

# Invasive Non-native Plants in the Upper Thames River Watershed



Honeysuckle

The plants listed below are non-native species that have become invasive problem weeds in the Upper Thames River watershed (Middlesex, Oxford, and Perth Counties). They can spread into natural areas and forests, displacing native plants and the wildlife that depends on them. These non-native species should not be planted. Where possible, they should be removed to prevent further invasion.

## Invasive Trees

Common Name	Scientific Name
Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>
Manitoba Maple	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Weeping Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
English Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
White (Silver) Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>
Sweet Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Crack Willow	<i>Salix euxina</i>
European Mountain-ash	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Siberian Elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>



Norway Maple

## Invasive Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name
European Black Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Winged Euonymus	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>
Glossy Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>
European Privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Tatarian Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>
European Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
European Red Currant	<i>Ribes rubrum</i>
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Common Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>
Cranberry Viburnum	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>



Glossy Buckthorn

Invasive Vines and Woody Groundcovers	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Lesser Periwinkle, Myrtle	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Black Swallowwort	<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i>
European Swallowwort, Dog-strangling Vine	<i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i>

Invasive Herbaceous Plants	
<p>Herbaceous plants are non-woody plants that die back every year and re-grow from seed or perennial roots. They may be native in floodplains, but likely escaped from cultivation elsewhere.</p>	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Goutweed	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>
Creeping Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Wild (False) Chervil	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Common Wormwood	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
Flowering-rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>
Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>
Greater Celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>
Canada Thistle, Field Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
European Lily-of-the-valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i> var. <i>majalis</i>
Hairy Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Cypress Spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>
Leafy Spurge	<i>Euphorbia virgata</i>
Smooth Bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Ground-ivy, Gill-over-the-ground	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Jerusalem Artichoke, Sunchoke (1)	<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>
Orange Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>
Giant Hogweed (2)	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Hydrilla (in ponds)	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
European Frog-bit (in ponds)	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>
Purple Jewelweed, Himalayan Balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
Yellow Iris, Yellow Flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Purple Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>
Everlasting Pea, Sweet Pea	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Sweet-clover	<i>Melilotus</i> spp.
Lemon Balm	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>
Peppermint	<i>Mentha x piperita</i>
Eurasian Water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
Wild Marjoram, Oregano	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>
Wild Parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>
European Reed, Phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>
Purple Crown-vetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>
White Campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
Sow-thistles	<i>Sonchus</i> spp.
Common Tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>



Dog-strangling Vine



## The Problem with Invasive Non-native Plants

Over 500 species of non-native plants grow “wild” in Ontario. Most of these plants were brought here from other countries or regions for food, medicine, or gardens. Not all are invasive or aggressive. The ones that have escaped cultivation and have spread widely are called invasive and are the most concerning. Many alien plants are so common, people think of them as native species.

Many non-native plants have characteristics that allow them to invade natural areas and forests. These plants:

- produce a lot of seed or have aggressive rhizomes,
- can grow in a range of soil and moisture conditions,
- are not eaten by native wildlife,
- out-compete and replace native plants, and
- do not provide the food and habitat required by native insects, birds or mammals.



White Mulberry

**Giant Hogweed Alert!** Sap from the plant can cause severe blistering and painful dermatitis. See the UTRCA [fact sheet](#) for more information.



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Giant Hogweed

### Removing Invasive Plants

By their nature, invasive plants can be tough to get remove. Be persistent! Some methods are listed below.

- For shrubs and trees, cut or girdle. Cut any suckers (off-shoots) that re-grow repeatedly.
- For perennials, cut off the top of the plant before it flowers to weaken it and prevent seeding.
- For small shrubs and perennials, pull or dig up and remove individual plants. Do **not** compost these cuttings/plants as they can re-sprout or the seeds may remain viable. Put them in black plastic garbage bags in the trash.
- For groundcovers, lay heavy black plastic over the plants for a growing season to smother and kill.
- For large infestations, apply an appropriate herbicide on persistent trees, shrubs, and plants (foliar or basal bark treatment). Consult a licensed pesticide applicator for advice.
- For giant hogweed, seek professional advice and visit the UTRCA [fact sheet](#).



Multiflora Rose

### Helpful Websites:

- [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca)
- [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)

### Additional Information at [www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca):

- [Recommended Native Trees and Shrubs](#)
- [Recommended Native Wildflowers and Grasses](#)
- [Recommended Tallgrass Prairie Plants](#)
- [Nurseries that Sell Native Plants](#)
- [Giant Hogweed fact sheet](#)
- [Exotic Non-native Wildlife List](#)

UPPER THAMES RIVER

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