

Ohio Invasive Plants List

TPGC December Meeting - 12/17/25

Commission Members: Please review this list and note any plants that you feel are missing from it or are inaccurately included. Suggestions for plants that should be on the list, but are not currently, should include documented, cited examples from reputable sources. Also, the brief section towards the end of the document shows a few of the plants from the main list with alternative options listed. I'd like to use the collective knowledge of the entire commission, whose experience comes from a range of green industry involvement, to expand on that section, listing invasive plants that we know to be present in Central Ohio landscapes or are commonly available in nurseries, with practical alternatives for each. That list will be much smaller than the main list below, so I think it's worth narrowing down the selections first. List is in alphabetical order by common name.

NOTE: Plants marked with ** are listed as potentially invasive according to the Ohio Invasive Plants Council, having received a score below 45 per the OIPC scoring system (invasive - 45-85, potentially invasive - 35-44, not currently invasive - 0-34).

African Oxygen Weed (*Lagarosiphon major*)
Air Potato (*Dioscorea polystachya*)
Amur corktree (*Phellodendron amurense*)
Anchored Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia azurea*)
Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*)
Arrowleaf False Pickerelweed (*Monochoria hastata*)
Asian Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
Asian Marshweed (*Limnophila sessiliflora*)
Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)
Black Swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*)
Bohemian Knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemica*)
Bouncing Bet (*Saponaria officinalis*)
Brazilian Waterweed (*Egeria densa*)
bristle miscanthus *Miscanthus sinensis*
Brittle Waternymph (*Najas minor*)
Bush Honeysuckles: *Lonicera morrowii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. maackii*
Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)**
Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) - all cultivars
Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
Chinese Silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*)
Chinese yam *Dioscorea polystachya*
Common Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)
Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
Common burdock, lesser burdock *Arctium minus***
Common Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)**

Common Reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*)
 Common Salvinia (*Salvinia minima*)
 Common Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)
 Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*)
 Curly Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)
 Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*)
 Cypress Spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*)
 Dames Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
 Ditch Lily (*Heimerocallis fulva*)**
 Dog rose *Rosa canina***
 Duck Lettuce (*Ottelia alismoides*)
 Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
 European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)
 European Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*)
 European Wand Loosestrife (*Lythrum virgatum*)
 European Water-Clover (*Marsilea quadrifolia*)
 Field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis***
 Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
 Flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*
 Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
 Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)**
 Giant Knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*)
 Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)
 Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)
 Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus* var. *opulus*)**
 Hairy Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*)
 Heartshape False Pickerelweed (*Monochoria vaginalis*)
 Hybrid Cattail (*Typha x glauca*)
 Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)
 Indian Swampweed (*Hygrophila polysperma*)
 Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
 Japanese chaff flower *Achyranthes japonica***
 Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
 Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*, *Reynoutria japonica*)
 Japanese Meadowsweet (*Spiraea japonica*)**
 Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)
 Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*)
 Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna* / *Ranunculus ficaria*)
 Lesser Naiad (*Najas minor*)**
 Mile-A-Minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*)**
 Morning Glory (*Ipomoea purpurea*)
 Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
 Narrowleaf Cattail (*Typha angustifolia*)

Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*)**
 Parrot Feather Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
 Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)**
 Pinnate Mosquitofern (*Azolla pinnata*)
 Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)
 Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)**
 Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)**
 Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
 Ravennagrass *Tripidium ravennae***
 Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
 Round leaf bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus*
 Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
 Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*)
 Simple Bur-Reed (*Sparganium erectum*)
 Small Carpetgrass, joint-head grass *Arthraxon hispidus***
 Smooth Bromegrass (*Bromus inermis*)
 Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* ssp. *micranthos*)
 Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis ternifolia*)**
 Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*/*Schedonorus arundinaceus*)
 Tall morning-glory *Ipomoea purpurea*
 Tawny daylily *Hemerocallis fulva*
 Tree Of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
 Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*)
 Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)
 Water Soldier (*Stratiotes aloides*)
 White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)**
 White Sweet-Clover (*Melilotus alba*)
 Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)
 Wine raspberry *Rubus phoenicolasius***
 Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
 Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)
 Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)
 Yellow Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*)
 Yellow rocket *Barbarea vulgaris***
 Yellow Sweet-Clover (*Melilotus officinalis*)

Resources:

- 1) Ohio Department of Agriculture
- 2) Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- 3) Ohio Invasive Plants Council
- 4) communitybackyards.org
- 5) The Nature Conservancy
- 6) invasive.org
- 7) Kent State University

Invasive Plants with alternative options:

Key:

US - plant native to US

OH - plant native to Ohio

NN - a non-native species

CV - a cultivated variety (cultivar)

Common Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

- Small, lanceolate leaves; flowers are white to cream in terminal panicles
- Fruits are small, green turning to dark purple or black
- Shrub to small tree, often with many stems and thorny projections

Recommended Alternatives:

- * Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
- * Common witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- * Dwarf diervilla (*Diervilla lonicera*)
- * Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
- * Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia* & *Brilliantissima*)-CV
- * Running serviceberry (*Amelachier stonifera*)
- * Serviceberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
- * Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus* or *Rhamnus frangula*)

- Small deciduous tree or large shrub that produces many fruits, turning from red to black
- Forms dense colonies, particularly in wetlands and moist woods
- Cut-leaf forms are sold as cultivars

Recommended Alternatives:

- * American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
- * Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum* & *Blue Muffin*)-CV
- * Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
- * Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)-OH
- * Common witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- * Common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)-OH
- * Cutleaf elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis* 'Laciniata/Acutiloba')-CV
- * Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)-OH
- * Native bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla* spp.)-US
- * Serviceberry (*Amelachier* spp.)
- * Summersweet clethra (*Clethra alnifolia*)-US

Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

- Deciduous shrub or small tree with heavy fruit production
- Produces many seedlings and has vigorous sprouting
- Prefers more upland habitats than glossy buckthorn

Recommended Alternatives

- * Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)-OH
- * Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)-OH
- * Common witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)-OH
- * Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)-OH
- * Native bush-honeysuckles (*Diervilla* spp.)-US
- * Serviceberry (*Amelachier* spp.)

Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)

- Evergreen, woody vine with aerial roots, allowing it to climb into tree canopies
- Forms carpets on ground in woods, can overtop and shade out trees
- Waxy leaves make it difficult to control, even with herbicide application

Recommended Alternatives:

- * Allegheny pachysandra (*Pachysandra procumbens*)-US
- * Canadian wild-ginger (*Asarum canadense*)-OH
- * Flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata* & Carolina Snow)-CV
- * Gro-low fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica* & Gro-low)-CV
- * St. Andrews cross (*Hypericum calycinum*)