

# Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania

DCNR defines invasive plants as those species that are not native to the state, grow aggressively, spread and displace native vegetation. Invasive plants are generally undesirable because they are difficult and costly to control and can dominate whole habitats, making them environmentally destructive.

Not all non-native plants become invasive. In fact, it is a very small fraction that do. The plants listed here have been found to act aggressively in parts of Pennsylvania or throughout the whole state, negatively impacting ecosystems.

New species cross state borders and some plants that have been here for decades may suddenly become invasive due to changing land uses, changes in weather or climate, or genetic reasons, so this list may change over time and will be updated periodically. **This list is not regulatory.** It is merely a suggestion that these plants can become invasive under the right environmental conditions and it will be used to guide the management efforts of DCNR staff.

To learn more about invasive plants in Pennsylvania and how they can be controlled, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/invasiveplants/index.htm).

## Herbs and Forbs

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	OTHER COMMON NAMES
Beefsteak plant	<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Chinese basil, purple mint
Black knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Lesser or common knapweed, hardheads
Bristled knotweed	<i>Persicaria longiseta</i>	Oriental lady's thumb, Asiatic smartweed
Brown knapweed	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Horse-knobs, rayed knapweed, hardheads
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canadian thistle
Dames rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's violet, dame's gillyflower, dame's wort
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Hedge mustard
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Giant cow parsnip or parsley, cartwheel flower
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Sakhalin knotweed
Goatsrue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Holy hay, professor-weed, Italian fitch
Goutweed	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Bishop's weed, snow-on-the-mountain, holy hay
Greater celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Tetterwort
Hairy willow herb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great willowherb
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Fleeceflower, Mexican bamboo
Japanese pachysandra*	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese spurge, Chinese fever vine
Jimsonweed	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jamestown weed, devil's trumpet, thorn apple
Lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Fig buttercup, pilewort
Moneywort	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny or Charlie, wandering sailor
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding thistle
Narrowleaf bittercress	<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Bushy rock-cress
Orange day-lily*	<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	
Poison hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Swamp loosestrife
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	
Star-of-Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum nutans/O. umbellatum</i>	Silver bells, drooping star-of-Bethlehem
Wild chervil	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley, keck, bur chervil
Wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Garden parsnip
Yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	

## Vines

### COMMON NAME

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

### OTHER COMMON NAMES

Bigleaf periwinkle*	<i>Vinca major</i>
Black swallow-wort	<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i>
Chinese wisteria*	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>
Chocolate Vine	<i>Akebia quinata</i>
Common periwinkle*	<i>Vinca minor</i>
English ivy*	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Japanese hops	<i>Humulus japonicus</i>
Japanese wisteria*	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria lobata</i>
Mile-a-minute	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Pale swallow-wort	<i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i>
Porcelain berry	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>
Wintercreeper*	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>

Greater periwinkle
Louis' or Louise's swallow-wort
Fiveleaf akebia, raisin vine
Ground myrtle
Common ivy
Chinese honeysuckle
Vine that ate the South
Devil's tear-thumb
Asiatic or round-leaved bittersweet
European swallow-wort, dog strangling vine
Amur peppervine, porcelain vine
Climbing Euonymus, fortune's spindle

## Trees

Amur corktree*	<i>Phellodendron amurense</i>
Amur maple*	<i>Acer ginnala</i>
Bee-bee tree*	<i>Tetradium daniellii</i>
Callery pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>
Empress tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>
European black alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Japanese angelica tree	<i>Aralia elata</i>
Japanese corktree*	<i>Phellodendron japonicum</i>
Lavella corktree*	<i>Phellodendron lavallei</i>
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Paper mulberry*	<i>Broussonetia papyfera</i>
Siberian elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>
Sycamore maple	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Tree-of-heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
White mulberry*	<i>Morus alba</i>

Korean Evodia
Bradford pear
Princess tree, royal paulownia
Common alder
Lavelle's cork tree
Persian silk tree, silktree, silky acacia
Mock plane
Chinese or stinking sumac, tree of hell
Common or Chinese or Russian white mulberry

## Aquatic Plants

Brazilian water-weed	<i>Egeria densa</i>
Carolina fanwort	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
Curly pondweed	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>
Didymo	<i>Didymoshenia geminate</i>
Eurasian water-milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>
European water chestnut	<i>Trapa natans</i>
Floating seedbox	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>
Hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>
Narrow-leaved cattail	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>
Parrot feather watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>

Green Cabomba, fish grass, Washington grass
Curly-leaved or curlyleaf or crispy-leaved pondweed
Rock snot
Eurasian milfoil, spike watermilfoil
Devil pod
Water primrose
Esthwaite waterweed
Narrow lead cattail, nail rod
Parrotfeather

## Shrubs

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	OTHER COMMON NAMES
Amur honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera mackii</i>	
Autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	
Bell's honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii x bella</i>	Bella or showy bush or pretty honeysuckle
Border privet	<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Blunt-leaved or obtuse-leaved or regal privet
Butterfly bush*	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Orange-eye butterfly bush
Chinese bushclover	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Chinese Lespedeza, sericea lespedeza
Chinese privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	
Common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Purging buckthorn
Common privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	European privet, wild privet
Doublefile viburnum*	<i>Viburnum plicatum</i>	Japanese snowball bush
European barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Common barberry
Glossy buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	
Gelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Cranberrybush viburnum, red elder, cramp bark
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Red barberry, Thunberg's barberry
Japanese privet	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Waxleaf ligustrum, wax privet
Japanese spiraea	<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Japanese meadowsweet, nippon spiraea
Jetbead	<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	Black jetbead
Linden viburnum*	<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden arrowwood
Morrow's honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Rambler or Japanese or baby or seven-sisters rose
Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Oleaster, wild olive
Shrubby bushclover	<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>	Shrubby lespedeza
Siebold viburnum*	<i>Viburnum sieboldii</i>	Siebold's arrowwood
Standish honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera standishii</i>	
Tartarian honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	
Wineberry	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>	Wine raspberry, Japanese wineberry
Winged Euonymus	<i>Euonymus alata</i>	Burning bush, winged burning bush, winged wahoo

## Grasses

Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Downy or drooping brome, bronco grass, June grass
Chinese silvergrass*	<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Eulalia, zebra grass, maidenhair grass
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	
Golden bamboo*	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Yellow grove bamboo, fish pole bamboo
Japanese stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Nepalese browntop, packing grass
Johnson grass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	
Ravenna grass*	<i>Saccharum ravennae</i>	Hardy pampas grass
Reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris australis</i>	
Rough bluegrass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	
Shattercane	<i>Sorghum bicolor ssp. x. drummondii</i>	
Small carpetgrass*	<i>Anthraxon hispidus</i>	Joint-head grass, hairy joint grass, jointhead
Tall fescue*	<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	
Wavyleaf basketgrass*	<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i>	

Species marked with an asterisk (\*) are on DCNR's "Watch List," meaning that they are still sold in the landscape and nursery trade but can act aggressively, are not very common throughout the state but are a problem in certain locations, or are not yet in Pennsylvania but are in neighboring states and would pose a major threat to our natural ecosystems should they arrive here. Many of these species can be difficult to eradicate once they have become established, so think twice before planting them. Keep an eye out for these species, remove them where possible, and consider choosing native plants for your landscape.