

Common problem invasive plants in Chautauqua County

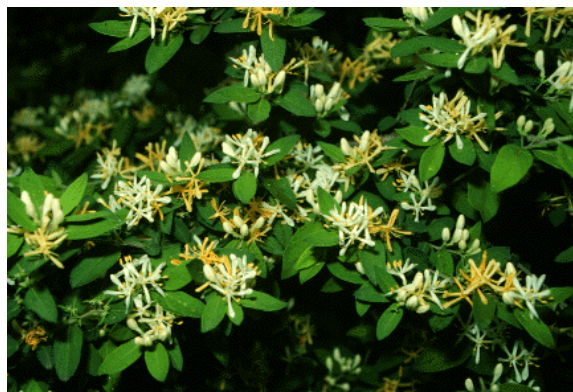
By Priscilla Titus

burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*): this shrub is native to northeast Asia and can grow to 12 ft. tall. The green branches and twigs of this plant have four wide, corky wings. It grows well in a variety of conditions and invades the understory of open woods and mature second growth. If you have it on your property, remove it and plant the following in its place: strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) chokeberry (*Aronia* spp.), and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*).



USDA, APHIS

bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.): Four similar species of bush honeysuckle that are native to Asia and western Europe are invasive (Amur, Morrow's, Tartarian, and Belle) and are referred to as bush honeysuckles. These shrubs are frequently used for landscaping and to attract wildlife and have become naturalized throughout forest understories in Chautauqua County. They are the first woody shrubs to produce leaves in the spring and they prevent light that spring ephemerals depend upon from reaching the forest floor. If you have bush honeysuckles on your property, remove them and plant a native honeysuckle in its place: Canadian honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*), trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), limber honeysuckle (*Lonicera dioica*), and native northern bush-honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*).



Kenneth R. Robertson, INHS

common privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*): This many branched, deciduous shrub is native to Europe and can grow up to 15 feet tall. It is an extremely aggressive plant that invades river bottoms, open woods and roadsides, often forming dense, impenetrable thickets due to its suckering nature. It is a prolific producer of seed that is sought after by birds, who in turn spread the seeds far from the original planting, and it also spreads by root suckers. Do not plant privet in your yard. Great native plants to substitute for the privet are winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), common elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*).



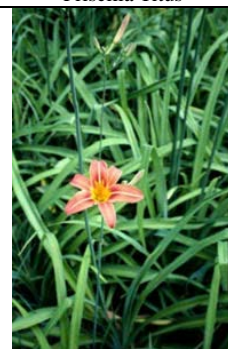
H. Schneider

creeping myrtle or periwinkle (*Vinca minor*): a popular evergreen groundcover imported from Europe with lovely flowers; this species is a problem because it thrives in shade and readily invades natural areas including preserves and eventually excludes all other native groundcover species through rapid clonal spread. Plant instead: creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*), partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) and three-toothed cinquefoil (*Potentilla tridentata*).



Priscilla Titus

day lily (*Hemerocallis fulva*): popular ornamental lily imported from Europe that has escaped and has invaded natural and disturbed areas throughout the United States; once established, the thick tubers make control difficult and this species has established extensive colonies along area Creeks replacing native riparian vegetation and spreading via the drainageway. Plant instead: wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), Canada lily (*Lilium canadense*), turk's-cap lily (*Lilium superbum*), and blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*).



Britt Slattery, USFWS

garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*): this native potherb of Europe is a biennial that emerges in early spring with leaves and stems that produce a distinctive garlic odor when crushed; each individual plant can produce thousands of seeds and it invades moist forest, wooded stream banks, roadsides and trail edges, where it disrupts normal plant-fungi relationships that result in the elimination of native species. If you have it on your property, remove it and plant the following in its place: creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), wood fern (*Dryopteris* spp.) and New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*).



Britt Slattery, USFWS

giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*): This native of Asia was introduced for its ornamental attractiveness due to its impressive height and large leaves and flower clusters but is of grave concern as the plant sap is phytotoxic: the combination of sap on the skin and exposure to sunlight can produce painful, burning blisters within 24-48 hours and can result in permanent scarring. If you see this plant, avoid it! Call the NYS Department of Agriculture and Market's Giant Hogweed Hotline at 1-800-554-4501, extension 72087 to report the location where you saw giant hogweed.



USDA, APHIS

Japanese bamboo (*Polygonum cuspidatum*): This ornamental native of Japan forms large clumps 3 to 10 ft. high and is incredibly difficult to eradicate once established. It reproduces by seed and spreads by large, extensive rhizomes that we have seen emerge through pavement! It colonizes riverbanks and dominates the understory of many area drainages and wet areas. Rhizomes can regenerate from small fragments and dispersal can occur naturally when rhizome fragments are washed downstream by currents and deposited on banks. If you have it on your property, remove it and plant native grasses or sedges in its place, such as northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), riverbank wild rye (*Elymus riparius*) or tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*).



Britt Slattery, USFWS

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*): this native to Eurasia closely resembles the sugar maple but can be distinguished by milky sap that oozes from broken leaves. Norway maple can invade native woodlands easily and is the first tree in the forest to sprout in spring and the last to drop leaves in the fall. Due to the heavy shade it produces early in the spring, Norway maple prevents native wildflower growth and it also excretes a toxic substance from its roots that inhibits growth of other tree seedlings and wildflowers under its canopy. Choose native maples such as sugar maple, silver maple, red maple, and striped maple for your yard.



John M. Randall, TNC

NOTE: THIS LIST IS NOT COMPLETE!!! The list of invasive plants that have become established in Chautauqua County is too lengthy for this handout. If you have a question about native or non-native invasive plants, feel free to email me at: priscillatitus@yahoo.com.

A good website for more information is: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/>