

Invasive Plants of East Central Illinois

including

Recommended Actions

Alternative Plants for Landscape Applications



Champaign County
Master Gardeners

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The East Central Illinois Master Naturalists and Champaign County Master Gardeners, sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension, provide this list as part of an effort to raise awareness about the threat of invasive species to our natural areas.

What are invasive plants?

Alien or “exotic” plant species are those which were introduced by some non-natural process (primarily transportation and/or planting by humans) into an environment in which they do not naturally occur. Those exotic species that are able to thrive outside their normal range become invasive. Invasive plants are capable of aggressively competing with native species to the point of displacing them. To accomplish this, invasives tend to exhibit very strong vegetative growth, rapid maturation, abundant long-lived seed production, and a high germination rate. While there can be overlap, the term “invasive plants” generally refers to landscape management issues, from residential yards to roadsides and natural areas. “Noxious weeds,” on the other hand, is a legal designation applicable to economic impact, usually to agribusiness. They are regulated by state and federal agricultural agencies.

Why should we worry about invasive plants?

Invasive plants can have a devastating influence on ecosystems, including prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. They can crowd out native species that are the primary food or nesting resource for a variety of insects, birds, mammals, and other organisms. The long term effect can often be a significant reduction in the diversity of species occupying a local or even regional ecosystem. The resulting reduction in diversity can place great stress on plant and animal populations in both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Government agencies, local park districts, and landscape managers charged with enhancing and preserving natural habitats and maintaining other private and public lands face rising costs in their efforts to remove invasive plants and reduce their spread.

An example of an invasive plant is garlic mustard, which was introduced from Europe and first observed in New York in 1868. It has few natural enemies here, grows rapidly, produces thousands of seeds, and shades out native woodland wildflowers.

What can we do?

Everyone can play a part in reducing the spread of invasive plants. Educate yourself about the various invasive species in our area. Join with local agencies, park districts, and stewards to remove invasives in natural areas. Make an effort to avoid planting invasives, instead making use of alternatives (many are suggested here) in private and public gardens and landscaping.

Invasive Plant List
 The following list contains specific information on a wide range of invasive species, including herbaceous plants, trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and aquatic plants. For each species, the table includes plant characteristics, its status as a current or potential threat to the environment, and suggested alternative plants for garden and landscape use.

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
HERBACEOUS FORBS	4
GRASSES	9
SHRUBS	11
TREES	13
VINES and GROUND COVERS	15
AQUATICS	17
References	18
For More Information	19

Recommended Action Column Key
R Remove as soon as possible and/or do not add to collection in future
P Phase out species that pose a lesser invasive risk, form significant structural features in landscape, and will be time-consuming to replace; therefore will be phased out over a five- to ten-year period
E Evaluate species and/or cultivars - remove those which are invasive
W Watch List - plants which are not currently posing a serious invasive risk, but do pose a risk elsewhere in the country and may here in the future

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
HERBACEOUS FORBS				
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed	Disturbed areas with moist soils and shade, such as disturbed forest understories, roadsides, and forest edges.	P	<i>Anemone canadensis</i> (meadow anemone), <i>Aralia nudicaulis</i> (wild sarsaparilla), <i>Asarum</i> (wild ginger), <i>Epimedium</i> spp. (barrenwort), <i>Glandularia canadensis</i> (mock rose vervain), <i>Hosta</i> (hosta), <i>Phlox divaricata</i> (wild blue phlox)
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	Shade tolerant. Spreads by human-, animal-, water-dispersed seed. Seeds remain viable many years. Allelopathic. Establishes in disturbed areas, spreading into less-disturbed areas.	R	<i>Asarum canadense</i> (wild ginger) and <i>Dentaria laciniata</i> (cut-leaved toothwort)
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock, common burdock	Moist, well-drained soils; tolerates acidic to alkaline conditions, sunny, open areas.	R	
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i> <i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding plumeless thistle Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i> on Illinois Noxious Weed List. Colonize disturbed areas and roadsides.	R	<i>Echinacea</i> spp. (coneflower), <i>Silphium</i> spp. (rosinweed, prairie dock, compass plant)
<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> ssp. <i>micranthos</i> <i>Centaurea cyanus</i> , <i>Centaurea jacea</i> , and <i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Spotted knapweed Garden cornflower Brownway knapweed Lesser knapweed Black knapweed	Establishes readily on disturbed ground. Can invade open forests and prairies. Tolerates drought. Allelopathic. Possible carcinogen.	R	<i>Echinacea</i> spp. (coneflower), <i>Silphium</i> spp. (rosinweed, prairie dock, compass plant) <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> (bellflower), <i>Linum lewisii</i> (Lewis' flax)
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	On Illinois Noxious Weed List. Colonizes by creeping roots. Taproots may grow more than 6' deep. Readily grows from root fragments.	R	<i>Echinacea</i> spp. (coneflower), <i>Silphium</i> spp. (rosinweed, prairie dock, compass plant)
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh plume thistle	Escaped in NE Wisconsin, not yet in Illinois.	W	(see <i>C. arvense</i>)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle		R	(see <i>C. arvense</i>)
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	Along streams, pond edges, wet meadows, along roadsides. Prefers partial shade and most soils. Poisonous to humans and livestock.	R	<i>Aruncus</i> spp. (goatsbeard), <i>Actaea racemosa</i> (black cohosh), <i>Filipendula</i> spp. (meadowsweet)
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's lace	Grows on waste ground. Will typically disappear over time in prairie plantings.	P	<i>Aruncus</i> spp. (goatsbeard), <i>Achillea</i> spp. (yarrow), <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> (wild quinine)
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i> <i>D. fullonum</i>	Cutleaf teasel Common teasel	Each plant can produce as many as 2,000 seeds which remain viable in soil for at least 2 years.	R	<i>Echinacea</i> spp. (coneflower), <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp. (black-eyed Susan), <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> (wild quinine)
<i>Duchesnia indica</i>	Indian strawberry, False strawberry		R	<i>Waldsteinia ternata</i> (barren strawberry)
<i>Echinops sphaerocephalus</i>	Globe thistle	Introduced from Europe. Mostly escaped in NE Illinois plus a record in Coles County. Very large escaped population along a railroad line in Will/Kankakee Counties.	R	<i>Liatris</i> spp. (blazing star), <i>Monarda</i> spp. (bee balm), <i>Phlox</i> spp. (phlox), <i>Salvia</i> spp. (sage), <i>Thalictrum</i> spp. (meadow rue), <i>Veronica</i> spp. (speedwell)
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Hairy willow herb	Escaped in wetlands in NE Illinois. Can form extensive patches.	R	(see <i>E. sphaerocephalus</i>)
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress spurge	Very tough to get rid of in a natural setting.	P	<i>Origanum laevigatum</i> (ornamental oregano), selected <i>Sedum</i> spp. (stonecrop)
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge	Very serious pest west of IL and currently infests Champaign County railways. Seeds dispersed by wildlife, humans, and water. Extensive root system; taproot up to 15' deep; lateral roots spread up to 35'. Can sprout from root buds.	R	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> (basket-of-gold), <i>Euphorbia corollata</i> (flowering spurge)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Fallopia japonica</i> = <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Japanese knotweed	Spreads rapidly via long, stout rhizomes which can reach 65' or more from parent plants. Tolerates high temperatures, high salinity, drought, shade. Very difficult to remove once established. Remove as soon as discovered. Phase out if well established.	R	<i>Actaea racemosa</i> (black cohosh), <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> (goatsbeard), <i>Polygonatum</i> spp. (Solomon's seal), <i>Smilacina racemosa</i> (false Solomon's seal), <i>Tricyrtis</i> spp. (toad lily)
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy Creeping Charlie	Prefers moist ground and shade of floodplains, low woods and disturbed areas. Very difficult to get rid of.	P	<i>Ajuga</i> spp. (bugleweed), <i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i> (leadwort), <i>Plumbago auriculata</i> (cape leadwort)
<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i> <i>G. elegans</i> <i>G. scorzonerifolia</i>	Baby's breath		W	<i>Boltonia asteroides</i> (boltonia), <i>Panicum virgatum</i> cvs. (switch grass), <i>Euphorbia corollata</i> (flowering spurge)
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Tawny daylily	Found on old house sites, along roadsides, streams, in meadows, moist open woodlands.	P	<i>Lilium michiganense</i> (Michigan lily), <i>L.</i> spp. and cvs. (lily), <i>Papaver orientale</i> (Oriental poppy)
<i>Heracleum mantagazzianum</i>	Giant hogweed	On Federal Noxious weed List. Sap, exposed to sunlight, can cause severe skin and eye irritation, painful blistering, permanent scarring, blindness.	R	<i>Aruncus</i> spp. (goatsbeard), <i>Actaea racemosa</i> (black cohosh), <i>Filipendula</i> spp. (meadowsweet)
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's rocket	Abundant seeds. Although from Eurasia, often sold in wildflower seed mixes.	R	<i>Iodanthus pinnatifidus</i> (purple rocket), <i>Phlox glaberrima</i> (smooth phlox)
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	Chameleon plant	Spreads underground. Can overrun gardens. Has not yet been found to escape in Illinois.	W	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i> (lady's mantle), <i>Asarum</i> spp. (ginger), <i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> (green and gold)
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. John's wort	Found in rangelands, fields, waste areas, along forest edges.	P	<i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i> (great St. John's wort)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag iris	Found in marshes, ditches, wet areas in water up to 9" deep. Tolerates acidic water, periods of drought.	P species E cultivars	<i>Iris fulva</i> 'Lois Yellow' (copper iris), <i>Iris virginica</i> var. <i>shrevii</i> (interior blue flag iris), <i>Iris brevicaulis</i> (zigzag blue iris)
<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	Chinese bush clover	Tolerates poor soil conditions; prefers sunny sites. Very difficult to remove once it is established. Remove as soon as discovered. Phase out if well established.	R	<i>Baptisia</i> spp. (wild indigo), <i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i> (Illinois bundle flower), <i>Lespedeza virginica</i> (slender bush clover), <i>Lespedeza capitata</i> (prairie bush clover)
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Butter-and-eggs Toadflax		P	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i> cvs. (snapdragons), <i>Calibrachoa</i> cvs. (million bells), <i>Digitalis</i> spp. (foxglove), <i>Nemesia fruticans</i> cvs. (nemesia)
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil	Found in moist, open areas. Withstands drought, but not flooding.	P	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i> (whorled milkweed)
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	Listed on Illinois Exotic Weed List. Spreads rapidly by rhizomes and through abundant, water-dispersed seed. Be very cautious of <i>Lythrum</i> which claims to be sterile.	R	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> (swamp milkweed), <i>Liatris</i> spp. (blazing star), <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> 'Vivid' (obedient plant), <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> (spotted Joe-Pye weed), <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> (purple coneflower), <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> (swamp milkweed), <i>Monarda didyma</i> (bee balm)
<i>Lythrum virgatum</i>	Purple loosestrife	Not known as an escape in IL. Has escaped, however, in MA, MT, NH, PA, VA, WA	W	(see <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> immediately above)
<i>Melilotus alba</i> <i>M. officinalis</i> (USDA plants database considers <i>M. alba</i> to be a color variant of <i>M. officinalis</i> and gives <i>M. alba</i> no taxonomic status)	White sweet-clover Yellow sweet- clover	Up to 350,000 seeds/plant which remain viable in soil for up to 30 years.	R	<i>Baptisia</i> spp. (wild indigo), <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> (Culver's root)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild parsnip	Contact with skin in presence of sunlight can cause severe rash, blisters, discoloration of the skin.	R	<i>Zizia aurea</i> (golden Alexanders), <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> (rattlesnake master), <i>Polytaenia nuttallii</i> (prairie parsley)
<i>Perilla frutescens</i>	Beefsteak plant		R	<i>Hibiscus acetosella</i> (red leaf hibiscus), <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> cvs. (basil), <i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i> (coleus)
<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	Giant knotweed	see <i>Fallopia japonica</i>	R	(see <i>Fallopia japonica</i>)
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Purslane	Note from Swink and Wilhelm (<i>Plants of the Chicago Region</i> , 1994), "Probably introduced from the Old World, but some have purported that it was cultivated by the Indians in pre-Columbian times."	P species E cultivars	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> (basket-of-gold), selected <i>Sedum</i> spp. and cvs. (stonecrop)
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Silver cinquefoil		R	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> (green and gold)
<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>	Creeping yellow-cress		R	<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i> (basket-of-gold), selected <i>Sedum</i> spp. and cvs. (stonecrop)
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Garden sorrel Sheep sorrel Field sorrel Red sorrel		P	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> 'Bright Lights' (Swiss chard) <i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i> (coleus)
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Bouncing bet		P species E cultivars	<i>Liatris</i> spp. (blazing star), <i>Monarda</i> spp. (bee balm), <i>Phlox</i> spp. (phlox), <i>Salvia</i> spp. (sage), <i>Thalictrum</i> spp. (meadowrue), <i>Veronica</i> spp. (speedwell)
<i>Securigera varia</i>	Crown vetch	Spreads through rhizomes from plantings along roadsides into praires, pastures, woodland edges, along streambanks. Prefers full sun and will grow in most soil types.	R	<i>Asarum</i> spp. (ginger), <i>Epimedium</i> spp. (barrenwort), <i>Glandularia canadensis</i> (mock rose vervain), <i>Hosta</i> (hosta), <i>Viola</i> (violet)
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Field sow-thistle	On Illinois Noxious Weed List.	R	<i>Coreopsis</i> spp. (coreopsis); <i>Helianthus</i> spp. (sunflower)
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common valerian	Introduced from Eurasia. Known to occasionally escape in NE IL. Very common escape in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota.	P	(See <i>E. sphaerocephalus</i>)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Flannel mullein Woolly mullein	Needs sun. Tolerates very dry land. Tends to grow in meadows, disturbed field edges, burned areas, roadsides, pastures, forest openings. Seeds need bare ground to germinate.	R	<i>Digitalis</i> spp. (foxglove)
<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	Brazilian verbena	Reported as an escape in IL only once (EIU Campus, Coles County).	W	(See <i>E. sphaerocephalus</i>)
GRASSES				
<i>Agropyron repens</i>	Quack grass		R	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> cvs. (switch grass), <i>Sporobolus heterolepsis</i> (prairie dropseed)
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	Perennial. Grows 3 – 7"/day, reaching 6 – 30 ft.	W	
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth brome	Prefers sun along riverbanks, roadsides, field edges, prairies, pastures.	P	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> (bluejoint grass), <i>Panicum virgatum</i> (switchgrass) (*Caution*, some cultivars can be very aggressive), <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (little bluestem)
<i>Festuca elatior</i> = <i>F. arundinacea</i>	Tall fescue	Spreads by expanding rootcrowns. Certain varieties poisonous to livestock and wildlife by infecting them with an endophytic fungus.	P	
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow fescue		R	
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stiltgrass	Tolerates heavy shade and flood conditions. Seeds dispersed by water, animals and on people's clothing and shoes. Roots at stem nodes touching ground.	R	
<i>Miscanthus sacchariflorus</i>	Amur silver grass		R	(see <i>A. repens</i>), <i>Spartina pectinata</i> (prairie cordgrass)
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Chinese silver grass	Cold tolerant.	R species E cultivars	(see <i>A. repens</i>) <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (little bluestem), <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (Indian grass)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> <i>var. purpurascens</i>	Autumn Red Miscanthus, Flame Grass, Eulalia, Maiden Grass	See above	R	See above
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass	Rhizomes create thick mats of vegetation. Seeds able to germinate immediately upon reaching ground. Difficult to remove once established. Remove immediately once discovered. Phase out if well established.	P or R	<i>Spartina pectinata</i> (prairie cordgrass), <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> (bluejoint grass), <i>Panicum virgatum</i> (switchgrass)
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	Grows in wet areas. Spreads by rhizomes which can grow over 10'/year.	R	<i>Erianthus ravennae</i> (plume grass)
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Golden bamboo		P	<i>Equisetum hyemale var. affine</i> (scouringrush horsetail), <i>Panicum virgatum</i> (switchgrass)
<i>Setaria faberi</i>	Common foxtail	First recorded in IL in 1938. Since then it has become a ubiquitous weed. Abundant in early prairie plantings. Becomes less common as perennial prairie plants take hold.	R	
<i>Sorghum halapense</i>	Johnson grass	On Illinois Noxious Weed List. Found in old fields, croplands, pastures, forest edges, power lines. Spreads by both rhizomes and seed.	R	

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
SHRUBS				
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese barberry	Tolerates shade. Birds spread seed; can also grow from root creepers or branches rooting upon contact with ground.	P species E cultivars	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (ninebark), <i>Ribes odoratum</i> (clove currant), <i>Callicarpa americana</i> (American beautyberry), <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> (New Jersey tea), <i>Hypericum prolificum</i> (shrubby St. John's wort), <i>Itea virginica</i> (Virginia sweetspire), <i>Ilex verticillata</i> (winterberry holly)
<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	European barberry		R	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (ninebark), <i>Ribes odoratum</i> (clove currant)
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush		W	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i> (bottlebrush buckeye), <i>Amorpha canescens</i> (leadplant), <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> (buttonbush), <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> (summersweet, sweet pepperbush), <i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>canadensis</i> (common elderberry)
<i>Cotoneaster multiflorus</i> <i>C. acutifolia</i>	Many-flowered cotoneaster Peking cotoneaster		R	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (ninebark), <i>Ribes odoratum</i> (clove currant)
<i>Elaeagnus umbellatus</i>	Autumn olive	Shade tolerant. Adapts to poor soil. Rarely found in dense forests or wet sites. Produces up to 8 pounds of seed/year; dispersed by birds and mammals; germinate readily.	R	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i> (bottlebrush buckeye), <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (black chokeberry), <i>Corylus americana</i> (American filbert), <i>Ilex verticillata</i> (winterberry holly), <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (chokeberry)
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Winged euonymus	Shade tolerant. Colonizes by root suckers and spreads by animal-dispersed seeds.	R	<i>Euonymus americanus</i> (American strawberry bush), <i>Itea virginica</i> (Virginia sweetspire), <i>Rhus copallina</i> var. <i>latifolia</i> 'Morton' (Prairie Flame shining sumac), <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (arrow-wood viburnum), <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i> (burning bush)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Euonymus europeaus</i>	European spindle tree		P	<i>Euonymus americanus</i> (American strawberry bush), <i>Itea virginica</i> (Virginia sweetspire)
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Common sea buckthorn	Not known to escape near IL. Only known as escape in Canada.	W	
<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>	Shrub lespedeza	Watch for in southern Illinois.	W	
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> <i>L. vulgare</i> <i>L. amurense</i> <i>L. japonicum</i> <i>L. ovalifolium</i> <i>L. sinense</i>	Border privet Common privet	Shade tolerant. Colonize by root sprouts and spread widely by abundant bird- and other animal-dispersed seeds. Seeds poisonous to humans, long-lived in soil. <i>Ligustrum</i> invades all of Allerton park's natural areas. Usually more of an invasive problem to the southeast of Illinois.	P	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (ninebark), <i>Ribes odoratum</i> (clove currant)
<i>Lonicera x bella</i> <i>Lonicera maackii</i> <i>Lonicera morrowii</i> <i>Lonicera tatarica</i> any non-native <i>Lonicera</i> shrub	Bell's honeysuckle Amur honeysuckle Morrow's honeysuckle Tatarian honeysuckle	Relatively shade tolerant. Colonize by root sprouts. Abundant seeds spread by birds and mammals; sprout readily. Difficult to remove once well established.	R	<i>Amelanchier</i> spp. and cvs. (serviceberry), <i>Calycanthus floridus</i> (Carolina allspice), <i>Diervilla</i> spp. (bush honeysuckle), <i>Lindera benzoin</i> (spicebush), <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (arrow-wood viburnum), <i>Aesculus parvifolia</i> (bottlebrush buckeye)
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> <i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Common buckthorn Glossy buckthorn	All non-native buckthorns on Illinois Exotic Weed List.	R	<i>Alnus rugosa</i> (speckled alder), <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (American hornbeam), <i>Corylus americana</i> (American filbert), <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> (American arborvitae) and <i>Thuja plicata</i> (giant arborvitae), native <i>Cornus</i> spp. (dogwoods), <i>Ilex verticillata</i> (winterberry holly), <i>Lindera benzoin</i> (spicebush), <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (arrow-wood viburnum)
<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	Black jetbead	Mostly found in northeast Illinois; however, starting to be found downstate (Marion and Vermilion Counties).	W	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (ninebark), <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> (oakleaf hydrangea)
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose	On Illinois Exotic Weed List Colonize by prolific sprouting and stems that root. Spreads by animal-dispersed seeds.	R	<i>Rosa</i> spp. and cvs. (hardy shrub roses), <i>Rosa setigera</i> (prairie rose), <i>Rosa carolina</i> (Carolina rose)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Japanese meadowsweet		W	<i>Clethra</i> spp. (summersweet), <i>Hydrangea</i> spp. (hydrangea), native <i>Spiraea</i> (spirea), <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> (New Jersey tea)
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese tree lilac	Only known to have escaped in a few places in U.S (WY, NY, NH, MA).	W	<i>Clethra</i> spp. (summersweet), <i>Hydrangea</i> spp. (hydrangea)
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	European cranberrybush viburnum	Fruits are widely dispersed by birds. Especially common and aggressive in northeast Illinois.	P	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> cvs. (arrow-wood viburnum), <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> (American cranberrybush viburnum)
TREES				
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur maple		W	<i>Cotinus obovatus</i> (American smoke tree), <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> (pagoda dogwood), <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (American hornbeam, musclewood), <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> (Kentucky yellowwood), <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (American witchhazel), <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> (sourwood), <i>Prunus virginiana</i> (chokecherry)
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	Tolerant of urban environments.	P	<i>Acer miyabei</i> (Miyabei maple), <i>Acer rubrum</i> (red maple), <i>Acer saccharum</i> (sugar maple), <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> (ginko), <i>Acer Freemanii</i> (hybrid maple), <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (black gum), <i>Tilia cordata</i> (littleleaf linden)
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-heaven	Shade and flood intolerant. Allelopathic. Seeds produced on trees as early as 2-yr-old. Spreads by rhizomes.	R	<i>Acer saccharum</i> (sugar maple), <i>Acer rubrum</i> (red maple)
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European black alder	Naturalizes along rivers and in wetlands. Especially common in northeast Illinois. Also known as an escapee in Jackson, Union, and Vermilion Counties, IL.	P or R	<i>Celtis laevigata</i> (sugarberry), <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (common hackberry), <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (black gum)
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	Paper mulberry		W	<i>Morus rubra</i> (red mulberry)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive	Shade intolerant. Birds and animals disperse seeds.	P	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i> (bottlebrush buckeye), <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (black chokeberry), <i>Corylus americana</i> (American filbert), <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (American hornbeam, muscle wood), <i>Cornus florida</i> (flowering dogwood), <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (witch hazel)
<i>Malus baccata</i> <i>M. prunifolia</i> <i>Malus toringo</i> = <i>M. sieboldii</i>	Siberian crabapple Plumleaf crabapple Toringo crabapple		E	<i>Crataegus</i> spp. (hawthorn species), native <i>Malus</i> spp. (<i>M. ionensis</i> , <i>M. coronaria</i> , and <i>M. angustifolia</i> in southern IL) <i>Amelanchier</i> spp. (serviceberries)
<i>Morus alba</i>	White mulberry	Common in degraded floodplain forests throughout Illinois.	P	<i>Morus rubra</i> (red mulberry)
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Empress tree	Grows fast, flowers young, regenerates mature trees from cutting back, produces large numbers of seeds. Tolerates wide range of habitats including dry, infertile, and acidic soils.	W	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i> (northern catalpa), <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> (Kentucky coffeetree), <i>Magnolia acuminata</i> (cucumber-tree)
<i>Phellodendron amurense</i> (except male cultivars) <i>Phellodendron japonica</i>	Amur corktree Japanese corktree	Native to Asia. Appears to rarely escape from cultivation. It is known as an escapee in Du Page County, IL throughout Morton Arboretum and in nearby forest preserves.	W	<i>Acer rubrum</i> (red maple), <i>Phellodendron amurense</i> (male cvs.), <i>Quercus alba</i> (white oak)
<i>Populus alba</i>	White poplar		P	<i>Betula nigra</i> (river birch), <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> (northern catalpa), <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> (American sycamore)
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Callery ornamental pear (Bradford pear is most commonly planted cultivar)	Swink and Wilhelm (<i>Plants of the Chicago Region</i> , 1994) quote “This tree is so commonly cultivated that we would not be surprised if it became more common in the wild”. Reasons not to plant – structurally unsound, brittle, subject to wind damage.	P or R	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> (fringetree), <i>Crataegus</i> spp. (hawthorn species)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Quercus acutissima</i>	Sawtooth oak	Fast growing. Produces large numbers of acorns from about 7 years old. Grows in a wide variety of conditions.	P	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> (green ash), <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> (shingle oak), <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> (Chinkapin oak), <i>Quercus nigra</i> (water oak), <i>Quercus phellos</i> (willow oak)
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust	Reproduces vegetatively by root suckering and stump sprouting. Leaves, seeds, and bark are toxic to livestock and humans if ingested. Native species in southeast IL.	P or R (except in SE IL)	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i> (northern catalpa), <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i> (thornless honey locust)
<i>Rubus discolor</i>	Himalayan blackberry	Especially common around east-St. Louis area. Becoming more common throughout much of Illinois.	R or P	
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm		P	Dutch elm disease-resistant cvs. of <i>Ulmus americana</i> (American elm), <i>Ulmus thomasii</i> (rock elm), native <i>Quercus</i> spp. (oaks)
VINES and GROUND COVERS				
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelainberry vine		R	<i>Clematis</i> spp. (clematis) (except <i>C. terniflora</i>)
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental bittersweet	Shade tolerant. Colonizes by underground roots, prolific vine growth and seedlings. Spreads by bird- and animal-dispersed seeds and humans collecting decorative fruit-bearing vines.	R	<i>Aristolochia durior</i> (Dutchman's pipe), <i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i> (Dutchman's pipe, native in IL), <i>Celastrus scandens</i> (American bittersweet, can also be aggressive), <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> (Virginia creeper)

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i>	Chinese yam	Dies back during winter, but can cover small tree in 1 year. Spreads and persists by underground tubers and abundant production of aerial yams, which drop and form new plants. Can spread by water.	R	
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Winter creeper	Can climb trees, eventually overtopping them. Shade tolerant. Colonizes by trailing and climbing vines that root at nodes; spreads by bird-, animal- and water-dispersed seed. Can become very abundant in floodplain and moist woods in Illinois, overtopping and shading out virtually all other species. If contained (by concrete or mowed lawns) and kept trimmed, it is not a threat. Should not be planted adjacent to natural areas.	P or R	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> (bearberry), <i>Asarum</i> spp. (ginger), <i>Helleborus</i> spp. (hellebore)
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	Greatest invasive threat when it climbs and produces flowers and seed. Colonizes by rooting at nodes. Adapts to wide range of conditions. Shade tolerant. Harbors bacterial leaf scorch that infects oaks, elms, and maples.	W	<i>Vitis</i> sp. (grapes), <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> (Virginia creeper), <i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i> (woodbine)
<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	Japanese hops	Establishes on disturbed, open ground. Grows along riversides, old fields, along roadsides.	R	
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle Hall's honeysuckle	On Illinois Exotic Weed List. Shade tolerant. Spreads by underground rhizomes and aboveground stolons that develop roots where nodes contact soil.	R	<i>Clematis</i> spp. (clematis), native <i>Lonicera</i> spp. (native honeysuckles), <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> (purple passionflower)
<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>	Mile-a-minute weed		W	

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Pueraria montana</i> = <i>P. lobata</i>	Kudzu	On Illinois Noxious Weed List.	R	
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle	Spreads vegetatively, but does not spread by seed. If contained (by concrete or mowed lawns) and kept trimmed, it is not a threat. Should not be planted adjacent to natural areas.	W	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> (bearberry), <i>Euonymus obovatus</i> (running strawberry bush), <i>Mitchella repens</i> (partridgeberry), <i>Packera obovate</i> (roundleaf ragwort), <i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i> (barren strawberry)
<i>Vincetoxicum nigrum</i> <i>Vincetoxicum rossicum</i>	Black swallowwort Pale swallowwort		W	
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> <i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Chinese wisteria Japanese wisteria	Colonize by vines twining and covering shrubs and trees and by runners rooting at nodes. Seeds water-dispersed.	W	<i>Wisteria macrostachya</i> (Kentucky wisteria) <i>Wisteria macrostachya</i> is generally not recognized as a separate species, but rather as part of <i>Wisteria frutescens</i> (American wisteria)
AQUATICS				
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering rush	Found in water gardens, escaped to lakes and waterways.	W	Native species: <i>Juncus effusus</i> (common rush, soft rush), <i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> (common threesquare), <i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i> (hardstem bulrush)
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water hyacinth	Native to Amazon basin. World's most troublesome water plant. Populations can double in as little as 2 weeks, blocking waterways, limiting boat traffic, can cause flooding. Can reproduce vegetatively.	W	
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	Hydrilla	On Federal Noxious Weed List. Tends to form single-species, mat-like stands covering hundreds of acres. Acts as breeding ground for mosquitoes, destroys fish and wildlife, damages water intake and delivery systems. Can still be found for sale on the internet.	W	

Species	Common Name	Attributes / Impact	Action	Alternatives
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water milfoil	Native to either Eurasia or tropical Africa; now distributed nearly worldwide.	R or P	Native <i>Myriophyllum</i> spp. (water milfoils)
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water lettuce	Forms dense floating mats. Uncertain if plants can survive frozen waters, but reproduces vegetatively during summer.	W	<i>Lemna minor</i> (common duckweed), <i>Potamogeton nodosus</i> (longleaf pondweed)
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curly pondweed		W	Native <i>Potamogeton</i> spp. (pondweeds)
<i>Typha angustifolia</i> <i>Typha x glauca</i>	Narrow-leaved cattail Hybrid cattail		W	

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