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Weeds and Invasive Plants

If dandelions were hard to grow they'd be welcome on any lawn. - Andrew V. Masonour

Why are some flowers called weeds, while others are desirable plants? A plant's behavior is as important as its appearance when it comes to answering this question. Plants that grow and reproduce too rapidly are becoming a serious problem. The following list contains plants that are weedy or invasive in Pennsylvania.

Perennials

<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jimsonweed
<i>Lythrum</i> spp.	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	Kudzu

If you have any questions about invasive plants just ask us next time you're at the nursery. Our goal is to provide ecologically safe plants for our customers.

Characteristics of an Invasive Plant:

- Non-native
- Reproduces rapidly
- Chokes out or eliminates competition
- Poor food source for wildlife
- Matures quickly
- Grows in many different sites
- Grows rapidly in disturbed sites

Trees and Shrubs

<i>Acer platanoides</i> *	Norway Maple
<i>Ailanthus alissima</i>	Tree-of-Heaven
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> *	Japanese Barberry
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose

* these species have some non-invasive cultivars

How Do I Know if My Plant is Invasive?

Sometimes a plant will show its invasive nature by spreading over, under, through, and into every possible space in the garden. In most cases it is nearly impossible to tell if a plant is invasive by simple observation. A Burning Bush looks completely harmless in the landscape, yet check in a nearby field or forest and countless seedlings will turn up. Getting a professional opinion is the best method to determine the invasiveness of your plant.

Sources

This sheet has been compiled from experience, information from the Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist Reference Guide, and the DCNR