

# Watch for Pesky Plants

Managing invasive plants and identifying alternatives



## What are invasive plants?

Invasive species are plants that are not native to our region, and have a tendency to grow aggressively. They have been taken from their native environments and introduced to ours by both humans and wildlife. Invasive species take over and make it hard or impossible for native plants to grow and thrive.

## Why should I control invasive plants?

When you take action against them, you are helping keep them in check. You are also helping save wildlife. Some invasive plants eradicate native plant species that serve as vital food sources to birds, bees, and small animals.

## What should I plant instead of invasive and exotic species?

Native plant species are great! They are best adapted to our region, requiring less water and care than most exotic species. Not sure where to buy native plants? Call our office or visit our website for a list of native plant sellers.

## How can I get rid of them?

Depending on the plant, there are many methods you can try:

- Hand pulling – Pull plants at the base, so the roots come up with it.
- Mechanical Pulling – Use Weed Wrenches or pry bars to pull tougher invasive plants from the ground.
- Cut Stump – Cut the plant or tree at the base, and then spot treat it with an herbicide. This will kill the plant without harming nearby plants.

Stumped? Contact our office for help choosing which to use.

## Common Invasive Plants You May Find in Your Yard



Jeff Evans

Garlic Mustard



James R. Allison, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

Autumn Olive



Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

Common Buckthorn



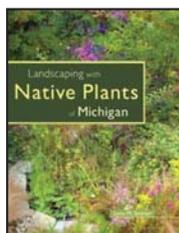
Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Phragmites

## Helpful Resources for Identifying Plants

- Midwest Invasive Species Information Network  
<http://www.misin.msu.edu/>
- Michigan DNR  
<https://www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies>
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
<http://plants.usda.gov>

## Great Reads to Get Started



### Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan

by Lynn M. Steiner

This book is loaded with pictures and includes a very complete section of native plant profiles listed by type of plant and uses for it.

### A Field Identification Guide to Invasive Plants in Michigan's Natural Communities

Compiled by the MSU Extension Office in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Natural Features Inventory, this guide is highly recommended for identifying invasive plant species in Michigan.



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