

Think twice about the plants around you!

The eight upland plants illustrated are problematic here and now. Unfortunately, some are very popular in landscaping. The plants listed on the back of this brochure are also not recommended, as they are on the increase, and capable of causing severe problems. (Information about invasive aquatic plants is available in literature published by the states of New Hampshire and Vermont.)



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

Small deciduous tree, reaching height of 23' **Leaves:** alternate, glossy above, slightly hairy below; 1-3" long, oblong, smooth (wavy) margins **Flowers:** yellowish-green, five petals, in clusters where leaf joins twig; bloom continuously during summer **Fruit:** berry is red when immature, black when ripe **Bark:** brown/green, smooth, raised white bumps; interior wood is bright orange **Habitat:** prefers wet areas, but thrives under many conditions. Tolerates shade **Notes:** cut stumps will resprout. Common in Connecticut River corridor—dominant in some places.

Shrub Honeysuckles

(Tatarian Honeysuckle) *Lonicera tatarica* smooth hairless leaves, pink or white flowers

(Morrow Honeysuckle) *Lonicera morrowii* downy leaves, white flowers which turn yellow, and several other species

Upright, coarse deciduous shrubs; up to 16' high **Branches:** wide spreading; older branches are hollow (as distinguished from native honeysuckle shrubs) **Leaves:** opposite, simple, oval to oblong shape, 1-2.5" long **Flowers:** numerous, in pairs on slender stalks, tubular with deeply lobed petals **Fruit:** pairs of red, orange or yellow berries **Habitat:** abandoned fields and pastures; edges of forest and wetlands; prefers sun, but tolerates a variety of moisture and shade levels **Notes:** cut stumps will resprout. Do not confuse with native honeysuckles. Often planted in hedges.



Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*

Deciduous tree, reaching height of 40-50' (can reach 90'); mature tree has rounded crown and forms dense canopy **Leaves:** opposite, long stems; fan-lobed shape, palmately veined, with U-shaped notches; leaves appear earlier than other maples; turn yellow in fall and are very late to fall from tree; distinctive white sap oozes from broken leaves and stems **Flowers:** showy, large greenish-yellow clusters bloom before leaf-out **Bark:** mature tree has grayish-black, narrowly furrowed bark **Fruit:** winged maple "keys" are distinguished from seeds of native maples by the 180° angle formed by the two halves **Habitat:** shade tolerant; tolerates wide range of soil, moisture and pollution conditions **Notes:** tolerates soil compaction and road salt; shallow roots inhibit nearby plant growth; inhibits growth of other shade-tolerant trees such as sugar maple and beech.



Japanese Barberry *Berberis thunbergii*

Dense, woody, deciduous shrub, 2-3' high (can reach 6') **Leaves:** small, oval, untoothed; grow in clusters; leaves appear early in spring; red in fall **Flowers:** small, yellow; one to three on stems growing below leaf clusters **Bark:** single spine under each leaf cluster; inner wood and roots are bright yellow **Fruit:** bright oblong red berries, ripen in fall; distributed by birds **Habitat:** prefers sun, but can survive in dense shade; escapes in fields, field edge, open forest; tolerates a variety of soil types **Notes:** considered easy to remove; can form dense, impenetrable stands in forests; often planted in hedges; branch tips can root; rarely resprouts if cut.



Oriental Bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Deciduous woody vine; twines around other plants, can climb to 60' **Leaves:** alternate, glossy, nearly round, bluntly toothed; turn yellow in fall **Flowers:** clusters of small, greenish-yellow 5-petaled flowers that form where leaf stems join the vine; male and female plants bloom in May and June **Bark:** old growth is rough and tan; new growth is green with small bumps **Fruit:** tough yellow fruit covers split open, revealing bright red berries; ripe by September; remain on vine through winter; distributed by birds **Habitat:** prefers open sites, such as roadsides, hedgerows, and thickets; shade tolerance has permitted spread into forested areas **Notes:** difficult to control, root suckers are common; don't confuse with less-common native American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), a vine with elongated, pointed leaves, and with flowers and orange fruits at ends of branches.



Autumn Olive (Japanese Silverberry) *Elaeagnus umbellata*

Small deciduous tree, can reach height of 20' **Leaves:** alternate, untoothed, oval, 1-3" long; dark, dull, gray-green on top; pale underside covered with tiny silvery scales; edges often wavy **Flowers:** pale cream-colored tubular-shaped flowers grow in clusters from base of leaf stems, turn yellow with age; four petals; extremely fragrant **Bark:** twigs are silvery; sometimes with sharp thorns **Fruit:** oval berries are initially brown, turn red when ripe; dotted with silvery scale-like particles; distributed by birds **Habitat:** prefers sun; found in old fields, forest edges, roadsides; tolerates drought, wind and air pollution **Notes:** will re-sprout if cut; grows rapidly and can form dense thickets; shrub mound-shaped, often lopsided; has distinctive silver color at distance (particularly when in bloom, or wind is blowing); leaf out early; roots are nitrogen-fixing, so plant can grow in infertile habitats, and modify soil suitability for native species. Do not confuse with native willows (which lack berries).



Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*

Cool season biennial herb, 1-3' high **Leaves:** garlic odor when leaves are crushed; the leaves of first-year plants are rounded with teeth, growing in low rosette; second-year plants have alternate heart-shaped deeply toothed leaves **Flowers:** white, cross-shaped; in clusters at end of stalks on second-year plants; blooms in late spring and early summer **Fruit:** in long slender pods, average 800/plant; mature by mid-July to August **Habitat:** forest edge and roadsides; tolerates both deep shade and full sun **Notes:** sturdy white taproot has an unusual "hook" shape just under the ground; relatively easy to pull up; plants can reach a density of 20,000 seedlings/square meter. May be spread with hay bales or nursery stock.



Japanese Knotweed *Polygonum cuspidatum* or *Fallopia japonica*

Fast-growing perennial, 3-12' high, new shoots produced annually **Leaves:** wide, slightly oval, smooth edges, pointed tip and squarish base, 2-6" long **Stems:** stout, hollow, bamboo-like; dull green with red mottling; side shoots emerge from joints in stems at base of leaves **Flowers:** large clusters of tiny, pale greenish blossoms at tips of plant in late summer **Fruit:** mature soon after blossom; wind dispersed; plants from seed can flower in first year **Habitat:** sunny wetlands, marshes, roadside ditches; tolerates many soil types and a range of moisture conditions **Notes:** forms dense patches which are very difficult to control; spreads mainly by underground rhizomes, which reach up to 50'; broken bits of root or stalks can establish a new colony.

