



Alternatives to Invasive Garden & Landscape Plants in the Adirondacks



INVASIVE

ALTERNATIVES

ATTRIBUTES

BUCKTHORNS
(*Rhamnus cathartica* & *R. frangula*)

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
American Mountain Ash
(*Sorbus americana*)
Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Small trees / large shrubs with
wildlife value

ORNAMENTAL OLIVES
(*Elaeagnus umbellata*
& *E. angustifolia*)

Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Abundant fruit for birds

**SHRUB
HONEYSUCKLES**
(*Lonicera morrowii* & *L. tatarica*)

American Fly-honeysuckle
(*Lonicera canadensis*)
Shrub dogwoods: gray, red, osier, silky
(*Cornus foemina* ssp. *racemosa*, *C. sericea*,
C. amomum)
Black Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Attractive flowering shrubs with
wildlife value

JAPANESE BARBERRY
(*Berberis thunbergii*)

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Native roses (*Rosa carolina*, *R. virginiana*,
R. palustris)
Native gooseberries & currants (*Ribes
americanum*, *R. cynosbati*, *R. lacustre*,
R. triste)

Dense fruiting shrubs with
wildlife value



**Ask Your Nursery Or Plant Provider If They Carry Native Plants,
And If They Don't, Request That They Do!**

Recommendations provided by partners of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program with special thanks to the Lake Champlain—Lake George Regional Planning Board, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, and NYS Nursery and Landscape Association. For more information, log on to www.adkinvasives.com



What Am I?

Native plants occur naturally in the region in which they evolved. In the United States, native plants are usually defined as those plants which have been present since the time of European contact. Some plants that are native in New York are common throughout the state, while others are adapted to unique conditions and found only in certain areas.

Non-Native plants have been accidentally or intentionally distributed outside of their historic range by human activities. Some of these introductions are beneficial and economically important and many others are neutral in their impact.

Invasive plants establish a population, reproduce rapidly, displace native species and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. A small percentage of non-native plants have the potential to become invasive (e.g. purple loosestrife).

Nuisance plants interfere with human activities and are not of value where they are growing (e.g. dandelions).



Why Plant Native Plants? Native Plants...

Help Preserve Biodiversity! Not all non-native plants are invasive, but it can be difficult to predict when a non-native plant will become invasive and out-compete and eventually displace native plants, reducing the overall diversity of plants on your property.

Save Energy and Water! Because native plants have evolved and adapted to local conditions, they are vigorous and hardy and able to survive winter cold and summer heat. Once established they require little or no irrigation or fertilization, thereby saving you energy and water.

Are Healthier for the Environment and You! Native plants are resistant to local pests and diseases so the use of pesticides is minimized.

Support the Local Ecosystem! Native plants provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, and other desirable wildlife.



This Fact Sheet is intended for public information and has no regulatory force. The non-native plants listed are or have the potential to become invasive in New York based on their behavior in northeastern states. The suggested alternatives were chosen because they have ornamental and wildlife value. More alternatives are available than those listed. Native stock should be acquired from nurseries, not the wild. We hope that you will select the equally and often more attractive native plants than the non-native and sometimes invasive ornamental plants.

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INVASIVE	ALTERNATIVES	ATTRIBUTES
YELLOW IRIS (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	Blue Flag Iris (<i>Iris versicolor</i>)	Hardy. water tolerant, provides good shoreline protection
FLOWERING RUSH (<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>)	Swamp Milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>) Softstem Bulrush (<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>) American Bur-reed (<i>Sparganium americanum</i>)	Single to multi-stemmed herbaceous perennials that thrive in moderate to fine soils and wet to moist hydrology. Horticulture, wildlife, and restoration values range.
COMMON REED GRASS (<i>Phragmites australis</i>)	Native genotype Phragmites Spike Grass (<i>Distichlis spicata</i>) Smooth Cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>)	Salt-tolerant grasses that stabilize soils and provide cover for birds and small mammals.
MULTIFLORA ROSE (<i>Rosa multiflora</i>)	Native Roses (<i>Rosa carolina</i> , <i>R. virginica</i> , <i>R. palustris</i>) Butterfly Weed (<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>) Blue Cohosh (<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>)	Colorful flowers that attract butterflies and birds.
GARLIC MUSTARD (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>)	Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>) Black Cohosh (<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>) Foamflower (<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>)	Herbaceous perennials that attract butterflies and birds.
SPOTTED KNAPWEED (<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)	Sweet Fern (<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>) Little Blue-stem (<i>Schizachyrium scobarium</i>) Big Blue-stem (<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>)	Cover for smaller mammals and seed source for birds
BURNING BUSH (Winged Euonymus, Japanese Spindle Tree) (<i>Euonymus alata</i>)	Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>) Maple Leaf Viburnum* (<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>) Red Chokeberry (<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>)	Attractive fruiting shrubs with food source for birds
GIANT HOGWEED (<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>)	Joe Pye Weed (<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>) Boneset (<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>) Purple-stemmed Angelica (<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i>)	Wildlife value for butterflies, bees, and birds

*Viburnum species serve as host plants to the Viburnum Leaf Beetle. www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis/pests/vlb/news/fs-vlb.html

INVASIVE	ALTERNATIVES	ATTRIBUTES
JAPANESE KNOTWEED (<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> or <i>Fallopia japonica</i>)	American Cranberry (<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>) Witch Hazel (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>) Silky or Graystem Dogwood (<i>Cornus amomum</i> , <i>C. racemosa</i>)	Cover for smaller mammals and seed source for birds
INDIAN CUP PLANT (<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>)	Thin-leaved Coneflower (Brown-Eyed Susan) (<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>)	Perennial prairie forb with wildlife values
JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE (<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)	Staghorn Sumac (<i>Rhus hirta</i>) Virgins Bower (<i>Clematis virginica</i>)	Attractive flowers and colorful foliage
NORWAY MAPLE (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)	Maples: red, sugar, silver (<i>Acer rubrum</i> , <i>A. saccharum</i> , <i>A. saccharinum</i>) Oaks: red, black, white, chestnut, bur. (<i>Quercus rubra</i> , <i>Q. velutina</i> <i>Q. alba</i> , <i>Q. prinus</i> , <i>Q. macrocarpa</i>) American Sycamore (<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>)	Canopy / shade trees with colorful foliage
ORIENTAL BITTER-SWEET (<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>) & PORCELAIN-BERRY (<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>)	American Bittersweet (<i>Celastrus scandens</i>) Virginia Creeper (<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>) Common Grape (<i>Vitis labrusca</i>)	Woody vines with attractive foliage and wildlife value
PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)	Blue Lobelia (<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>) Cardinal Flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>) Winged Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum alatum</i>)	Herbaceous perennials with flowering, long-lasting blooms
BLACK LOCUST (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>)	Oaks: red, black, white (<i>Quercus rubra</i> , <i>Q. velutina</i> , <i>Q. alba</i>) Pines: pitch, red, white, jack (<i>Pinus rigida</i> , <i>P. resinosa</i> , <i>P. strobes</i> , <i>P. banksiana</i>) Eastern Red Cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>)	Trees with ranging values for shade, foliage and wildlife