

DCNR Invasive Plants

DCNR defines invasive plants as those species that are not native to the state, grow aggressively, and spread and displace native vegetation. Invasive plants are generally undesirable because they are difficult and costly to control and can dominate whole habitats, making them environmentally destructive in certain situations.

Not all non-native plants become invasive. In fact, very few actually do. The plants listed here have been determined by DCNR to be invasive on State Forest and State Park lands and may act aggressively in other parts of Pennsylvania. Some of the species listed below are only invasive in certain environmental conditions and there may be cases where they may be used with little environmental risk. This list was compiled through coordinated efforts between ecologists in Pennsylvania and other natural resource partners.

New species cross state borders and some plants that have been here for decades may suddenly become invasive due to changing land uses, changes in weather or climate, or genetic reasons, so this list may change over time and will be updated periodically. **This list is not regulatory.** It is used to guide the management efforts of DCNR lands because of knowledge that these species can become invasive under the right environmental conditions.

To learn more about invasive plants in Pennsylvania and how they can be controlled, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm.

Herbs and Forbs

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	OTHER COMMON NAMES
Goutweed	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Bishop's weed, snow-on-the-mountain, holy hay
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Hedge mustard
Wild chervil	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley, keck, bur chervil
Narrowleaf bittercress	<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Bushy rock-cress
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding thistle
Brown knapweed	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Horse-knobs, rayed knapweed, hardheads
Black knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Lesser or common knapweed, hardheads
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	
Greater celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Tetterwort
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canadian thistle
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	
Crown-vetch	<i>Coronilla varia</i>	
Jimsonweed	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jamestown weed, devil's trumpet, thorn apple
Hairy willow herb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great willowherb
Smallflower hairy willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Fleeceflower, Mexican bamboo
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Sakhalin knotweed
Goatsrue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Holy hay, professor-weed, Italian fitch
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant cow parsnip or parsley, cartwheel flower
Dames rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's violet, dame's gillyflower, dame's wort
Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	
Moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny or Charlie, wandering sailor
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Swamp loosestrife
Star-of-Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum nutans/O. umbellatum</i>	Silver bells, drooping star-of-Bethlehem
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Garden parsnip
Beefsteak plant	<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Chinese basil, purple mint
Bristled knotweed	<i>Persicaria longisetata</i>	Oriental lady's thumb, Asiatic smartweed
Lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Fig buttercup, pilewort

Vines

COMMON NAME

SCIENTIFIC NAME

OTHER COMMON NAMES

Chocolate Vine
Porcelain berry
Oriental bittersweet
Japanese hops
Wintercreeper
English ivy
Japanese honeysuckle
Mile-a-minute
Kudzu
Black swallow-wort
Pale swallow-wort

Akebia quinata
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata
Celastrus orbiculatus
Humulus japonicus
Euonymus fortunei
Hedera helix
Lonicera japonica
Persicaria perfoliata
Pueraria lobata
Vincetoxicum nigrum
Vincetoxicum rossicum

Fiveleaf akebia, raisin vine
Amur peppervine, porcelain vine
Asiatic or round-leaved bittersweet

Climbing euonymus, fortune's spindle
Common ivy
Chinese honeysuckle
Devil's tear-thumb
Vine that ate the South
Louis' or Louise's swallow-wort
European swallow-wort, dog strangling vine

Trees

Norway maple
Sycamore maple
Tree-of-heaven
Mimosa
European black alder
Japanese angelica tree
Empress tree
Callery pear
Siberian elm

Acer platanoides
Acer pseudoplatanus
Ailanthus altissima
Albizia julibrissin
Alnus glutinosa
Aralia elata
Paulownia tomentosa
Pyrus calleryana
Ulmus pumila

Mock plane
Chinese or stinking sumac, tree of hell
Persian silk tree, silktree, silky acacia
Common alder

Princess tree, royal paulownia

Shrubs

Japanese barberry
European barberry
Russian olive
Autumn olive
Winged Euonymus
Glossy buckthorn
Shrubby bushclover
Chinese bushclover
Japanese privet
Border privet
Chinese privet
Common privet
Amur honeysuckle
Morrow's honeysuckle
Bell's honeysuckle
Standish honeysuckle
Tartarian honeysuckle
Common buckthorn
Jetbead
Multiflora rose
Wineberry
Japanese spiraea
Guelder rose

Berberis thunbergii
Berberis vulgaris
Elaeagnus angustifolia
Elaeagnus umbellata
Euonymus alatus
Frangula alnus
Lespedeza bicolor
Lespedeza cuneata
Ligustrum japonicum
Ligustrum obtusifolium
Ligustrum sinense
Ligustrum vulgare
Lonicera maackii
Lonicera morrowii
Lonicera xbella
Lonicera standishii
Lonicera tatarica
Rhamnus cathartica
Rhodotypos scandens
Rosa multiflora
Rubus phoenicolasius
Spiraea japonica
Viburnum opulus var. opulus

Red barberry, Thunberg's barberry
Common barberry
Oleaster, wild olive

Burning bush, winged burning bush, winged wahoo

Shrubby lespedeza
Chinese Lespedeza, sericea lespedeza
Waxleaf ligustrum, wax privet
Blunt-leaved or obtuse-leaved or regal privet

European privet, wild privet

Bella or showy bush or pretty honeysuckle

Purging buckthorn
Black jetbead
Rambler or Japanese or baby or seven-sisters rose
Wine raspberry, Japanese wineberry
Japanese meadowsweet, nippon spiraea
Cranberrybush viburnum, red elder, cramp bark

Aquatic Plants

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	OTHER COMMON NAMES
Carolina fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Green Cabomba, fish grass, Washington grass
Didymo	<i>Didymoshenia geminata</i>	Rock snot
Brazilian water-weed	<i>Egeria densa</i>	
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Esthwaite waterweed
Floating seedbox	<i>Ludwigia peploides var. glabrescens</i>	Water primrose
Parrot feather watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Parrotfeather
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian milfoil, spike watermilfoil
Curly pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curly-leaved or curlyleaf or crispy-leaved pondweed
European water chestnut	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Devil pod
Narrow-leaved cattail	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Narrow lead cattail, nail rod
Hybrid cattail	<i>Typha x glauca</i>	
Poverty brome	<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	
Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Downy or drooping brome, bronco grass, June grass
Japanese stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Nepalese browntop, packing grass
Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis ssp. australis</i>	
Shattercane	<i>Sorghum bicolor ssp. drummondii</i>	
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	

Grasses

Watch List

These species are on DCNR's "Watch List". This means there is reason to believe that these species have the potential to act aggressively in certain environments or in surrounding states. They could pose threats to natural ecosystems if they become invasive. These species may have value in certain situations where they are not considered invasive, but are not preferred in natural settings.

Amur maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	
Small carpetgrass	<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i>	Joint-head grass, hairy joint grass, jointhead
Paper mulberry	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	
Butterfly bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Orange-eye butterfly bush
Orange day-lily	<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	
Velvet grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog
Chinese silvergrass	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Eulalia, zebra grass, maidenhair grass
White mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	Common/Chinese/Russian white mulberry
Wavyleaf basketgrass	<i>Oplismenus undulatifolius</i>	
Japanese pachysandra	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese spurge, Chinese fever vine
Amur corktree	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>	
Japanese corktree	<i>Phellodendron japonicum</i>	
Lavella corktree	<i>Phellodendron lavellei</i>	
Golden bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Yellow grove bamboo, fish pole bamboo
Rough bluegrass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	
Ravenna grass	<i>Saccharum ravennae</i>	Hardy pampas grass
Tall fescue	<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	
Bee-bee tree	<i>Tetradium daniellii</i>	Korean Evodia
Linden viburnum	<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden arrowwood
Doublefile viburnum	<i>Viburnum plicatum</i>	Japanese snowball bush
Siebold viburnum	<i>Viburnum sieboldii</i>	Siebold's arrowwood
Bigleaf periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater periwinkle
Common periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Ground myrtle
Japanese wisteria	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	
Chinese wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	