

Invasive Non-Native Plants in the Upper Thames River Watershed

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 depend on them. These non-native species should not be planted. Where possible, they should be removed to prevent further invasion.

Invasive Trees, Shrubs, Vines & Woody Groundcovers

Trees

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

Shrubs

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



Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)

Vines & Woody Groundcovers

<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Common Wormwood
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle, Myrtle
<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i>	Black Swallowwort
<i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i>	European Swallowwort, Dog-strangling Vine



European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

The Problem with Invasive Non-native Plants

More than 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 predators,
- out-compete and replace native plants, and
- do not provide the food and habitat required by many native insects, birds or animals.

Removing Invasive Plants

By their nature, invasive plants can be tough to get rid of. Be persistent! Methods of removal include:

- Cut or girdle shrubs or trees. Repeatedly cut any suckers (off-shoots) that re-grow.
- For perennials, cut off the top of the plant before it flowers to weaken the plant and prevent seeding.
- Pull or dig up and remove individual plants or shrubs.
- Do NOT compost these plants as they may re-sprout or the seeds may remain viable. Put cuttings/plants in black plastic garbage bags and put in the garbage.
- Lay heavy black plastic over invasive groundcover for a season to smother and kill the non-native plants.
- Apply (spot treat) an appropriate herbicide for persistent trees, shrubs, and plants or for large infestations. Consult a licensed pesticide applicator for advice.
- Seek professional advice for Giant Hogweed. See UTRCA factsheet.

Invasive Herbaceous Plants

(Plants that die back every year and re-grow from seed or perennial roots)

<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed	<i>Leonurus cardiac</i>	Common Motherwort
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugleweed	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Garden Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Alkekengi officinarum</i>	Strawberry Ground-cherry, Chinese Lantern	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Wild or False Chervil	<i>Melilotus</i> spp.	Sweet Clover
<i>Asperula odorata</i>	Sweet Woodruff	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Lemon Balm
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering-rush	<i>Mentha x piperita</i>	Peppermint
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	European Bellflower	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian Water-milfoil
<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Spotted Knapweed	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Wild Marjoram, Oregano
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Field Thistle	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed, Phragmites
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	European Lily-of-the-valley	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Common Buttercup
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown Vetch	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed
<i>Elymus repens</i>	Quackgrass	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock, Yellow Dock
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	<i>Securigera varia</i>	Purple Crown-vetch
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Hairy Willow-herb	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	<i>Sonchus</i> spp.	Sow-thistles
<i>Euphorbia virgata</i>	Leafy Spurge	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common Tansy
<i>Galium molluga</i>	White Bedstraw	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy, Gill-over-the-ground	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Common Speedwell
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem Artichoke*		
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Orange Daylily		
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant Hogweed**		
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket		
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	European Frog's-bit		
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. John's-wort		
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Purple Jewelweed		
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris, Yellow Flag		
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Purple Dead-nettle		
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	Everlasting Pea, Sweet Pea		

* May be native in floodplains.

** GIANT HOGWEED ALERT!

Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) poses a serious hazard for humans. Its clear, watery sap contains toxins that can cause severe skin inflammation. You can get severe burns if the sap gets on your skin and the skin is then exposed to sunlight. See UTRCA factsheet.



Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
Photo: J Perreira, courtesy Ontario Invasive Plant Council



Common Reed, Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)

Helpful Websites

- Ontario Invasive Plant Council - www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca
- Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program - www.invadingspecies.com

Additional Information at www.thamesriver.on.ca

- Recommended native trees and shrubs; wildflowers and grasses; tallgrass prairie plants
- Nurseries that sell native plants
- Giant Hogweed and Buckthorn factsheets
- Exotic non-native wildlife list



Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
(519) 451-2800
info@thamesriver.on.ca
www.thamesriver.on.ca

List compiled by Upper Thames River Conservation Authority staff, updated 2021.