



Forest invaded with bush honeysuckle

You CAN make a difference. If we all work together to help identify exotic, invasive plants, we will discourage their use in yards and natural areas. Please do not support the nursery industry by purchasing and installing harmful, invasive exotic plant species.



Woodland obliterated by garlic mustard

How Can I Help?

- ✓ Learn to identify invasive species.
- ✓ Do not buy, sell, recommend or plant these species.
- ✓ Encourage nurseries to avoid handling invasive, exotic plants.
- ✓ Volunteer with your local organizations to rid natural areas of these plants.
- ✓ Aggressively eradicate invasive species on your own property.
- ✓ Plant native species in your yard, at schools and businesses.

Native Alternatives

Please use some of the following native plants in your landscaping at home instead of invasive, exotic plants. You will help improve the environment while providing beneficial habitat for our wildlife and leave a legacy for future generations.

Trees

Common Chokecherry, Shagbark Hickory, Redbud, Tulip Tree, Sour Gum, White Oak, Basswood, Bur Oak, Black Oak

Shrubs

Indigo Bush, Silky Dogwood, Rose Mallow, Pussy Willow, Sumac, Winterberry Holly

Flowers

Phlox, Wild Geranium, Jacob's Ladder, Virginia Waterleaf, Blazing Star, Wild Columbine, Swamp Milkweed, Sunflowers, Turtlehead, Black-eyed Susan, Mountain Mint, Blue Flag Iris, Joe Pye Weed, Blue Lobelia, Cardinalflower, Vervain

Grasses

Switch Grass, Indian Grass, Virginia Wild Rye, Prairie Cord Grass, Big Bluestem



Native and diverse prairie planting with Black-eyed Susan, Wild Bergamot, Butterflyweed, Purple Coneflower and native grasses provides food, shelter and nesting sites for wildlife.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Information provided by
Naturally Native Nursery



Common Reed
Phragmites australis

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What Are Invasive, Exotic Plants?

Invasive plants are those plants that spread quickly in a given area. **Exotic or non-native plants** are those plants that have been brought to an area from another region or country for food, medicine, landscaping or by accident. These plants can choke out our native flora and destroy wildlife habitat. **Some of the invasive plants are so aggressive that they cover and kill native plants by shading, choking or chemically poisoning the soil.**

Who Plants Invasive Plants?

Many unknowing homeowners, landscapers and departments of transportation use these plants in their yards and designs because they don't care, or more importantly, because *they don't know*. Nurseries supply them and we plant them in our yards, places of business and on our properties. Most exotic plants are very beautiful, with colorful flowers and attractive foliage. But beware! Death lies in the beauty.

How Do Invasive Plants Spread?

Homeowners purchase these plants unknowingly from nurseries. We take them home to our yards and plant them. Some invasive species spread by roots, others by seed carried by wind, birds or other wildlife. Kudzu grows about 60 feet in one season. English Ivy can spread from roots or cuttings. Purple loosestrife produces millions of seed that float away or are carried away on feet of waterfowl or equipment. Common reed, or *Phragmites* sends out shoots across the water surface or on top of or under the ground. Multiflora rose and Buckthorn produce seeds that birds eat and then fly miles away before depositing them to grow in new locations.

Why Should I NOT Use Exotic Plants In My Yard?

Many exotic plants, especially invasive ones, can spread rapidly. Their aggressive nature can destroy native vegetation very quickly by releasing harmful chemicals, shading or

choking out other plants, producing many seeds and monopolizing all of the nutrients and moisture in the soil.

In a study conducted by Cornell University, it was estimated that \$137 billion dollars are spent annually in the U.S. to eradicate invasive, exotic plant and animal species. This is paid for by YOUR tax dollars.

Exotic plants impact our native vegetation and wildlife. Insect pollinators are being driven out of their natural habitats. Butterflies are losing host plant species. We are losing our native plants, while many birds and mammals are losing their homes and food. Exotic vegetation often does not provide the necessary nesting areas, food and shelter for many birds and mammals that use these plants for nesting are falling prey to predators. **Some exotic plants produce fruit that can physically harm or kill some bird species.** Invasive, exotic plants are changing the face of our natural areas and landscapes and we CAN and SHOULD do something about it.

Wetland exotic plants, such as Purple Loosestrife, Common Reed and Reed Canary Grass have detrimental effects on water quality and flow, destroying habitat for waterfowl, fish and amphibians. **Frog mortality in waterways choked with Purple Loosestrife can be as high as 50%.**

Why SHOULD I Use Native Plants?

Native plants have adapted to the climate and soil conditions while the native fauna has utilized the native flora. This means that the plants and animals of the region have co-existed for thousands of years prior to early European settlement. *Nature is a delicate balance in which each of us should take an active role.*

We all have a responsibility to protect the landscape and the animals that depend on it for survival. It is our gift to coming generations that may enjoy the natural world around them.

Ohio's Worst Exotic Plants:

- Autumn Olive
- Buckthorn
- Burning Bush
- Canada Thistle
- Common Reed (*Phragmites*)
- Crown Vetch
- Dame's Rocket
- English Ivy
- Garlic Mustard
- Japanese and Bush Honeysuckles
- Japanese Barberry
- Japanese Knotweed
- Multiflora Rose
- Periwinkle
- Porcelainberry Vine
- Privet
- Purple Loosestrife
- Reed Canary Grass
- Teasel
- Tree of Heaven

If you have any of these plants on your property, please work diligently to eradicate them. They are spreading into vacant fields, forests, natural areas and neighboring yards. If you need help identifying these plants or eradicating them please contact Naturally Native Nursery. We want to help.



Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Of the 3,000 species of plants known in the state of Indiana, about 25% of them are non-native or exotic. Of these non-native species, about 150 of them make up 95% of the entire vegetated landscape.