

Say “no” to invasive species

What is an invasive species? It is a types of plant or animal does not normally live is a particular environment, and which is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to humans.

Some of the invasive plants which we are most concerned about are:



1. **Wild Parsnip** is an herbaceous plant which can grow from 4 – 5 feet (123 – 150 cm) tall. It can survive in a broad range of environmental settings, from dry soils to wet meadows. It grows best in rich, calcareous, alkaline, moist soils. It is commonly found growing along roadsides, in pastures, and in abandoned fields, or any place where the soil has

been disturbed and native vegetation has yet to become fully established. The plant produces a compound in its leaves, stems, flowers, and fruits that causes intense, localized burning, rash, severe blistering, and discoloration on contact with the skin on sunny days. https://nyis.info/invasive_species/wild-parsnip/



2. **Garlic Mustard** is an invasive biennial herbaceous plant. Garlic mustard is a restricted noxious weed, meaning it cannot be transported, introduced, or sold in Minnesota.

One challenging aspect of garlic mustard, aside from how easily it spreads, is its effects on other plants. Studies suggest the plant is allelopathic, which means it releases chemicals that can hurt the growth of its neighbors.

Over time, a large patch of garlic mustard can severely damage native plant populations that would otherwise thrive in the area. It has been shown to cause harm to native plants including trilliums, trout lily, red maple and sugar maple.

<https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/garlic-mustard>



3. Common Buckthorn is a restricted noxious plant. It is illegal to import, sell or transport buckthorn in Minnesota. Buckthorn is one of Minnesota's most damaging invasive plants. Landowners should be concerned if buckthorn is present in their woodlands because it is an aggressive invasive plant that outcompetes native vegetation and degrades wildlife habitat. Soybean growers should be concerned if buckthorn is present in nearby wooded areas because it

serves as the overwintering host plant for soybean aphid eggs and the crown rust fungus. Buckthorn is a shrub or small tree that can reach 25 feet tall and takes an oval form.

<https://extension.umn.edu/natural-resources-news/controlling-buckthorn>



4. Creeping Bellflower Gardeners who planted creeping bellflower for its pretty lavender-blue flowers learned the hard way that this plant chokes out other flowers and proves almost impossible to eradicate. Brought originally from Europe as an ornamental, the plant is known for its bell-shaped nodding purple flowers on erect purplish stems that can grow up to 4 feet tall. It has a fast-spreading and deep root system of long tubers that grows rapidly

and can take over your landscape in as little as one season if left untamed. Now that the extent of its aggressive nature has been discovered, it is classified as an invasive species. Creeping bellflower produces an abundance of seeds in the summer (upwards of 15,000 per plant which are then easily distributed by insects and gentle breezes). <https://www.thespruce.com/creeping-bellflower-campanula-rapunculoides-care-and-growing-guide-5073160>



5. Dame's Rocket is an aggressive invasive species that spreads easily on many sites. A single dame's rocket plant can release 20,000 seeds – hence why it spreads so rapidly! Unfortunately, this can lead to the replacement of native plants, disrupting the local ecosystem and displacing native insects that depend on native plants. Insects are a critical food source for the birds we so love, especially during this time of year when they are feeding their young in the nest.

<https://www.michiganaudubon.org/invasive-species-focus-dames-rocket/>

When controlling invasive species, please try not to use chemicals. They harm pollinators.