *Rosa virginiana*)
replaces multiflora rose



Bush honeysuckle
(*Diervilla lonicera*)
replaces shrub-like honeysuckle



Black chokeberry
(*Aronia melanocarpa*) replaces
glossy buckthorn



Heart-leaved golden Alexanders
(*Zizia aptera*)
replaces bishop's goutweed



Maple-leaved viburnum
(*Viburnum acerifolium*)
replaces burning bush



Fox grape (*Vitis labrusca*)
replaces Asian bittersweet

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Learn which plants are invasive in your state and how to control them by visiting www.NativePlantTrust.org/conservation/invasive.
- Purchase and grow only non-invasive plants.
- Ask your local nursery or garden shop to stop selling invasive plants.
- Educate your neighbors to avoid repeated infestations on your property.
- Get your garden club involved in removing invasive plants and informing your community about them.
- Volunteer to help control invasive plants in your region.
- Take a class on invasives and on gardening with native plants (www.NativePlantTrust.org/learn).
- Join Native Plant Trust!

CONTROLLING INVASIVES

- **Pull and dig** herbaceous plants with woody stems less than 1" diameter.
- **Use a weed wrench** for stems up to 3" diameter. This device pulls the plant, roots, and suckers.
- **Cut or mow** to keep plants from going to seed, being careful to bag and properly dispose of all plant parts to avoid spreading the problem.
- **Cover and smother** invasive plants with cardboard, weed barriers, or black plastic. This method creates less soil disturbance than pulling or digging.
- **Dispose** of invasives properly. Put cuttings in a black plastic trash bag and let it sit in the sun for 4-6 weeks before disposal. Never put cuttings, root fragments, or seed materials of invasives into your compost or your town's compost pile.
- **Leave chemical treatments to certified professionals**, and use only as a last resort, as the chemicals are ecologically troublesome and potentially harmful to humans.