

## Plants to Avoid: Rhode Island Invasive Plant Species

From: the Rhode Island Natural History Survey's Invasive Species Portal  
([http://odonata.edc.uri.edu/cgi-bin/page.cgi/?page=invasive\\_list](http://odonata.edc.uri.edu/cgi-bin/page.cgi/?page=invasive_list))

Plants that have been assessed and categorized by the Rhode Island Invasive Species Council, as of 2/28/2001

The list does NOT include every plant that is invasive in Rhode Island, but is a list of those plants that have been assessed to date, using the established criteria\*.

### Widespread and Invasive

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Fanwort
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Asiatic Bittersweet
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> [= <i>Fallopia japonica</i> ]	Japanese Knotweed
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curly Pondweed
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose
<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i> [= <i>Cynanchum nigrum</i> ]	Black Swallowwort

### Restricted and Invasive

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> <sup>a</sup>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> <sup>a</sup>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelain-berry
<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	Variable Water-milfoil
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Watercress
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i> <sup>b</sup>	Wineberry
<i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i> [= <i>Cynanchum rossicum</i> ]	White Swallowwort

### Agreed are invasive but need more information

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acer platanoides</i> <sup>b</sup>	Norway Maple
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> <sup>b</sup>	Japanese Barberry
<i>Euonymus alatus</i> <sup>b</sup>	Burning Bush
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> and <i>Lonicera x Bella</i> <sup>b</sup>	Morrow and Bella Honeysuckle

### Need more research and observation/monitoring

Many of these species are known to be invasive in neighboring states.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore Maple
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Field-garlic
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	European Barberry
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet Creeper
<i>Clematis terniflora</i> [= <i>C. paniculata</i> ]	Autumn Clematis
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Scotch Broom
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Winter Creeper
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket
<i>Iris pseudoacorus</i>	Yellow Flag
<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	Summer Cypress
<i>Ligustrum species</i> <sup>d</sup>	Privet
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Eulalia
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry
<i>Myosotis scropioides</i>	True Forget-me-not
<i>Phellodendron japonicum</i>	Amur Corktree
<i>Phragmites australis</i> <sup>e</sup>	Common Reed
<i>Pinus thunbergiana</i>	Japanese Black Pine
<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	Princess Feather
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> <sup>d</sup> [ = <i>Frangula alnus</i> ]	Glossy Buckthorn
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust

<i>Rosa rugosa</i> <sup>f</sup>	Beach Rose
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Spanish Bayonet

### Potentially Invasive Species

These are invasive in other states but have not yet become so in Rhode Island.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Egeria densa</i> <sup>g</sup> [= <i>Elodea densa</i> ]	Brazilian Waterweed
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> <sup>h</sup>	Hydrilla
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> <sup>i</sup>	Moneywort
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> <sup>i</sup>	Japanese Stiltgrass
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> <sup>h</sup>	Eurasian Water-milfoil
<i>Najas minor</i> <sup>h</sup>	Eutrophic Water-nymph
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i> <sup>k</sup>	Water-lettuce
<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> <sup>l</sup>	Mile-a-minute Weed
<i>Trapa natans</i> <sup>h</sup>	Water-chestnut

### Weedy

Plants of disturbed areas; do not appear to be affecting minimally managed habitats. This list is not even close to all the non-native “weedy” plants in Rhode Island. The ones below were in the original list assessed by the RIISC during 2000; if a plant wasn’t on that list or wasn’t brought up subsequently as potentially meeting the criteria for an invasive species in the state, it is not included here.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Drooping Brome Grass
<i>Centaurea nigra</i> , <i>C. dubia</i> , <i>C. maculosa</i> , etc.	Knapweeds
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown Vetch
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Purple Dead-nettle
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep Sorrel
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	European Nightshade

Footnotes:

- a) Spreading
- b) need more information on its spread in RI
- c) fits Criteria 1-9 and is widespread; need to assess reproductive capabilities of cultivars and hybrids
- d) fits Criteria 1-5 and is spreading; we need to know which species are the ones that naturalize and spread
- e) assessing locations of native non-aggressive populations
- f) fits Criteria 1-9; suggested "fast-track" monitoring
- g) 12/2005: known from one site in the state
- h) 12/2005: not yet confirmed in RI
- i) reported from RI but not assessed as invasive as of 12/2005
- j) "Restricted + invasive" in CT; reported in several RI sites in summer 2005
- k) 12/2005: reported in RI waters but has not yet been found to survive winter
- l) 12/2005: known from one site in the state where it is being controlled

**\*CRITERIA FOR INCLUDING A SPECIES AS A NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES OR A POTENTIALLY INVASIVE SPECIES IN RHODE ISLAND**

These criteria are based on the criteria developed by the G. S. Torrey Herbarium at the University of Connecticut and reviewed and improved by input from many scientists, conservation professionals, and nursery representatives. Additional input came from the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, the Connecticut Biodiversity Forum, and the Definition and Criteria Sub-committee of the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Committee, which includes representatives from the nursery industry. These criteria have been adopted in Connecticut and Massachusetts and proposed as the national model by the American Nursery and Landscape Association.

Summary of how the criteria work.

<b>To be considered:</b>	<b>Criteria that must be met:</b>
Widespread and invasive	1-9, 10A
Restricted and invasive	1-9, 10B
Potentially invasive	1-5, at least 1 of 11-13

The Criteria

For a species to be included as a Non-native Invasive Species or as a Potentially Non-native Invasive Species, it must be substantiated by scientific investigation (including herbarium specimens, peer-reviewed papers, published records, and other data available for public review) to be:

- 1. Nonindigenous to Rhode Island.
- 2. Naturalized.
- 3. Have the biological potential for rapid and widespread dispersion and establishment.
- 4. Have the biological potential for dispersing over spatial gaps away from the site of introduction.
- 5. Have the biological potential for existing in high numbers away from intensively managed artificial habitats.

Further, to be included as a Non-native Invasive Species, a species must be documented to:

- 6. Be widespread in Rhode Island or at least common in a region or habitat type(s) in the state.

7. Have numerous individuals in many populations.
8. Be able to out-compete other species in the same natural community.
9. Have the potential for rapid reproduction and establishment in natural communities.

There are two subdivisions of Non-native Invasive Species. Those that are currently invasive, cause serious management concerns, or pose a serious threat to the biological diversity of the state and are widespread in Rhode Island are designated as Widespread and Invasive. Those that are equally invasive but currently have a restricted distribution in Rhode Island or occur only in a particular region or habitat type in the state are designated as Restricted and Invasive. Species in the latter category may be reclassified as Widespread and Invasive if new populations are found or numbers of populations increase throughout the state.

10A. To be considered Widespread and Invasive, a species must be widespread in Rhode Island with many populations in minimally managed natural habitats.

10B. To be considered Restricted and Invasive, a species must be common in at least part of the state or a particular habitat type(s) in the state and with some populations in minimally managed natural habitats.

If a species meets the initial 5 criteria but does not, at this time, meet Criteria 6-9 (all), it may be included as a Potentially Invasive Species if it meets at least one of Criteria 11-13. In the past, some of these species have been considered invasive in Rhode Island, at least in part because they are known to be invasive in other regions and thus expected to be so here.

11. Have some populations in Rhode Island that have high numbers of individuals forming dense stands in minimally managed habitats.
12. Have the potential, based on its biology and its colonization history in the northeast or elsewhere, to become invasive in Rhode Island.
13. Be acknowledged to be invasive in nearby states but its Rhode Island status is unknown or unclear. This may result from a lack of field experience with the species or from difficulty in species determination or taxonomy.

Careful assessment is needed to determine if all subspecies, varieties, forms, and cultivars are equally invasive. [This final statement is an amendment of the Connecticut and Massachusetts criteria, which state: "Species as used here includes all subspecies, varieties, forms, and cultivars unless otherwise noted."]