



Controlling Invasive Species

What are Invasive Plants?

Invasive plants are usually non-native species that have been introduced intentionally or by accident and spread from human settings into natural areas with negative effects to our economy, environmental or health. They show up in overwhelming quantities in our lawns, gardens, business landscapes, pastures, woodland areas, and agricultural fields. They spread aggressively taking over natural areas and alter biological communities.

Why should we try to control invasive plants?

Invasive species are one of the top threats to our natural heritage. Invasive plants can displace native species, eliminate food and habitat for wildlife, alter natural fire regimes and nutrient cycling in soils, and inhibit native plant regeneration. The seeds of invasive plants are well adapted to spreading to new environments.

What You Can Do to Help

You can help stop the spread of invasive species by following these easy guidelines:

- Learn about the plants that you have on your property. Remove those identified as invasive before they become a problem and replace them with non-invasive and native plants in your landscaped areas.
- When shopping for plants, confirm with your local nursery staff that they are not invasive before you make your purchase.
- Clean your shoes and pants after hiking to get rid of weed seeds. Weed seeds can be carried in soil trapped in the treads of your shoes, in the soil of transplanted plants and even on your pants legs.
- Volunteer at your local park, refuge or other wildlife area to help remove invasive species. Spread the word and help educate others about the threat.
- Be a Citizen Scientist - Report and map out invasive plant sightings with **Statewide Eyes**. http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/statewide_eyes.aspx). The Maryland Natural Heritage Program designed **Statewide Eyes** to allow volunteers and researchers alike to collect more information about invasive plants on state lands quickly.





Tree of Heaven



Honeysuckle

Twelve Invasive Species Found In Maryland

- Autumn Olive
- Canada Thistle
- English Ivy
- Garlic Mustard
- Japanese Barberry
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Japanese Stiltgrass
- Johnson Grass
- Mile-a-Minute
- Multiflora Rose
- Tree-of-Heaven
- Wintercreeper

Resources:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources - dnr.maryland.gov/invasives

Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas – www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEn/index.htm

Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council – www.maipc.org

MDinvasives.org

Picture Sources - Wikipedia

The Nature Conservancy

The University of Maryland Extension –

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/problems/invasive-plants>

A typical non-native invasive plant...

has some or all of the following characteristics:

- *Grows fast and matures early.*
- *Spreads quickly over large areas; thrives in many habitats.*
- *Reproduces profusely by seed and/or vegetative structures.*
- *Survives and produces seeds under adverse environmental conditions.*
- *Has few known diseases or pests.*



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