



Skylands Program Invasive Species & Native Alternatives Manual

Please keep this in your wallet
to reference next time you visit
your local garden center.

Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are introduced species that can thrive in areas beyond their natural range of dispersal. These plants are characteristically adaptable, aggressive, and have a high reproductive capacity. Invasive plants out-compete the surrounding natives. TNC has been working in NJ since 1955 and has protected 45,000 acres; one of our main initiatives is to slow the spread of invasive species. One way to do this is to educate and inform citizens about the impact of the invasive species and provide them with resources and alternatives to planting exotic plants.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

The Nature Conservancy reduces the impact of invasive species on the landscapes and natural communities of preserved land managed by the Conservancy. Land Stewardship projects and volunteer workdays have resulted in the removal of over 150 acres since 2004. The most aggressive invasive species in the Skylands are Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).

For more information about The Nature Conservancy or invasive species in the Skylands, please contact Eric Olsen, the Skylands Program Manager at (908)955-0339 or colsen@tnc.org

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For more information and references, please access the link to the TNC invasives website
<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/>

For centuries, horticulture has been rearranging the planet's flora by transporting seeds, crops, and prized specimens across vast land mass and oceans. Some of these plants have altered ecosystem processes, displaced native species, and hybridized- changing the genetic makeup. Gardeners can play a major role in helping to prevent ecological damage due to plant invasion by growing native alternatives that offer the same desirable traits as imports.

The first list of plants are considered category 1, meaning that these plants are clearly invasive in the New York metropolitan area. Common names are followed by botanical names in italics. Avoid selecting or using these varieties and instead, consider a native alternative from the second list to encourage the spread of beautiful plants native to the Skylands!

Category 1 Invasive Plants

Amur honeysuckle (shrub)
Lonicera maackii
Amur river privet (hedge)
Ligustrum obtusifolium
Autumn olive (shrub)
Elaeagnus umbellata
Beach rose (flower)
Rosa rugosa
Burning bush (shrub)
Euonymus alata
Chinese lespedeza (hedge)
Lespedeza cuneata
Common buckthorn (tree)
Rhamnus cathartica
Eurasian watermilfoil (aquatic)
Myriophyllum spicatum
Garlic mustard (herb/hedge)
Alliaria petiolata
Japanese barberry (shrub)
Berberis thunbergii
Japanese honeysuckle (shrub)
Lonicera japonica
Japanese knotweed (hedge)
Polygonum cuspidatum

Japanese stilt grass (grass)
Microstegium vimineum
Mile-a-minute-weed (vine)
Polygonum perfoliatum
Multiflora rose (shrub)
Rosa multiflora
Norway maple (tree)
Acer platanoides
Oriental bittersweet (shrub)
Celastrus orbiculatus
Phragmites (reed)
Phragmites communis
Porcelainberry (vine)
Ampelopsis brevipedicularis
Purple loosestrife (flower)
Lythrum salicaria
Smooth buckthorn (shrub)
Rhamnus frangula
Sycamore maple (tree)
Acer pseudo-platanoides
Tree-of-heaven (tree)
Ailanthus altissima
Water chestnut (aquatic)
Trapa natans
Wineberry (shrub)
Rubus phoenicolasius

Native Alternatives

Mountain laurel (shrub)
Kalmia latifolia
Wild geranium (flower/perennial)
Geranium maculatum
Woodland aster (flower)
Eurybia divaricata
Christmas fern (fern)
Polystichum acrostichoides
Winterberry (shrub)
Ilex verticillata
Swamp milkweed (flower/perennial)
Asclepias incarnata
Little bluestem (field grass/ flower)
Schizachyrium scoparium
Spring beauty (flower/ hedge)
Claytonia virginica
Spicebush (shrub)
Lindera benzoin
Highbush blueberry (shrub)
Vaccinium corymbosum
Red maple (tree)
Acer rubrum