

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET



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Invasive Plants of Long Island



Invasive plants, by crowding out native flora and their codependent insects and wild-life 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.

TREES

- *Acer ginnala* – Amur Maple – (ML)
- *Acer platanoides* – Norway Maple (except 'Crimson King' +Royal Red') 2013
- *Acer platanoides* – Norway Maple 'Crimson King' +Royal Red') 2016
- *Cercidiphyllum japonica* – Katsura Tree – (ML)
- *Eleagnus angustifolia* – Russian Olive – (ML)
- *Eleagnus umbellata* – Autumn Olive – (ML)
- *Morus alba* – White Mulberry – (ML)
- *Paulownia tomentosa* – Princess Tree – (ML)
- *Pinus thurnbergii* – Japanese Black Pine – (ML)
- *Populus alba* – White poplar – (ML)
- *Robinia pseudoacacia* – Black Locust 2013
- *Styrax japonica* – Japanese Snowbell – (ML)

SHRUBS

- *Berberis thurnbergii* – Japanese Barberry 2014
- *Lonicera maackii*, *L. morrowii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. x bella*, – Bush Honeysuckle 2011
- *Euonymus alatus* – Winged Euonymus, Burning Bush 2016
- *Ligustrum ovalifolium* – California Privet – (ML)
- *Ligustrum vulgare* – European Privet – (ML)
- *Rosa multiflora* – Multiflora Rose 2009
- *Spiraea japonica* – Japanese Spirea – (ML)
- *Viburnum opulus* var. *opulus* – European Cranberry Bush – (ML)

VINES

- *Akebia quinata* – Chocolate Vine – (ML)
- *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* – Porcelain Berry 2009
- *Celastris orbiculatus* – Oriental Bittersweet 2009
- *Fallopia baldschuanica* – Silver Lace Vine – (ML)
- *Hedera helix* – English Ivy – (ML)
- *Lonicera japonica* – Japanese Honeysuckle 2011
- *Wisteria sinensis/floribunda* – Chinese and Japanese Wisteria – (ML)

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PERENNIALS

- *Iris pseudacorus* – **Yellow Flag Iris 2012**
- *Lythrum salicaria* – **Purple Loosestrife 2009**
- *Lysimachia nummularia* – **Moneywort, Creeping Jenny 2011**
- *Lysimachia vulgaris* – **Garden Loosestrife 2011**
- *Ornithogalum umbellatum* – **Star of Bethlehem – (ML)**
- *Verbena bonariensis* – **Purpletop Verbena – (ML)**
- *Vinca minor* – **Periwinkle – (ML)**

GRASSES

- *Phragmites australis subsp. australis* – **Common Reed Grass 2009**
- *Bambusa Dendrocalamus, Phyllostachys, etc.* – **Bamboo (several genera, many species) – (ML)**
- *Miscanthus sinensis* – **Japanese Silver Grass – (ML)**

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