



## Rhode Island Wild Plant Society

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### GOING NATIVE: SELECTING NON-INVASIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE

People have been moving plants around for centuries. We treasure plants from other parts of the world for ornamental, medicinal and edible purposes. Most introduced plants “stay put”, growing politely in our yards or gardens and never straying beyond those boundaries. Here in New England, for example, plants such as tomatoes, wheat, tea roses and Japanese flowering dogwood usually remain where they are planted. Occasionally, however, an introduced species is able to “go native”, spreading from its original location and becoming naturalized. Some of these naturalized plants include the dandelion, yarrow, dusty miller and red clover. A few of these naturalized plants become pests. They seem to lack the natural checks and balances that control most species, and are able to grow rapidly and sometimes rampantly. They take over the habitats of native plants, sometimes completely excluding all other plants – such plants are called “invasives”.

Many of the invasives have been planted for years as ornamentals, and often are recommended for their beauty, wildlife value and rapid growth habits. We are beginning to recognize that these are the Trojan horses of the plant world. At the same time we have allowed these plants to spread, and have eliminated precious habitats, we are discovering the importance of saving native species, which may provide future medicine, food and other benefits to humankind.

What can you do? First, don't purchase any of the plants on the following invasive plant list! If you already have these plants, try phasing them out of your landscape (think of them as the starlings, pigeons and house sparrows – all introduced birds that have become pests – of the plant world). Finally, try planting native trees and shrubs, plants already adapted to this area. You'll find you have an amazing range of beautiful plants to choose from!

#### PLANTS INVASIVE IN RHODE ISLAND

Norway Maple ( <i>Acer platanoides</i> )	Yellow flag iris ( <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> )
Tree-of-Heaven ( <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> )	Purple Loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> )
Japanese Barberry ( <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> )	Japanese Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera japonica</i> )
Common Barberry ( <i>Berberis vulgaris</i> )	Tartarian Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera tartarica</i> )
Asian Bittersweet ( <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> )	Reed Grass ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> )
Russian Olive, Oleaster ( <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> )	Japanese Knotweed ( <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> )
Autumn Olive ( <i>Elaeagnus multiflora</i> )	Giant Knotweed ( <i>Polygonum sachalinense</i> )
Autumn Olive ( <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> )	Glossy Buckthorn ( <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> )
Winged Euonymus, Burning Bush ( <i>Euonymus alatus</i> )	Common Buckthorn ( <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> )
Burning Bush ( <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i> )	Multiflora Rose ( <i>Rosa multiflora</i> )
Climbing Euonymus ( <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> )	Beach Rose, Hedgerow Rose ( <i>Rosa rugosa</i> )

## SOME CHOICE NATIVE RHODE ISLAND FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS

An asterisk (\*) indicates that the plant is also valuable for wildlife.

### TREES

#### Conifers

* <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red Cedar
<i>Larix laricina</i>	American Larch
* <i>Pinus strobus</i>	White Pine
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch Pine
<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	Ground Hemlock
* <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Hemlock

#### Deciduous Trees

<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Mountain Maple
* <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Tall Shadbush
* <i>Betula allegheniensis</i>	Yellow Birch
* <i>Betula lenta</i>	Black Birch
* <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	White Birch, Paper Birch
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Ironwood, Musclewood
* <i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory (+ other species of <i>Carya</i> )
* <i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood
* <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech
* <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash
* <i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Black Ash
* <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel
* <i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Yellow Poplar, Tulip Tree
* <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Tupelo, Black Gum
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Hop Hornbeam
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Cottonwood
* <i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Big-toothed Aspen
* <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen
* <i>Prunus americana</i>	Wild Plum
* <i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>	Bird Cherry
* <i>Prunus serotina</i>	Wild Black Cherry
* <i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
* <i>Quercus montana</i>	Chestnut Oak
* <i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak
* <i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post Oak
* <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Linden
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm

#### SHRUBS / SMALL TREES

* <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Shadbush
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog Rosemary
* <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry (ground cover)
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Sweet Shrub
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Sweet Pepperbush

* <i>Cornus foemina</i>	Red-panicked Dogwood
* <i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood
* <i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier Dogwood
* <i>Crataegus spp.</i>	Hawthornes
* <i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	Black Huckleberry
* <i>Gaylussacia frondosa</i>	Dangleberry
* <i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry
* <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel
<i>Leucothoe racemosa</i>	Fetterbush
* <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush
* <i>Lonicera dioica</i>	Wild Honeysuckle
* <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry
* <i>Nemopanthus mucronata</i>	Mountain Holly
* <i>Prunus maritima</i>	Beach Plum
<i>Rhus spp.</i>	Staghorn, Smooth, & Winged Sumac
<i>Rhododendron canadense</i>	Rhodora
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Great Rhododendron
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pinxter-flower
<i>Rhododendron prinophyllum</i>	Early Azalea
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea
* <i>Rubus odoratus</i>	Thimbleberry
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy Willow
* <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry
<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush
* <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry
* <i>Vaccinium stamineum</i>	Deerberry
* <i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Early Lowbush Blueberry
* <i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaved Viburnum
* <i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Wild Raisin
* <i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Southern Arrowwood
* <i>Viburnum recognitum</i>	Northern Arrowwood
* <i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Highbush Cranberry