



Japanese
Knotweed
(*Polygonum
cuspidatum*)

Photo: www.emmitsburg.net

Description: Aggressive plant that forms thickets 3-6 feet tall. Stems are hollow and bamboo-like. Leaves alternate 3-6 inches long. White flowers in summer, often found growing along streams.



Japanese Barberry
(*Berberis thunbergii*)

Description: A shrub with small thorns on the stems, it forms thick stands in forests. Leaves are small, ½ inch to 1 ½ inches long, oval to spatula-shaped. Leaves can be green or purple with smooth margins. Small yellow flowers emerge in April-May. The plant turns a brilliant red in autumn. It has bright red berries in late fall and winter.



Japanese
honeysuckle
(*Lonicera
japonica*)

Description: Leaves are opposite, oval in shape. White flowers appear in late spring through early summer, often with a tinge of yellow. Small black fruits visible in the fall. This is a perennial vine.



Mile-a-Minute
(*Persicaria perfoliata*)

Photo: www.nps.gov

Description: Herbaceous vine with light green colored leaves shaped like a triangle and alternate along the stems. Cup-shaped leafy structures surround the stem at nodes. Flowers are small and white, with deep blue fruits in the fall.



Photos from
www.duke.edu



Photo: www.mdivivespa.org



Photo: www.dkimages.com





Garlic Mustard
(*Alliaria petiolata*)

Description: The coarsely toothed leaves give off a garlic-like odor when crushed. It grows quickly in the early spring, when most native species are dormant. It flowers in spring and dies off by late June leaving seedpods. It is edible.



Russian olive
(*Eleagnus angustifolia*)

Description: A small, thorny shrub or small tree . Leaves are egg or lance-shaped with smooth margins, alternating along the stem. The outside of the flower is covered with silvery scales.



Multiflora Rose
(*Rosa multiflora*)

Description: A thorny shrub with arching stems, climbs trees and other shrubs. Leaves divided in five to eleven sharply toothed leaflets. The base of each leaf stalk has a pair of small fringed stipules. White rose-like flowers appear in May.



Purple Loosestrife
(*Lythrum salicaria*)

Description: Woody stem, 4-10 feet high. Leaves are lance shaped, paired in whorls around the stem. Lots of purple flower from summer through fall. Generally grows in open meadows and marsh areas.

Photo: www.cwss-scm.ca



Photo: www.highriver.ca





Oriental Bittersweet
(Celastrus orbiculata)

Description: Found throughout the Eastern U.S., this woody vine has small red fruits in the fall. Leaves are glossy, rounded, and finely toothed, arranged alternately along the stem. Small greenish flowers can be found on the leaf axils.



Dames Rocket
(Hesperis matronalis)

Description: Flowers are purple or white, visible in May and June. Often confused with wild phlox. Floxes have 5 petals ; Dames rocket has 4. Leaves are lance-like and toothed, growing alternately on the stems. Phlox leaves are smooth and opposite.



Shrub or Bush Honeysuckle
(Lonicera spp.)

Description: Grows 6-20 feet tall, with opposite leaves. Flowers vary in color from pink to white to red or yellow, depending on the species. Stems are often hollow. Fruits are red to orange. Plants usually grow along roads or disturbed areas.

Tree of Heaven
(Ailanthus altissima)



Photo: www.wmnu.edu

Description: An invasive tree, it can grow up to 80 feet tall. Each compound leaf has 11-25 smaller leaflets. Also called stinking sumac for its strong odor. Flowers are yellowish, blooming in mid-June.





Photo: www.nps.gov

Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

Description: Shrub or small tree, trunk can be up to 10 inches wide. Leaves are broadly oval with jagged, toothed margins. Twigs are often tipped with a spine. Yellow-green flowers emerge in spring near base of leaf stalks.



Photo: www.invasive.org

Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*)

Description: Releases a toxin that reduces growth of other species. Grows 2-4 feet tall and has alternate, pale green leaves which are 1-3 inches long. Flowers are purple and bloom from July through August.



Photo: www.nps.gov

Pale Swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossowii*)

Description: An herbaceous vine, with oval shaped leaves that occur in pairs along the stem. Five-petaled flowers are pink to brown. Fruits are a smooth, slender pod that are light green and are found in July and August.



Photo: www.wikipedia.org

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)

Description: A large deciduous tree, whose twigs and leaves ooze milky sap when cut or torn. Very similar to sugar maple. Leaves are wider than they are long. Turn bright yellow in late fall. Has been shown to reduce wildflower diversity in forests because of the dense shade it casts.



Photos: www.nps.gov and www.swallow-wort.com



Photo: www.colby-sawyer.edu



Photo: www.sdstate.edu



Photo: www.co.stevens.wa.us



Burning
Bush
(*Euonymus
alatus*)

Description: Shrub planted along roadways and in gardens because it turns bright red in the fall. Leaves are 1-3" long, medium to dark green except in fall. Small yellow or green flowers in May or early June. Very obvious woody "wings" on stems.



Common
reed
(*Phragmites
australis*)

Description: A large grass found in marsh areas throughout the Hudson Valley. Very tall, often over 10-12 feet. Tufts of silky hair form at the top for reproduction.



Water
chestnut
(*Trapa
natans*)

Description: Aquatic floating plant found in quiet freshwater parts of the Hudson River. Leaves out in mid-summer creating thick beds of vegetation. Distinctive black seeds with spikes are found on most shorelines in the region.



