

## A. Invasive Plants

Non-native, invasive plants are a problem in Connecticut. They can disrupt entire ecosystems by changing the make-up of native plant communities. They are aggressive competitors – competing with native plants for sunlight, nutrients, water, and growing space. They have growth characteristics that allow them to spread readily – and once spread to new sites, they quickly establish and dominate. Invasive plants frequently crowd out native ones, causing problems for wildlife that need them for food and shelter. They may also totally overrun small populations of rare plants.

Two changes that have occurred in Connecticut's landscape over the last 25 years make the continued spread of invasive plants likely. First, an increasing number of invasive species have found their way to the state. Second, invasive plants have become established on an increasing number of sites. Now, when soil or vegetation is disturbed, it is likely there will be a nearby source of an invasive plant. The invasives even may spread from disturbed sites to undisturbed sites. Forests, grasslands, and wetlands are examples of natural habitats likely to be invaded.

Not every non-native plant in Connecticut is invasive. In fact, most are not. The problems are caused by non-native plants that find both 1) good growing conditions, and 2) few factors acting to control their growth. Japanese Barberry, Japanese Knotweed, Garlic Mustard, and Purple Loosestrife are a few examples of invasive plants that are widespread in the state.

In Connecticut, NRCS recommends avoiding the use of any plant currently listed as invasive or potentially invasive by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

**CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANT LIST**  
**JANUARY 2004**

This is a list of species that have been determined by floristic analysis to be invasive or potentially invasive in the state of Connecticut, in accordance with PA 03-136. The Invasive Plants Council will generate a second list recommending restrictions on some of these plants. In developing the second list and particular restrictions, the Council will recognize the need to balance the detrimental effects of invasive plants with the agricultural and horticultural value of some of these plants, while still protecting the state's minimally managed habitats.

**CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANT LIST**

( Produced by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council )

Connecticut Public Act No. 03-136

*The Connecticut Invasive Plants Council encourages the use of non-invasive alternatives, particularly when planting near parks, natural areas, or other minimally managed habitats.*

<b>AQUATIC &amp; WETLAND PLANTS</b>			
Species	Common name	Invasive	Potentially Invasive
Butomus umbellatus L.	Flowering rush		X
Cabomba caroliniana A. Gray	Fanwort	X	
Callitriche stagnalis Scop.	Pond water-starwort		X
Egeria densa Planchon	Brazilian waterweed		X
†Eichhornia crassipes (Mart.) Solms	Common water-hyacinth		X
Hydrilla verticillata (L.f.) Royle	Hydrilla	X	
Iris pseudacorus L.	Yellow Iris	X	
Lythrum salicaria L.	Purple loosestrife	X	
Marsilea quadrifolia L.	European waterclover		X
Myosotis scorpioides L.	Forget-me-not	X	
Myriophyllum aquaticum (Vell.) Verdc.	Parrotfeather		X
Myriophyllum heterophyllum Michx.	Variable-leaf watermilfoil	X	
Myriophyllum spicatum L.	Eurasian	X	

	watermilfoil		
<i>Najas minor</i> All.	Brittle water-nymph		X
<i>Nelumbo lutea</i> (Willd.) Pers.	American water lotus		X
† <i>Nymphoides peltata</i> (Gmel.) Kuntze	Yellow floating heart		X
† <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> L.	Water lettuce		X
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i> L.	Crispy-leaved pondweed	X	
<i>Rorippa microphylla</i> (Boenn. ex Reichenb.) Hyl. ex A. & D. Löve	Onerow yellowcress		X
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> (L.) Hayek	Watercress		X
† <i>Salvinia molesta</i> Mitchell complex	Giant salvinia		X
<i>Trapa natans</i> L.	Water chestnut	X	
TREES			
Species	Common name	Invasive	Potentially Invasive
<i>Acer ginnala</i> L.	Amur maple		X
* <i>Acer platanoides</i> L.	Norway maple	X	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> L.	Sycamore maple		X
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> (Mill.) Swingle	Tree of heaven	X	
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> (Thunb.) Steudel	Princess tree		X
<i>Populus alba</i> L.	White poplar		X
* <i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i> L.	Black locust	X	

SHRUBS			
Species	Common name	Invasive	Potentially Invasive
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> L.	False indigo		X
* <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> DC.	Japanese barberry	X	
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i> L.	Common barberry	X	
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> L.	Russian olive		X
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> Thunb.	Autumn olive	X	
* <i>Euonymus alatus</i> (Thunb.) Sieb.	Winged euonymus	X	
<i>Frangula alnus</i> Mill.	Glossy buckthorn	X	
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> Sieb. & Zucc.	Border privet		X
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> Hassk.	California privet		X
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> L.	European privet		X
<i>Lonicera xbella</i> Zabel	Bell's honeysuckle	X	
<i>Lonicera maackii</i> (Rupr.) Maxim.	Amur honeysuckle	X	
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i> A. Gray	Morrow's honeysuckle	X	
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> L.	Tatarian honeysuckle		X
† <i>Lonicera xylosteum</i> L.	Dwarf honeysuckle		X
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> L.	Common buckthorn	X	
<i>Rosa multiflora</i> Thunb.	Multiflora rose	X	
* <i>Rosa rugosa</i> Thunb.	Rugosa rose		X
<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i> Maxim.	Wineberry		X

WOODY VINES			
Species	Common name	Invasive	Potentially Invasive
* <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> (Maxim.) Trautv.	Porcelainberry		X
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> Thunb.	Oriental bittersweet	X	
* <i>Lonicera japonica</i> Thunb.	Japanese honeysuckle	X	
<i>Pueraria montana</i> (Lour.) Merr.	Kudzu		X
HERBACEOUS PLANTS			
Species	Common name	Invasive	Potentially Invasive
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> L.	Goutweed	X	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande	Garlic mustard	X	
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i> L.	Narrowleaf bittercress	X	
<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i> DC.	Spotted knapweed	X	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> (L.) Scop.	Canada thistle		X
<i>Cynanchum louiseae</i> Kartesz & Gandhi	Black swallow-wort	X	
<i>Cynanchum rossicum</i> (Kleo.) Borhidi	Pale swallow-wort	X	
<i>Datura stramonium</i> L.	Jimsonweed		X
<i>Elsholtzia ciliata</i> (Thunb.) Hylander	Crested late-summer mint		X
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i> L.	Cypress spurge		X
<i>Euphorbia esula</i> L.	Leafy spurge	X	
<i>Froelichia gracilis</i> (Hook.) Moq.	Slender snake cotton		X
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> L.	Ground ivy		X
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> Sommier & Lavier	Giant hogweed		X
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i> L.	Dame's rocket	X	

<i>Humulus japonicus</i> Sieb. & Zucc.	Japanese hops		X
† <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> Royle	Ornamental jewelweed		X
<i>Kochia scoparia</i> (L.) Schrader	Common kochia		X
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i> L.	Perennial pepperweed	X	
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> L.	Ragged robin		X
* <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> L.	Moneywort		X
* <i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i> L.	Garden loosestrife		X
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i> L.	Scotch thistle		X
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> L.	Star-of-Bethlehem		X
<i>Polygonum caespitosum</i> Blume	Bristled knotweed		X
<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> Sieb. & Zucc.	Japanese knotweed	X	
<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> L.	Mile-a-minute vine	X	
<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i> F. Schmidt ex Maxim.	Giant knotweed		X
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> L.	Fig buttercup	X	
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.	Sheep sorrel		X
† <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> L.	Tansy ragwort		X
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> L.	Cup plant		X
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i> L.	Bittersweet nightshade		X
<i>Tussilago farfara</i> L.	Coltsfoot	X	
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i> L.	Garden heliotrope		X
<b>GRASSES AND GRASS-LIKE PLANTS</b>			
Species	Common name	Invasive	Potentially Invasive
<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i> (Thunb.) Makino	Hairy jointgrass		X
<i>Bromus tectorum</i> L.	Drooping brome-grass		X

† <i>Carex kobomugi</i> Owhi	Japanese sedge		X
<i>Glyceria maxima</i> (Hartman) Holmburg	Reed mannagrass		X
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i> (Trin.) A. Camus	Japanese stilt grass	X	
* <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> Anderss.	Eulalia		X
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> L.	Reed canary grass	X	
<i>Phragmites australis</i> (Cav.) Trin.	Common reed	X	
<i>Poa compressa</i> L.	Canada bluegrass		X

\* An asterisk (\*) denotes that the species, although shown by scientific evaluation to be invasive, has cultivars that have not been evaluated for invasive characteristics. Further research may determine whether or not individual cultivars are potentially invasive. Cultivars are commercially available selections of a plant species that have been bred or selected for predictable, desirable attributes of horticultural value such as form (dwarf or weeping forms), foliage (variegated or colorful leaves), or flowering attributes (enhanced flower color or size).

† A dagger (†) indicates species that are not currently known to be naturalized in Connecticut but would likely become invasive here if they are found to persist in the state without cultivation.

January 2004

The following information on Giant Hog Weed is from <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/>

**Giant Hogweed** (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), an invasive, non-native plant that was confirmed in 2001 as a new state record in West Cornwall, Litchfield County, Connecticut continues to persist in 2005. The site of this Federal Noxious Weed was found by Elizabeth Corrigan, a botanist and Co-Chair of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, during a survey funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Connecticut. Educational outreach is underway to alert the public about Giant Hogweed, its serious health hazards, and provide control options.



*Giant hogweed leaf*

Giant hogweed is a biennial or perennial herbaceous plant that reaches up to 15 feet in height. Leaves grow up to 5 feet wide. The hollow stems of the plant are 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Large numbers of small white flowers are borne on the umbel-shaped inflorescence that extends 2.5 feet across the top. The many seeds produced by each plant can remain viable in the soil for up to seven years.





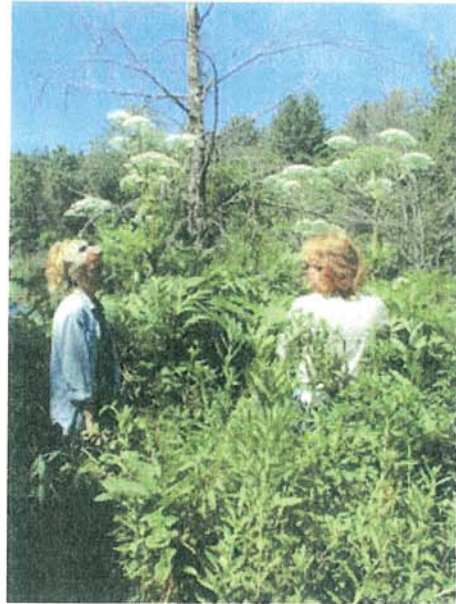
*Umbel inflorescence*

The sap of giant hogweed, a poisonous plant, causes large painful blisters on human skin and acts as an anti-sunscreen. Eye contact may result in blindness. Giant hogweed has negative impacts to the environment as well, displacing native flora on riverbanks and in disturbed sites such as waste areas and along railroads.

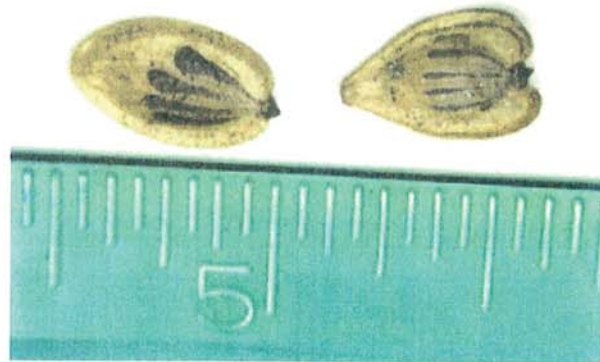
If you have seen giant hogweed in Connecticut, please contact Donna Ellis at the University of Connecticut (860-486-6448; [donna.ellis@uconn.edu](mailto:donna.ellis@uconn.edu)) or Elizabeth Corrigan ([elizabethcorrigan@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethcorrigan@yahoo.com)).



*Giant hogweed in Connecticut*



*Giant hogweed plants can grow up to 15 feet in height*



*Seeds of Giant Hogweed (left) and Cow Parsnip (right).  
Note the heart-shaped lobes of the Cow Parsnip seed on the right.*



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS INVASIVE PLANT IN CONNECTICUT?

[CONTACT THE CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANT WORKING GROUP](#)

## Invasive Plant Management: Principles for Project Planning and Site Management

- I. Incorporate Awareness of the Problem of Invasive Plants into the Primary Levels of Decision Making
  - A. Make sure planning engineers and others think about how to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive plants when they first plan projects (location, layout, design, and decisions about alternatives).
  - B. Make sure field people are trained to recognize invasive plants.
  - C. Set a good example by maintaining invasive-free public building grounds.
  - D. Don't plant invasive plants.
  - E. Become aware of heavily infested sites in the local area and avoid unnecessary movement of equipment through them.
  - F. When people use public or private lands for special events, have them agree to invasive plant prevention measures, as needed.
- II. Avoid Spreading Invasive Plants.
  - A. Don't set up staging areas in places with heavy invasive plant infestations.
  - B. Think about the sequence of movement of equipment to avoid bringing seeds from heavily infested sites to non-infested ones.
  - C. Be aware of the seasons when different invasives are producing seeds.
  - D. Keep equipment and trailers free of seeds and plant parts that will sprout.
  - E. Don't move contaminated fill, gravel, etc. to non-infested project sites.
  - F. Stockpile separately contaminated and uncontaminated materials.
- III. Manage Project Site Conditions to Discourage Invasive Plants.
  - A. When appropriate, control existing invasive plants on the site before beginning project.
  - B. Minimize soil disturbance.
  - C. Minimize disturbance of native plants.
  - D. Retain as much shade as possible to make site less hospitable to invaders.
  - E. Re-vegetate quickly with non-invasive plants.
- IV. Understand and Use Timely Invasive Plant Control Measures.
  - A. Know the options for species-specific invasive plant control.
  - B. Make sure field people have the necessary training and equipment

The Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) lists 5 invasive plants in the Town of Cornwall (<http://www.uconn.edu/ipane/ipane.db.output.pl>). These are:

- *Heracleum mategazzium* – Giant hogweed
- *Lychnis flos-cuculis* – Ragged robin
- *Herperis matronalis* – Dames rocket
- *Rhamnus cathartica* – Common buckthorn
- *Phalaris arundinacea* – Reed canarygrass