



BEWARE FOREST INVADERS

Ohio's forests are threatened by non-native invasive species, such as the bush honeysuckle invading the forest shown above. Aggressive invasive plants are negatively impacting native habitats across the state by reducing the biodiversity of Ohio's landscape.

Do you recognize any of these non-native invasive species?

- Be careful not to move them to another area
- Report sightings to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
- Remove them from your property
- Spread the word about the threats of non-native invasive species



Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) 1st year



Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)



Asian Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*)



Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) 2nd year



To learn more, contact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Natural Areas and Preserves at www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

“On a global basis...the two great destroyers of biodiversity are, first habitat destruction and, second, invasion by exotic species.”
– E.O. Wilson

KNOW THE BASICS

Ohio's natural areas serve as sanctuaries for rare disappearing species and as places of historic and scenic beauty. In many ways, they are living museums. One of the biggest threats to these areas is non-native invasive species.

Invaders have an edge over native species because they lack natural predators or disease to keep their numbers down. They are abundant seed producers and/or spread aggressively through an underground root system. Non-native plants can quickly take over a natural area and become the dominant vegetation.

Early detection and eradication is key to effectively managing invasive plants. As a natural areas steward, it is important to be aware of the problem and act without delay. For those areas already invaded, a systematic management strategy is necessary.

Most importantly – be persistent! Information on how to control invasive plants may be found at: www.ohiodnr.com/dnap.



Orange day-lily (*Hemerocallis fulva*) invasion



Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) in woods

FOREST INVADERS

Regardless of size, Ohio's forests are an important resource for recreation, timber, wildlife habitat and riparian corridor. There are a variety of invasive non-native plant species that threaten the health of our forests. Some species are more prevalent in one region of the state or the other.

Every spring, Ohioans enjoy the colorful array of woodland wildflowers. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)* crowds out these wildflowers and can quickly overrun a site. Another characteristic of garlic mustard is that it inhibits hardwood tree seedling growth, potentially harming the next generation of trees.

Other species, such as the invasive bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. morrowii*, *L. tatarica*)*, multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)*, can grow so thick they darken the forest floor and prevent other species, such as spring wildflowers, from growing. Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and winged Euonymus or burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) are increasingly becoming a management issue in many natural areas. They exhibit the same characteristics as other more established invasives. Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)*, Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and chinese yam (*Dioscorea batatas*) are vines that climb over trees, shrubs and the forest floor, suffocating native species. Japanese honeysuckle is especially problematic in tree plantings where it overtakes the newly planted saplings. Asian stilt grass (*Microstegium vimenum*)* is invading north from southern Ohio and is prevalent along trails and streambanks where it is easily spread.

Urban woods face intense pressure from surrounding development. In addition to the listed species above, they are also threatened by periwinkle or myrtle (*Vinca minor*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), and orange day-lily (*Hemerocallis fulva*). Often, these species spread from adjacent properties where they have been planted.

Brochures, fact sheets and handouts are available. Management advice and recommendations for using native species in habitat restoration or in native landscape planning are also available. To learn more, contact (614) 265-6453.

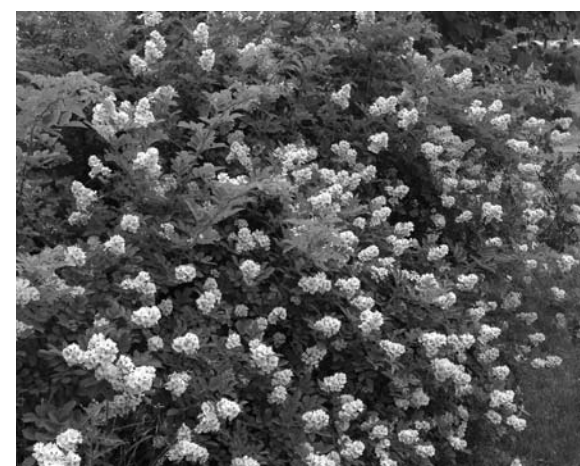
*photo on front



Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)



Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)



Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Chinese yam (*Dioscorea batatas*)



Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Morrow honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*)



Winged Euonymus or burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

