Invasive plants, by crowding out native flora and their codependent insects and wildlife are a leading source of environmental destruction across ecosystems on Long Island. Invasive plants tend to form monocultures and reduce the diversity necessary for niches and food sources for many different kinds of animals and plants. Invasive species are among the top causes of biodiversity loss across the globe.

What makes a plant invasive?
Invasive plants such as honeysuckle, autumn olive; purple loosestrife and oriental bittersweet produce abundant fruits and seeds. Invasive plants have effective, varied dispersal methods with birds being number one and wind a close second. Invasive plants have a high percentage of seed germination, a wide range of biological tolerances and rapid growth.

Long Island has taken progressive steps towards improving the environment, by reducing the spread of invasive plants. These steps include legislation of plants which can not be sold and a management list of plants that are recommended not to be planted on Long Island.

‘The Do Not Sell List’
This is a list of plants that are considered highly invasive in our area and may not be sold. Some plants have already been banned since 2009, and there is a phase out period for others until 2016.

‘The Management List’
Although not as highly invasive as plants on the ‘Do Not Sell List’, it is recommended that these plants are not planted on Long Island.

Included in the fact sheet are common plants found in the landscape, followed by the year they have been banned or will be banned. Also include are those on the Management List, followed by the letters (ML).

**NOTE:** This is not an all inclusive fact sheet for either the ‘Do Not Sell List’ or ‘Management List.’ It only includes plants commonly used in the landscape.
What to do?
To remove invasive plants; mechanical control works best when the invasion is small, e.g. hand pull prior to seed set. For larger plants like Bush Honeysuckles, Japanese Barberry, or Winged Euonymus, cut the shrub to the ground then swipe the stump with herbicide. There are also pruners available with an attachment that allows a drip of herbicide to be delivered with each cut. Widespread herbicide treatments are difficult because these wipe out other plants as well.

Agriculture, horticulture, forestry, parks, tourism and our richly diverse natural resources are at risk from invasive plants. You can help minimize the spread of invasive plants, by choosing non-invasive plants for your garden. There are a large variety of native plants that you can plant to help bring back natural biodiversity.

Please refer to fact sheet D-2-32