

















Common Invasive Plant Species in Northeastern Illinois

 <p>Citizens for Conservation</p>			
Common Name	Buckthorn	Common Reed	Dame's Rocket
Botanical Name	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Description	shrub or small tree to 22 ft., irregular crown, upper leaves glossy green, small black fruit	hollow stalks to 13 ft., alternate spear-shaped leaves, flower tufts	first year rosette, 2nd year tall flowering perennial, alternate leaves decrease in size up stem, flowers resemble phlox
Habitat	open woods, prairies, roadsides, residences	wetlands-marshes, bogs, fens, roadside ditches, riverbanks	woodland edges, moist meadows, roadsides
Distinctive Characteristics	twigs tipped with 2-4" thorns, inner bark bright yellow/yellow-orange	height, flower plumes, forms fence-like masses, resembles cornstalk	first- & second-year growth differ, leaves, seeds edible
History	1800s Eurasian ornamental	non-native varieties replacing native species	1600s Eurasian plant
Invasive Behavior (reproduction & spreading)	by seeds, forms dense, shady stands	underground rhizome network, seeds, wetland plant transfer	by seed in slender pods, forms dense monocultures
Control	manual, chemical, biocontrol	manual, systemic herbicide	manual, burn, chemical
What to Watch For	seeds persist 5 years in soil, still sold at nurseries, leafs out early	sold by a few landscapers for erosion control	included in wildflower seed mixes, people assume it is "wild phlox"

 <p>Citizens for Conservation</p>			
Common Name	Garlic Mustard	Honeysuckle, Bush	Multiflora Rose
Botanical Name	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	<i>Lonicera</i> spp.	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Description	first year rosette, 2nd year flower spike with small white flower clusters, toothed leaves	upright shrub to 15 ft., many branches from base, white to pink tubular flowers in pairs	thorny, sprawling perennial shrub, to 15 ft., small white flower clusters, fringed leaf-stem base
Habitat	forests, woodland edges, residences	fields, forest edges, yards, roadsides, open habitats	pastures, streambanks, open woodlands, well-drained soil
Distinctive Characteristics	leaves have garlic odor, first- & second-year growth differ, rosette green all winter	hollow pith, ground underneath shrub usually bare	red rosehips on plant in winter, backward curved thorns, white flower
History	brought as edible herb by European settlers	1800s from Asia planted as ornamental & for erosion control	1860s from Japan as ornamental rootstock, planted to stabilize soil & control livestock
Invasive Behavior (reproduction & spreading)	by seed in slender pods that explode to spread seeds	dense branches that shade ground, seeds dispersed mainly by birds	seeds viable for 20 yrs., fibrous roots form dense thickets
Control	manual, chemical, biocontrol	manual & chemical	manual, chemical
What to Watch For	seeds viable for 5 years, can invade undisturbed areas	native honeysuckles are woody vines not shrubs, have a solid pith	cane tips touching ground will root, native roses have pink flowers

Common Invasive Plant Species in Northeastern Illinois

 <p>Citizens for Conservation</p>			
Common Name	Norway Maple	Purple Loosestrife	Reed Canary Grass
Botanical Name	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Description	deciduous tree to 90 ft., round crown, yellow fall color, dense foliage, shallow roots, leaf out earlier than native maples	stiff four-sided stem, 3-10 ft. with pinkish-purple flower spike	stems to 9 ft., rough tapering leaf blades 3-10" long, .4-.8" wide, seed clusters, one of the first grasses to emerge in spring
Habitat	full sun, mass plantings in subdivisions	wetlands-marshes, bogs, fens, roadside ditches, riverbanks	wetlands, disturbed areas, can clog streams
Distinctive Characteristics	fast growing, milky fluid from broken leaf stem, barren soil common below	spike of rose-purple flowers	height & seed clusters
History	1760s from England as ornamental street tree	1800s Old World plant	Eurasian ecotype aggressive
Invasive Behavior (reproduction & spreading)	prolific seed set	by seed and vegetatively via root & stem segments	by seed & creeping rhizomes, wetland plant transfer, dense stands
Control	seed & seedling removal, manual	manual, chemical, biocontrol	manual, burn, chemical
What to Watch For	dense shade eliminates ground cover, brittle branches break in wind	resembles many natives, identify accurately	sold as ribbon grass & for erosion control

 <p>Citizens for Conservation</p>			
Common Name	Teasel	Thistle, Bull	Thistle, Canada
Botanical Name	<i>Dipsacus</i> spp.	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Description	2-8 ft., hairy leaves clasp stem, large thimble-shaped seed head, resembles thistle	herbaceous biennial, up to 6 ft., lobed leaves with long, sharp spines, pink-magenta vase-shaped flowers to 2"	herbaceous perennial, stems 1.5-4 ft., irregularly-lobed prickly leaves, small lavender flower clusters
Habitat	moist to dry, highways, pastures, ditches, disturbed areas	full sun, roadsides, disturbed sites	meadows, prairies, disturbed areas, yards
Distinctive Characteristics	single 2-4" thimble-shaped seed head on very tall stalks	rosette in first year, leaves rough on upperside	male & female flowers on separate plants, begins as rosette
History	1700s European plant, brought here for use in carding wool	from Eurasia, contaminant of crop seed	from Eurasia in 1600s as contaminant of grain seed
Invasive Behavior (reproduction & spreading)	by seed, each plant can produce 3300 seeds	only by seed, 4000 per plant	by seed (5000 per plant) & horizontal roots, may release chemicals toxic to other plants
Control	manual, burn, chemical	manual, chemical, biocontrol	manual, chemical, biocontrol
What to Watch For	seed heads sold for crafting	rosettes to 3 ft. diameter, seeds wind dispersed and viable 3 years	roots to 15 ft., small root pieces become new plants in 2 weeks