

INVASIVES

MY MOTHER PLANTED

INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE MARYBETH WHEELER AND ANNA E. CARPENTER HERBARIA OF THE WGC

MOST PLANT SPECIES INTRODUCED FROM OTHER PARTS of the world are fashion classics in their beauty or utility.

BUT THERE ARE SOME FADDISH IMPORTS (as well as accidental ones) that have over time become recognized as problem species that are spreading on their own and out-competing our beneficial – and often essential – flora (both native and introduced) as well as our native fauna that rely on them.

THESE PLANT SPECIES are increasingly being referred to as **invasive plants**, a.k.a. “**invasives**” – and to say that they have gone out of fashion is an understatement: the fight to rid our private and public lands of these “worst-dressed” flora is one of the struggles that conservationists everywhere are now dealing with. In fact, CT’s own CIPWIG [Invasive Plant List](#) counts 97 species as of October 2022.

IN THIS EXHIBIT YOU’LL DISCOVER which of these 97 CIPWIG “fashion fails” were documented in the WGC herbaria over the past century. And you’ll get the skinny on those voted “locally worst of the worst” by the experienced gardeners of the WGC Conservation Committee – because accessorizing yourself with our up-to-date, hyper-local look at invasives may help us all in the fight to declutter our landscapes!



THE 36 CIPWIG INVASIVES

That are found in the WGC herbaria
Showing when and where collected



INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS:

- 1 European Waterclover NY Bantam Lake, 1974, 1985
- 2 Purple Loosestrife ... NY Bronx, 1919; Wilton, 1923, 1985

INVASIVE GRASSES:

- 3 Canada Bluegrass Woodbury, 1977
- 4 Cheatgrass Wilton, 1919; Fisher Island, 1978
- 5 Common Reed Wilton, 1980, 1983
- 6 Reed-canary Grass Woodbury, 1981; Wilton 1985
- 7 Reed Mannagrass Woodbury, 1908

INVASIVE HERBS:

- 8 Bittersweet Nightshade..Wilton, 1917, 1972
- 9 Black SwallowwortLitchfield, 1985, 1986
- 10 ColtsfootWilton, 1975, 1985
- 11 Dame's RocketWilton, 1984, 1985

- 12 Lesser CelandineWilton, 1991, 1995
- 13 Garlic MustardNY Bronx, 1962; NY Rockland,1978; Wilton, 1985
- 14 Ground IvyNY Cold Spring, 1962; Wilton 1973
- 15 GoutweedWilton, 1987
- 16 Japanese Knotweed Norwalk, 1981
- 17 MugwortWilton, 1989, 1992
- 18 Ragged Robinunk where, 1976
- 19 Sheep SorrelNY Queens, 1978
- 20 Spotted Knapweed...Wilton, 1985
- 21 Tansy RagwortBridgeport, unk date; Wilton, 1996

INVASIVE SHRUBS:

- 22 Autumn OliveWilton, 1985
- 23 Common Buckthorn Wilton, 1982
- 24 European PrivetNY Rye, 1921; Wilton, 1983

- 25 Japanese Barberry Wilton, 1980
- 26 Multiflora Rose Wilton, 1991
- 27 Wineberry Wilton, 1985
- 28 Winged Euonymus ... Wilton, 1985

INVASIVE TREES:

- 29 Amur Maple Stratford, 1947; Wilton, 1985
- 30 Black Locust unk CT, 1982
- 31 Norway MapleWilton, 1977, 1979, 1980
- 32 Sycamore Maple Wethersfield, 1980
- 33 Tree of Heaven Wilton, 1974

INVASIVE VINES:

- 34 Japanese Honeysuckle..Wilton, 1921
- 35 Kudzu unk CT, 1986
- 36 Oriental Bittersweet .. Wilton, 1981, 1989



INVASIVES CALENDAR



The 13 Plants Voted Worst Garden Invasives Locally... Declutter Them from YOUR Landscape!



= this plant found in the WGC herbaria, with location & date collected also listed

HERBS

SHRUBS

VINES

KEY GRASS

INVASIVE ID	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Black Swallowwort Litchfield, 1985, 1986												
Garlic Mustard Wilton, 1985 NY Rockland, 1978 NY Bronx, 1962												
Japanese Knotweed Norwalk, 1981												
Lesser Celandine Wilton, 1991, 1995												
Mugwort Wilton, 1989, 1992												
Winged Euonymus Wilton, 1985												
Japanese Barberry Wilton, 1980												
Multiflora Rose Wilton, 1991												
Wineberry Wilton, 1985												
Japanese Honeysuckle Wilton, 1921												
Oriental Bittersweet Wilton, 1981, 1989												
Porcelainberry not in WGC herbaria												
Stiltgrass not in WGC herbaria												
INVASIVE ID	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Flowering Period (Yellow) Fruiting Period (Red) Mechanical Cut (Saw/Lopper/etc) (Purple) Mow (Blue) Pull (Green) Dig (Brown)

INVASIVE HERBS



GARLIC MUSTARD (*Alliaria petiolata*)

2nd-yr flowers; 2nd-yr leaves pointed (1st-yr leaves rounded)

Biennial



MUGWORT (*Artemisia vulgaris*)

Perennial



Leaf tips can be a bit pointy or a bit blunter



Wind-pollinated; pollen an allergen

BLACK SWALLOWWORT (*Cynanchum louiseae*)

Perennial



Black swallowwort is an herbaceous (non-woody) vine, thus included with herbs rather than with vines

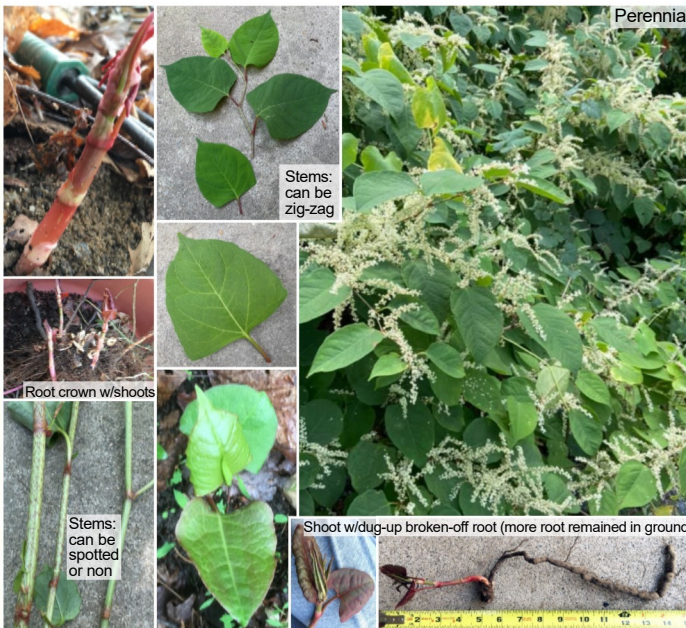
LESSER CELANDINE, FIG BUTTERCUP (*Ficaria verna*)

Perennial



JAPANESE KNOTWEED (*Fallopia japonica*)

Perennial



Stems: can be zig-zag

Root crown w/shoots

Stems: can be spotted or non

Shoot w/dug-up broken-off root (more root remained in ground)

LOOK-ALIKES — INVASIVE VS NATIVE

INVASIVE LESSER CELANDINE:

Roots tuberous; small white **bulblets** where leaf stalks meet main stem; these fall off & form new plants. **Leaves** heart-shaped w/somewhat pointed tip; leaf edges very coarsely toothed. **Flowers** have 8-12 very shiny yellow **petals** & 3 **sepals** on backside of freshly-opened flowers.



NATIVE MARSH MARIGOLD:

Roots not tuberous. **Flowers** 5-9 deep yellow to orange petal-like **sepals**, with no additional sepals on backside of flower. **Leaves** heart-shaped, but leaf tip usually roundish; some leaves kidney-shaped; **leaf edges** finely toothed or not toothed.



INVASIVE SHRUBS



JAPANESE BARBERRY



MULTIFLORA ROSE



WINEBERRY



WINGED EUONYMUS

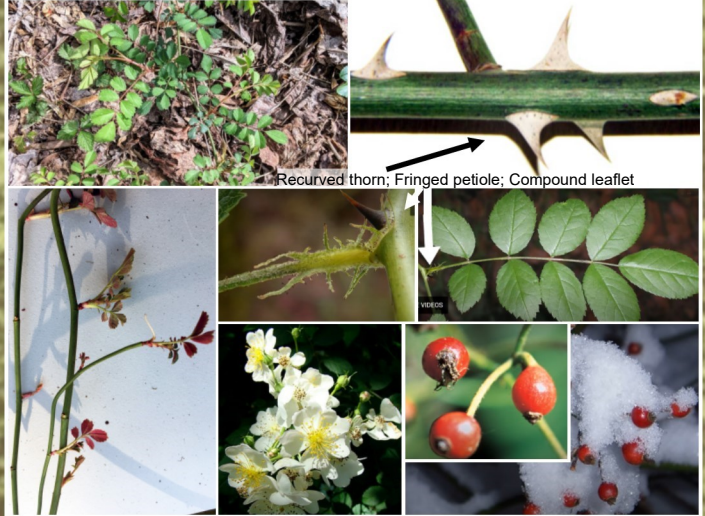


JAPANESE BARBERRY (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Needle-like thorn; yellow cut stem; red, oval fruit; spatulate leaf

MULTIFLORA ROSE (*Rosa multiflora*)



Recurved thorn; Fringed petiole; Compound leaflet

WINGED EUONYMUS (*Euonymus alatus*)



Pink-and-white coloring on new young buds; "Winged" stems (corky growths along stems)

WINEBERRY (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)



Vigorously arching reddish canes barbed & densely coated with red hairs; tips that touch ground will root

INVASIVE Multiflora Rose vs NATIVES Greenbrier, Swamp Rose



Multiflora Rose:
Fringed stipule
White flower
Recurved thorn
Smooth fruit

Greenbrier:
Straight, 3-colored thorn
Rounded leaf
Blue-black fruit

Swamp Rose:
Stipule - smooth
Flower - pink
Fruit - larger, hairy

INVASIVES: sprouts & young plants



Japanese Barberry Multiflora Rose Wineberry Winged Euonymus

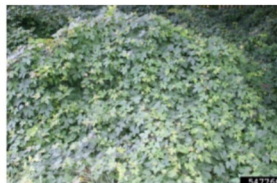
INVASIVE VINES & GRASSES



JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET



PORCELAINBERRY



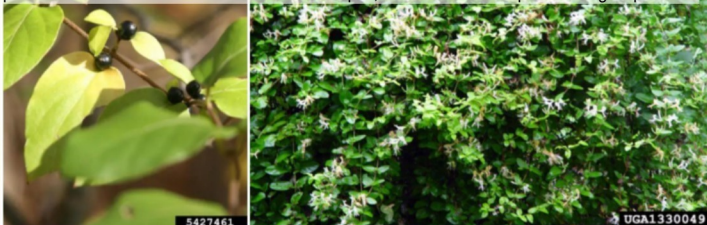
STILTGRASS



JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera japonica*)



Leaves: egg-shaped, opposite, can be semi-evergreen; leaves at base can have different shape. Flowers: tubular, white, turning yellowish or pinkish with age, fragrant. Young stems flexible, hairy, pale reddish-brown. Older stems brittle w/hollow pith, brownish bark that peels in long strips.



ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Leaf: round; tip often pointed

"Boa Constrictor"

Fruit: RED+YELLOW color combo

Orange roots

PORCELAINBERRY (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)



Stem pith white & tendrils green (vs brown pith & tendrils in native grapes.) Berries: mixed colors w/small spots. Flowers: upward in umbrella-shaped clusters rather than downward in hanging clusters.

Leaf base heart-shaped. Leaf shape variable (deeply lobed in 3 or 5 lobes, or grape-like)

STILTGRASS (*Microstegium vimineum*)



Leaf: Silvery, slightly off-center mid-rib; blade shorter & broader than most grasses; leaves well-spaced out along stem w/no basal rosette. Sprawls along ground, roots at nodes



Annual