Great Alternatives to Invasive Plants

Are there bad plants on your land?
Quite possibly. These flowering plants, grasses, shrubs and trees may have arrived unnoticed on your property or they may have been planted before knowledge of their aggressive habits. For example, Norway maples, buckthorns, and shrub honeysuckles have appeared, uninvited, in woodlands and edges and are spreading rapidly throughout the region. Foresters are concerned about their impact on valuable species like the sugar maple. These invaders threaten many smaller and sometimes rare plants as well. The sale of certain invasive plants has been forbidden under the New Hampshire Invasive Species Act. Some of these are listed, with alternatives, on the reverse side.

What makes these invaders so successful?
Plants classified as non-native invasive species have been introduced from other eco-systems. Here they compete aggressively with other plants by producing abundant seeds easily spread by birds, animals and wind; and they grow rapidly in a wide range of soil, moisture, climate and light conditions. Because they are “new” in our landscape, they lack the complex mix of predators, diseases and other species that keep them in balance in their home territories.

What can you do?
• Learn to identify the invasive plants.
• Remove any invaders from your property.
• Plant more native species; many provide food for birds and pollinators.
• Don’t purchase or transplant any known invasive plants, or their cultivars.
• Ask your garden center for more native and non-invasive plants.
• Volunteer to help with restoration projects organized by garden clubs and conservation groups.
• Plant alternatives — See the other side …

Sponsored by Hanover Conservation Commission and Hanover Garden Club

* Pagoda dogwood (Cornus alternifolia), a native plant
Britton & Brown. 1913. Illustrated Flora of the Northern States and Canada
# Alternatives to Invasive Landscape Plants

**KEY**
- a) flowers
- b) fall color
- c) berries
- d) interesting bark
- e) wildlife value
- f) native
- g) purple-leaved cultivars
- h) evergreen

**NOTE** The plants listed are typically available in nurseries, and hardy in this region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE PLANT</th>
<th>INVASIVES</th>
<th>ALTERNATIVES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHRUBS</strong></td>
<td>Burning Bush *&lt;br&gt;(Euonymus alatus)</td>
<td>American Cranberry Viburnum <em>(Viburnum trilobum cvs.)</em>&lt;br&gt;Andromeda <em>(Pieris ‘Brouwer’s Beauty’)</em>&lt;br&gt;Azaleas <em>(Rhododendron periclymenoides, R. prinophyllum cvs.)</em>&lt;br&gt;Black Haw <em>(Viburnum prunifolium)</em></td>
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<td>(to 10’)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Japanese Barberry *&lt;br&gt;(Berberis thunbergii)</td>
<td>Elderberry <em>(Sambucus canadensis)</em>&lt;br&gt;Fothergilla <em>(Fothergilla gardenii or F. major)</em>&lt;br&gt;Gray Dogwood <em>(Cornus racemosa)</em>&lt;br&gt;Highbush Blueberry <em>(Vaccinium corymbosum)</em></td>
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<td><strong>EXOTIC HONEYSUCKLES</strong></td>
<td>Bell’s <em>(Lonicera x bella)</em>&lt;br&gt;Morrow’s <em>(L. morrowii)</em>&lt;br&gt;Tartarian <em>(L. tatarica)</em></td>
<td>Weigela <em>(Weigela floribunda)</em>&lt;br&gt;Wild Raisin/Witherod Viburnum <em>(Viburnum cassinoides)</em>&lt;br&gt;Winterberry <em>(Ilex verticillata cvs.)</em></td>
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<td><strong>BLUNT-LEAVED PRIVET</strong></td>
<td>Blunt-leaved Privet <em>(Ligustrum obtusifolium)</em></td>
<td>Sweet Pepperbush / Summersweet <em>(Clethra alnifolia)</em></td>
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<td><strong>SMAALL TREES</strong></td>
<td>Autumn Olive <em>(Eleagnus angustifolia)</em></td>
<td>Apple &amp; Crabapples <em>(various)</em>&lt;br&gt;Arborvitaes / White cedar <em>(Thuja occidentalis cvs.)</em></td>
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<td>(to 25’)</td>
<td>Buckthorns&lt;br&gt;Glossy <em>(Rhamnus frangula)</em>&lt;br&gt;Common <em>(R. cathartica)</em></td>
<td>Mountain Ash <em>(American—Sorbus americanus)</em>&lt;br&gt;Thornless Hawthorn <em>(Crataegus coccifera)</em>&lt;br&gt;White Fringetree <em>(Chionanthus virginicus)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TALL TREES</strong></td>
<td>Norway Maple <em>&lt;br&gt;(Acer plantanoides)</em></td>
<td>American Beech <em>(Fagus grandiflora)</em>&lt;br&gt;Hop hornbeam / Eastern Hornbeam <em>(Ostrya virginiana)</em></td>
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</table>
| **VINES** | Asiatic Bittersweet *(Celastrus orbiculatus)* | Climbing Hydrangea *(Hydrangea anomala petiolaris)*<br>Trumpet Honeysuckle *(Lonicera sempervirens)*<br>Virginia Creeper *(Parthenocissus quinquefolia)* | Climbing Hydrangea *(Hydrangea anomala petiolaris)*<br>Trumpet Honeysuckle *(Lonicera sempervirens)*<br>Virginia Creeper *(Parthenocissus quinquefolia)* |}

*Sale prohibited in NH as of January 1, 2007

**For help with identification:**
Contact Vicki Smith (603 643-4123 x 113) or vicki.smith@hanovernh.org

**For more information:**
- [http://plants.usda.gov/index.html](http://plants.usda.gov/index.html) native plants pictured and described
- [http://www.crjc.org/riparianbuffers.htm](http://www.crjc.org/riparianbuffers.htm) plants for stream banks and wet areas
- [http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/) plants that attract butterflies, shade-tolerant, wildlife, other attributes
http://members.valley.net/~invasiveplants background about invasive plants, local news
http://www.nhnursery.com state nursery has great prices for native plant