



# THE INVASIVE PLANT PROBLEM

**SOME PLANTS MAY LOOK BEAUTIFUL,** but can have a devastating effect. Invasive plants are non-native, grow quickly, and reproduce rapidly. They cause major changes to the areas where they become established. They can harm the environment, economy, and even human health. Most of today's worst invasive plants arrived as ornamental additions that escaped our gardens and landscapes. If we want to keep invasive plants out of our natural areas, we need to place non-invasive plants in our gardens. The good news—and an outcome that few other areas can claim—is that within New York State, opportunities still exist to prevent invasive plants from becoming widespread. You can help.

**INVASIVE SPECIES** are the number one threat to native plants and animals on protected lands.

**INVASIVE PLANTS** are spreading over one million acres of wildlife habitat per year in the U.S.

**SCIENTISTS ESTIMATE** that invasive plants cost our economy \$35 billion in damages and treatment each year.



Invasive Swallow-wort  
(*Cynanchum* spp.)

## The New York Statewide Invasive Species Program

### Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs)

DEC works with eight PRISMs across the state to coordinate invasive species management, including:

- conducting control and eradication of infestations,
- offering education and support,
- organizing partner efforts, and
- recruiting and training volunteers.

### Want to get involved?

Find your local PRISM at  
<https://on.ny.gov/prisms>

**New York State**  
**Department of Environmental Conservation**  
Division of Lands and Forests  
Bureau of Invasive Species  
and Ecosystem Health  
625 Broadway Albany, NY 12233  
P: (518) 402-9425 | [isinfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:isinfo@dec.ny.gov)  
[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

Photos from: Bugwood.org, Lady Bird Johnson  
Wildflower Center, and Cornell University eCommons.

# PLANT WISE NY



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GROW

NEW YORK GARDENERS' TIPSHEET

Native Cardinal Flower  
(*Lobelia cardinalis*)



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

## DON'T PLANT



Bamboo  
(*Phyllostachys* spp.)

## DO PLANT



White Spruce  
(*Picea glauca*)



Chinese Silver Grass  
(*Miscanthus sinensis*)



Big Bluestem  
(*Andropogon gerardii*)



Garden Loosetrife  
(*Lysimachia vulgaris*)



Foxglove Beardtongue  
(*Penstemon digitalis*)



Winter Creeper  
(*Euonymus fortunei*)



Christmas Fern  
(*Polystichum acrostichoides*)



Yellow Flag Iris  
(*Iris pseudacorus*)



Blue Flag Iris  
(*Iris versicolor*)

# HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO

**LEARN** about which invasive plants are a problem in your area. If you see invasive plants in the wild, report them to <https://www.nyimapinvasives.org>.

**USE** native and non-invasive plants in your garden and landscaping. In addition to this brochure, you can find more suggestions at <http://bit.ly/choosenativeplants>.

**WATCH** out for invasive plant “hitchhikers” that might be growing in pots bought at a nursery or shared among friends. Inspect the soil for invasive animal species such as Asian jumping worms.

**CHECK** the ingredients of seed mixes and use only those that are free of invasive plants.

**CONTROL** invasive plants on your property using best management practices. Consult your local Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) for more information.

**LEAD** by example—ask your friends and neighbors to be plant wise.

**GET** involved with regional efforts to prevent and manage invasive species. See the back side of this brochure to learn more.

## DON'T PLANT

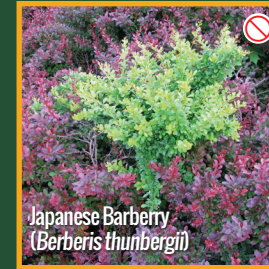


Burning Bush  
(*Euonymus alatus*)

## DO PLANT



Highbush Blueberry  
(*Vaccinium corymbosum*)



Japanese Barberry  
(*Berberis thunbergii*)



Virginia Rose  
(*Rosa virginiana*)



Norway Maple  
(*Acer platanoides*)



Oak  
(*Quercus* spp.)



Siebold's Viburnum  
(*Viburnum sieboldii*)



American Elderberry  
(*Sambucus canadensis*)



Sweet Autumn Clematis  
(*Clematis terniflora*)



Virgin's Bower  
(*Clematis virginiana*)