



## What makes a plant INVASIVE?

Because there are no predators in the new environment, these plants are able to spread out of control, crushing the competition and dominating large areas of land.

Not only does this contribute to the loss of native plants, but also the loss of food sources for native wildlife, contributing to the mass extinctions we are seeing around the globe.

*Invasive plants can:*






-  Harbor ticks (increasing rates of lyme disease)
-  Kill butterflies
-  Make the water too acidic for amphibians
-  Leach chemicals that stop anything else growing,
-  Strangle native plants and pull down trees
-  Increase erosion
-  Crowd out and smother other plant life
-  Damage building foundations, paving, and underground pipe systems

And more...

[backyardinvasives.weebly.com](http://backyardinvasives.weebly.com)



## BEST PRACTICES

-  Learn to identify invasive plants
-  Check your property regularly for invasive seedlings and shoots
-  Safely dispose of invasives you have removed
-  Remember to verify before you buy, that the plant is not invasive.
-  For native plant replacement suggestions visit: [backyardinvasives.weebly.com](http://backyardinvasives.weebly.com)

**Call for help 978-995-4864**

## HOW TO REMOVE INVASIVES

1. Pull plants up by the roots
2. Best to pull up BEFORE they seed
3. Remove all pieces of root—plants like knot-weed, bittersweet and most vines will regenerate from remaining pieces of root.
4. Burn seed-bearing limbs or dispose of these at the dump in plastic bags.
5. Plants without seeds/berries, can be piled, but not composted.
6. Continual cutting at base of stem & / or smothering with black plastic works for some species.

[backyardinvasives.weebly.com](http://backyardinvasives.weebly.com)






# The Backyard Invasives Project



**Working to prevent mass-extinctions;  
*one backyard at a time.***

## SERVICES

-  assisting landowners with invasive plant removal,
-  promoting native plants for beauty, and as food for pollinators and wildlife,
-  consulting on DIY plant removal and identification.

## GET IN TOUCH

**Maddie Kiszewski**

**978.995.4864**

[backyardinvasives@gmail.com](mailto:backyardinvasives@gmail.com)



## Knotweed



Knotweed forms extensive, dense root systems that outcompete and eliminate all other plant life.

It is difficult to remove once established, and can even destroy home foundations, driveways and underground pipe systems if it grows too close.

*The entire root system needs to be removed or starved to ensure it won't come back.*



## Bittersweet



Bittersweet is a vine that grows quickly and has a massive root system.

It outcompetes and strangles other species.

It produces a huge amount of berries that are eaten and spread by birds throughout the winter.

Learning to recognize it young is important.

*The entire root system needs to be removed to ensure it won't come back.*



## Glossy & Common Buckthorn



Forms dense thickets; outcompeting native plants.

The berries have a laxative effect on birds and inhibit the ability to absorb nutrients.

The seeds remain viable in the soil for 2+ years and can spread



## Garlic Mustard



Garlic mustard forms dense colonies and releases chemicals into the soil to prevent other plants from growing.

Even small plants make thousands of seeds and need to be pulled in Spring before the seed pods form.

Toxic to the West Virginia

White Butterfly, but edible to humans!



## Bush Honeysuckle



There is a native bush honeysuckle as well as the invasive one.

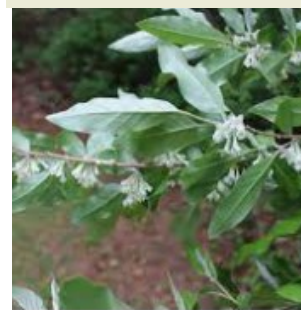
*The telltale difference is that the invasive species has a hollow stem.*

These bushes form dense growth in the understory of a forest, increasing erosion,

and providing perfect humid habitat for ticks.



## Autumn Olive



A deciduous tree / shrub with white flowers in spring and bright red berries in fall. Underside of leaves are light, almost silver-colored.

It can grow to 15 ft. and spreads easily. Its ability to fix nitrogen helps it displace and out-compete native species.

Originally from Asia it was planted for erosion control and wildlife food in the U.S.



## Japanese Barberry



Common barberry produces large numbers of fruit that are eaten by birds, which then spread the seeds across the landscape.

Barberry invades fields, forests, and wetland edges. These bushes form dense growth in the understory of a

forest, increasing erosion, and providing perfect humid habitat for ticks.



## Porcelain Berry



Able to spread rapidly—up to 25 ft a season— it invades field and field edges.

Porcelain-berry shades out and strangles native plants, much like oriental bitter-sweet.

Birds are attracted to the fruit and spread the seeds.



## Multiflora Rose



Multiflora rose is a thorny shrub with white flowers and red fruit. It can reach 10 feet or higher and is often wider than it is tall.

It forms dense thickets in fields and field edges, crowding out other species. It also grows in open wetlands and in forests where canopy openings occur.