

The Connecticut
Agricultural
Experiment
Station

New Haven, CT



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Field Guide

Selected Invasive

Terrestrial Plants

Found in

Connecticut

Rose Hiskes



WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS?

Invasive plants are non-native plants that are disruptive in a way that causes environmental or economic harm, or harm to human health.

In minimally-managed areas, invasive plants crowd out native plants.

WHY ARE PLANTS INVASIVE?

- ✓ they are able to establish new plants and grow rapidly under a wide variety of site conditions
- ✓ they have a high reproductive rate
- ✓ they are able to disperse over wide distances, often by the spreading of vegetative fragments as well as seeds
- ✓ they lack any natural controls on growth and reproduction that would be found where the invader is native.

WHEN YOU PLANT, PLEASE SELECT NATIVE OR NON-NATIVE, but NON-INVASIVE PLANTS.

CONNECTICUT INVASIVE PLANT WORKING GROUP (CIPWG)
www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg, (860)-486-6448

Thanks to the **INVASIVE PLANT ATLAS of NEW ENGLAND (IPANE)** for allowing us to use images from their website.
www.ipane.org

CONTACT INFORMATION:

ROSE HISKES at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor, 1-860-683-4977, Rose.Hiskes@ct.gov

TODD MERVOSH, Todd.Mervosh@att.net



Bishop's Weed, Goutweed

Aegopodium podagraria

Herbaceous Perennial

Origin: native to Europe.

Leaves: compound toothed leaves, lower ones have petioles, those on flowering stalk do not.

Flowers: white clusters held above foliage in June.

Size: groundcover, species can get to 3 ft. tall.

Reproduction & Dispersal: via stolons.



Photo credits: IPANE





Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata

Herbaceous Biennial

Origin: native to Europe.

Leaves: basal rosette with rounded leaves up to 4 in. across. Venation is palmate and margins are toothed. When crushed they give off a garlic odor. Leaves on flower stalk are triangular and smaller.

Flowers: White flowers with four petals in May to June held above the foliage.

Size: grows to 3 ft. the flowering year.

Reproduction & Dispersal: seed.



Photo credits: IPANE





Narrowleaf Bittercress

Cardamine impatiens

Herbaceous Annual or Biennial

Origin: native to Europe.

Leaves: basal rosette, pinnate with 3 – 11 leaflets.

Flowers: white flowers from May through August develop into a thin, narrow capsule, called a silique that explodes when seeds are mature.

Size: grows to 2 ft. tall.

Reproduction & Dispersal: seed carried on mammals, people, and birds.

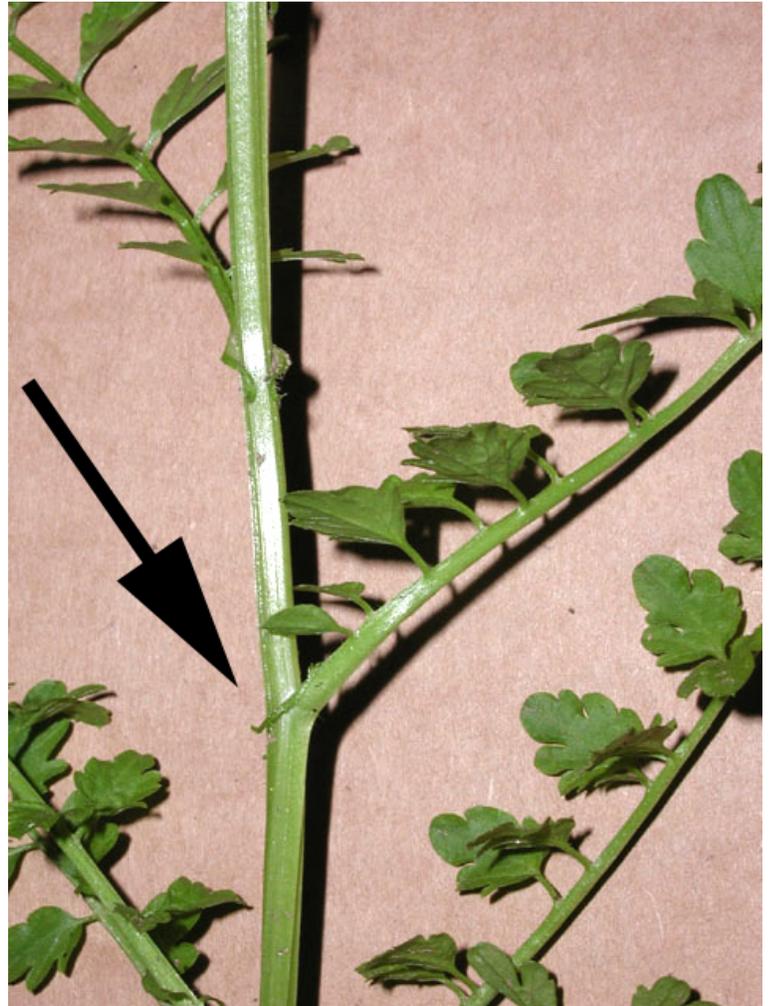


Photo credits: IPANE





Cypress Spurge

Euphorbia cyparissias

Herbaceous to Semi-woody Perennial

Origin: found from England to Siberia, though the actual native range of this plant in Eurasia is not known.

Flowers: actually bracts, develop in May and can be showy through August.

Sap: exudes white latex that can be irritating to the skin.

Size: 6 – 12" tall.

Reproduction & Dispersal: some seeds, mostly rhizomes. Some populations are sterile.



Photo credits: IPANE





Giant Hogweed

Heracleum mantegazzianum
Herbaceous Monocarpic Perennial

Origin: native to Caucasus Mountains, southwest Asia.

Leaves: palmately compound, deeply lobed leaves, up to 5 ft. across.

Flowers: white clusters in June – July, 2.5 ft. across.

Stems: hollow, with stiff white hairs, green with burgundy red stripping.

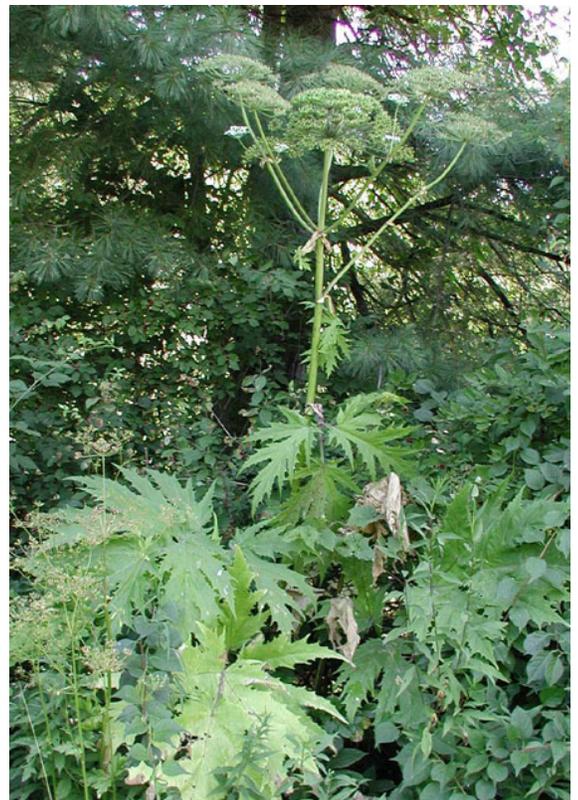
Size: can grow up to 20 ft. tall.

Reproduction & Dispersal: seed, gardeners sharing plants.

WARNING: sap of this plant is TOXIC.

Photo credits: IPANE, Rose Hiskes

Giant Hogweed	Cow Parsnip
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Japanese Knotweed

Polygonum cuspidatum, *Fallopia japonica*

Herbaceous Perennial



Origin: native to Asia.

Leaves: alternate, egg-shaped, up to 6 in. long with a pointed tip.

Stems: hollow between nodes. Bamboo-like.

Flowers: white, in mid-late summer.

Size: grows to 10' or more in an ever expanding clump that dies in the center with age.

Reproduction & Dispersal: mainly rhizomes, plant fragments in soil, some seed.

Photo credit: Jenn Forman Orth





Mile-A-Minute

Polygonum perfoliatum

Herbaceous Annual Vine

Origin: native to East Asia.

Leaves: alternate, up to 3 in. equilateral triangle, pale green, recurved barbs on lower midrib, petiole attaches interiorly on the blade like nasturtium. A skirt-like structure, ocrea, encircles the stem at each node.

Stems: wiry, thin, weakly rooted, white to green in color with tinges of red. Recurved barbs allow the plant to climb up and over shrubs and trees.

Fruit: white terminal flowers begin in June and mature to bright blue fruits July through November. The ripe fruit cluster reminds of grape hyacinth.

Size: can grow up to 26 ft. in one season.

Reproduction & Dispersal: birds eat the fruit and disperse the seeds when they defecate.



Photo credits: IPANE





Garden Heliotrope

Valeriana officinalis

Herbaceous Perennial

Origin: native to most of Europe, as well as parts of west Asia, Japan, Korea and China.

Leaves: Both the basal and the stem leaves are oppositely arranged and pinnately divided into 11-21 lanceolate segments.

Stems: hairy, especially at the nodes.

Flowers: white fragrant, umbel-like inflorescence, blooms from June through August.

Size: 1.5 – 4' tall.

Reproduction & Dispersal: wind dispersed seed, aerial stolons.



Photo credits: IPANE





Russian Olive

Eleagnus angustifolia

Deciduous Shrub

Origin: native southern Europe through the Himalayas.

Leaves: alternate leaves silvery, hairy on both surfaces, lance-shaped.

Flowers: fragrant, yellow in May to June in leaf axils.

Berries: yellow with silver scales, edible.

Bark: darker than autumn olive, younger stems have thorns.



Size: up to 35 ft. tall and 20' spread.

Reproduction & Dispersal: birds eat the fruit and disperse the seeds when they defecate.



Photo credits: IPANE



Border Privet

Ligustrum obtusifolium
Deciduous Shrub

Origin: native to Japan.

Leaves: opposite, dark green leaves are up to 2 in. long by 1 in. wide.

Flowers: clustered white, in June, fragrant or smelly to some, attract bees.

Berries: black, ripen in fall.

Size: up to 10 ft. tall.

Reproduction & Dispersal: birds eat berries and disperse seeds when they defecate.

There are three privets on the Connecticut invasive plant list. Border privet is the only one that is banned. Identification of the different privets is very difficult, even when in flower.

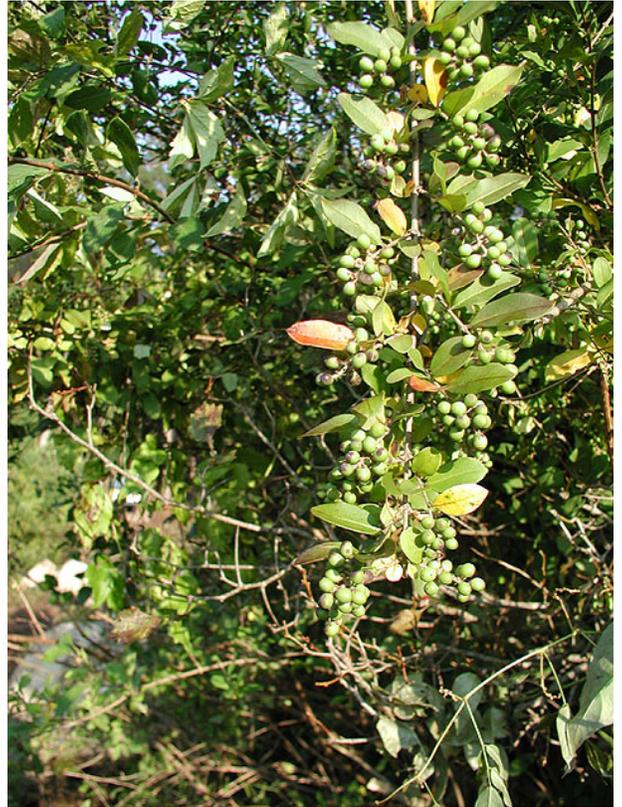


Photo credits: IPANE





Shrub Honeysuckles

Lonicera spp.

Deciduous Shrub

Origin:

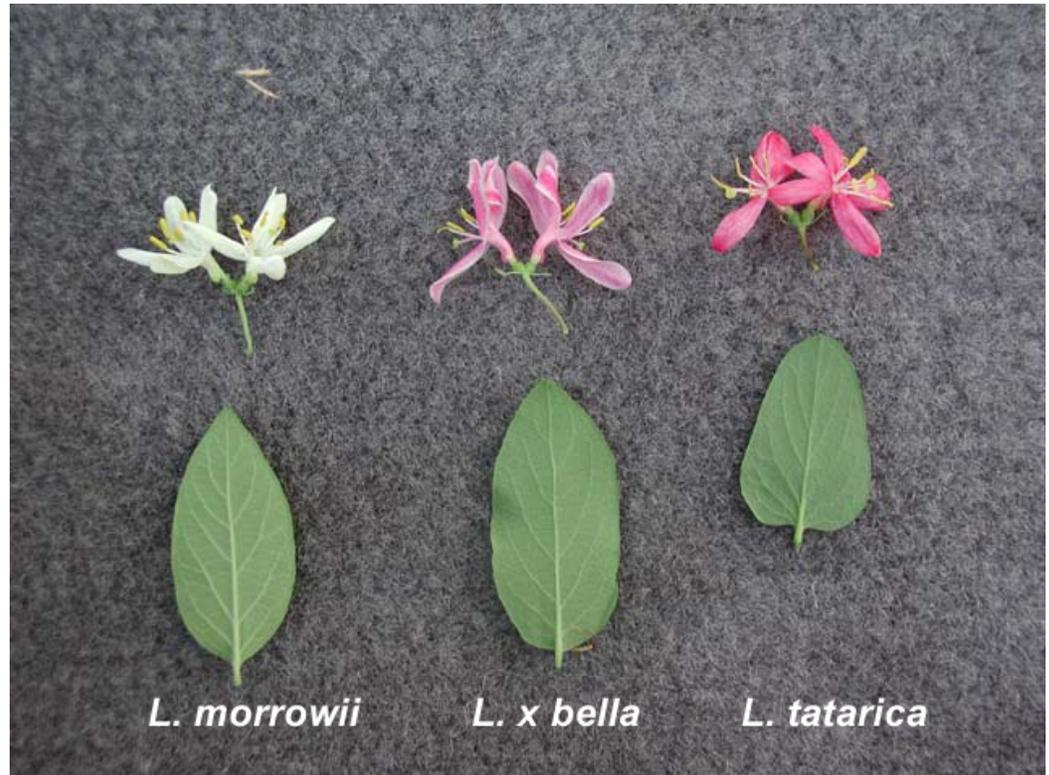
morrowii native to Japan, *tatarica* Central Asia and Southern Russia.

Leaves:

opposite, up to 2.25 in. long.

Stems: pith is hollow, natives have filled pith, bark exfoliates in vertical strips.

Fruits: red spheres, borne in pairs in leaf axils.



Size: grows 8 to 10 ft. tall.

Reproduction & Dispersal: fruit is eaten by birds and seeds are dispersed when they defecate.

Photo credits: IPANE





Amur & Dwarf Honeysuckle

Lonicera maackii, *xylosteum*

Deciduous Shrub

Origin: *maackii* native to China, Korea and Japan; *xylosteum* native to Europe

Leaves: *maackii* opposite, tapered at the tip, up to 3 in. long; *xylosteum* opposite, obovate, up to 3 in. long.

Stems: *maackii* & *xylosteum* pith is hollow, natives have filled pith, bark exfoliates in vertical strips.

Flowers: *maackii* white, late May to early June; *xylosteum* yellow to white in May and June paired in leaf axils.



Fruit: paired, dark red spheres that ripen in late fall.

Size: *maackii* grows to 16 ft. tall; *xylosteum* to 7 ft. tall.

Reproduction & Dispersal: fruit is eaten and dispersed by birds and possibly small mammals.

Dwarf Honeysuckle, *Lonicera xylosteum*



Photo credits:
Bark: Will Cook,
Flowers: Steven Baskauf





Sycamore Maple

Acer pseudoplatanus

Deciduous Tree

Origin: Europe, western Asia.

Leaves: opposite, up to 6 in. across, toothed with 5 lobes, leathery. Fall foliage brown to some yellow.

Seeds: samara that ripens and falls in September and October.

Size: grows to 60 ft. tall by 60 ft. wide.

Reproduction & Dispersal: Seed.



There are three maples on the invasive plant list. Only sycamore maple is banned.



Photo credits: IPANE





Oriental Bittersweet, Asiatic Bittersweet

Celastrus orbiculatus

Deciduous Woody Vine

Origin: native to East Asia: Japan, Korea and China

Leaves: alternate, toothed, spiral evenly around the stem, ovate to round.

Fruits: dioecious, so female plants develop fruits in axils all along the stem. The yellow ovary wall encases 3 fleshy red arils. The fruits split open at maturity revealing the arils that contain the seeds.

Stems: twining stems of this botanical python have dark brown to brown striated, almost corky, bark with many lenticels.

Size: Vines can grow up to 60 feet tall and 4 in. in diameter.

Reproduction & Dispersal: fruit is eaten by birds and dispersed when they defecate.



Photo credits: IPANE, Rose Hiskes





Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Deciduous to Semi-evergreen Vine

Origin: native to China, Japan and Korea.

Leaves: opposite leaves, entire, some young leaves are lobed.

Flowers: very fragrant white to yellow, paired in leaf axils.

Fruits: black spheres, in pairs.

Size: vine, to 30 ft.

Reproduction & Dispersal: birds eat the fruit and disperse the seed when they defecate, runners will root.



Photo credits: IPANE



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