

Invasive Species of South County

Prepared by the
Kingston Hill Gardeners
To promote healthier,
more sustainable gardens

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WHAT TO WATCH FOR, AND ELIMINATE!

Invasive plants are non-native plants that were brought to the United States. In our country they have no local control (animals, insects or disease) to keep their growth in check. They are considered to be undesirable because they out compete native plants, and affect habitat adversely. Loss of biodiversity affects the whole food chain.

MULTIFLORA ROSE *Rosa multiflora*

An aggressive, thorny, deciduous shrub with arching canes. This invasive plant spreads with rooting shoot tips and by producing up to a million seeds per plant per year. Very fragrant whitish pink flowers in the spring, followed by red rose hips.



JAPANESE KNOTWEED *Polygonum cuspidatum*

An herbaceous perennial that can grow up to 12 foot tall, with hollow stems and square based pointed leaves. It produces upright clusters of white flowers during the late summer, and dies back in the winter. It forms dense monocultures by underground rhizomes and seed dispersal.



ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET *Celastrus orbiculatus*

An aggressive deciduous vine that twists around and strangles other vegetation. It has alternate, rounded, glossy leaves and has distinctive orange roots. The vines produce red/orange fall berries. The plant spreads through seed dispersal by birds, and root suckering.



BLACK SWALLOW-WORT

Cynanchum Louiseae



Herbaceous, twining, perennial plant, which has naturalized in the Northeast, displacing native plants essential for wildlife. It grows from 3 to 6 feet in one season, has insignificant purple flowers in late spring. Later, fruit pods release airborne seeds with silky parachutes similar to milkweed. Monarch butterflies mistake this plant for milkweed, and deposit eggs on the plants, which will not develop.

BURNING BUSH

Euonymus alatus



the fall, which are eaten and dispersed by birds.

A deciduous shrub, 2 to 10 feet in height, it has corky, winged stems, opposite oval leaves which turn red in fall. It has reddish berries in

GARLIC MUSTARD

Allaria petiolata



This biennial herb forms a rosette of heart-shaped leaves the first year. In the early spring of the second year, white flowers are produced, which by summer become dried brown stems containing huge numbers of seeds that persist in the ground up to 8 years. It quickly establishes itself along roadsides and forest edges. The crushed leaves have a garlicky odor.

JAPANESE BARBERRY

Berberis thunbergii



oval leaves, shades out all native plants, adversely affects habitat for native wildlife. It has red berries in the fall.

A thorny, dense, twiggy shrub that grows 2 to 8 feet tall. Early spring leaf-out of usually green, occasionally purple, small

SOME RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANTS

TREES:

Eastern Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*
Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*
American Holly, *Ilex opaca*
Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*
Shadbush, *Amelanchier canadensis*
White Oak, *Quercus alba*

SHRUBS:

Mountain Laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*
Swamp Azalea, *Rhododendron viscosum*
Sweet Pepperbush, *Clethra alnifolia*
Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*
Inkberry, *Ilex glabra*
Bayberry, *Myrica pennsylvanica*

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS:

Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
Foamflower, *Tiarella cordifolia*
Joe Pye Weed, *Eupatorium purpureum*
Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*
White Wood Aster, *Eurybia divaricata*

FERNS:

Christmas Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides
Cinnamon Fern
Osmundastrum cinnamomea
Ostrich Fern
Matteuccia struthiopteris