

PROPERTY OWNERS -

KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THESE INVASIVE PLANTS that can quickly take over and kill native vegetation on your property and spread to your neighbors.....



PLANT NAME:

Common Reed

(Phragmites australis)



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

WHAT IS SO BAD ABOUT IT?

Although scattered clumps of *Phragmites* provide erosion control and cover for small mammals and birds, it usually forms large, dense stands that provide little value for wildlife. Because it spreads by underground roots ('rhizomes') it can easily choke out more useful wetland plants such as salt marsh hay (*Spartina*) and black grass (*Juncus*) that provide food for dozens of animals in the marsh and surrounding water. Large old stands of this grass create a flash-fire hazard as an acre can burn in minutes.

HOW DO I CONTROL ITS SPREAD OR GET RID OF IT ENTIRELY?

Controlling *Phragmites* in wetlands by any method may require advance approval by state and federal agencies. The safest way to control or eradicate *Phragmites* is to physically cut or mow it or flood it with sea water. Multiple treatments are usually necessary to effectively control a heavy stand. A more intense technique involves spraying herbicides which are approved for aquatic use. Simultaneous planting of more desirable plant species may be necessary to stabilize the affected area. For more information: www.ctdeep.gov

PLANT NAME:

Oriental Bittersweet

(Celastrus orbiculatus)



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

WHAT IS SO BAD ABOUT IT?

Berries are a food source for birds in winter, but are not preferred by most species. This vine quickly becomes a menace because it climbs every vertical surface creating a “hollow monoculture” – a dense canopy with nothing but dead vegetation underneath.

HOW DO I CONTROL ITS SPREAD OR GET RID OF IT ENTIRELY?

Robbing this vine of sunshine slows or stops its growth. Stripping new leaves as they emerge will also kill the vines eventually. In order to kill the roots, a triclopyr-based herbicide is required; apply to the leaves when fully leafed-out so this strong poison doesn't affect surrounding vegetation.

Oriental bittersweet is easily confused with our native species, misnamed ‘false bittersweet’ (*Claustrus scaderis*). This vine is not invasive and supplies attractive berries for the birds in winter, but should be pruned to keep it healthy.

PLANT NAME:

Multiflora Rose

(Rosa multiflora)



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

WHAT IS SO BAD ABOUT IT?

Even though its fruits are sought after by many bird species, this extremely fast growing plant quickly forms impenetrable thickets that over grow all the surrounding vegetation. Since it is spread by seed and root sprouts, it is very difficult to control once established. Many people are allergic to the pollen produced by hedgerows formed by this rose.

HOW DO I CONTROL ITS SPREAD OR GET RID OF IT ENTIRELY?

This plant is best managed by repeated cutting and mowing 3-6 times per growing season for 2-4 years. Herbicides such as glyphosate are only temporarily effective on freshly cut stumps or re-growth, and is best applied late in the growing season. Seeds remain viable for up to 20 years.

PLANT NAME:

Japanese Knotweed

(Polygonum cuspidatum)



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

WHAT IS SO BAD ABOUT IT?

This plant spreads very fast in any open sunny area, crowding out other plants that are far better at stabilizing soils and providing food for wildlife. It is so effective in overgrowing other vegetation that it has earned the nickname “killer bamboo.”

HOW DO I CONTROL ITS SPREAD OR GET RID OF IT ENTIRELY?

This plant needs lightly tilled soil and plenty of sun to flourish so denying either will stop or at least slow down its invasion. Covering an established stand with a black plastic tarp in early spring can be effective. All the edges must be heavily weighted to keep the sprouts from poking through. Covering the whole tarp with mulch or garden containers will aid the process and look much nicer. Any remaining plants should be dug out the following winter.