Gardens are great!

- Gardens reduce rainwater runoff, which reduce potential flooding into storm sewers by allowing rain and snowmelt to be absorbed into the ground.
- Many garden plants produce seeds, nuts, fruit, and nectar, which are food sources for birds, mammals, and insects.
- Trees and shrubs in the garden can reduce the heating and cooling needs of your home, increase property value, and provide shelter and food for wildlife.

But be aware of what is growing in your garden!

Invasive plants – What are they?

Invasive plants are nonnative species that outcompete native plants for resources and space. They may directly kill native plants, introduce disease, and/or hybridize with other plant species.

Invasive plants typically prefer disturbed habitats, are aggressive, have high reproductive rates, are transported easily, and lack natural predators.

Impacts of invasive plants

- Outcompete native species (such as white trilliums), and affect forest regeneration reducing wildlife populations that rely on them.
- Can be poisonous to people, causing rashes or burns.
- Impede property access and increase trail maintenance.
- Cause expensive repairs to boats from clogged engines or jammed steering equipment.
- Choke water bodies, restricting recreational activities.

Cover Photo: Hayley Anderson

In your garden

There are many things you can do in your garden to manage invasive plants.

- Learn about invasive plants and alternatives.
- Purchase noninvasive plants.
- Keep invasive plants away from natural areas.
- Properly dispose of yard waste through your municipality. Dumping yard waste in natural areas can be illegal and can spread invasive plants.
- Do not transplant species from natural areas into your garden. This can be illegal and may introduce invasive plants into your garden.

Dog Strangling Vine

Ken Towle

Get involved in the community

- Work with your local conservation organizations to remove invasive species from public spaces.
- Spread the word! Let your neighbours know about the impacts of invasive species.
- Ask local nurseries to provide information on species' invasiveness at the point of sale, and to promote the use of native plants* in home gardening.

*Native plants are indigenous to a particular area or region. They have evolved over thousands of years in response to the local climate, and in association with other native species.

Greg Bales

Japanese Knotweed

Victoria MacPhail

Additional information

These websites and organizations contain useful information on invasive species and native plant gardening

Invasive species:

Credit Valley Conservation
www.creditvalleyca.ca/invasives/

O.F.A.H. / MNR Invading Species Awareness Program
www.invadingspecies.com

Ontario Invasive Plant Council
www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca

Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration
www.serontario.org/publications.htm

Native plant gardening:

Canadian Wildlife Federation
www.wildaboutgardening.org

Evergreen
www.evergreen.ca

Landscape Ontario
www.landscapeontario.com

North American Native Plant Society
www.nanps.org

Toronto and Region Conservation
www.trca.on.ca/yards

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Garden Smart in Ontario

Gardening & Invasive Plants...

What You Should Know!

Horticulture Outreach Collaborative

Ontario Invasive Plant Council

Potentially Invasive Horticultural Plants

The following is a selection of plants that may first appear as welcome additions to your garden, but have the potential to become unwieldy and aggressive.

They are most problematic when planted next to natural areas into which they may spread, crowding out native plants and altering local environmental conditions.

Be cautious of any plant that spreads rapidly once it has been planted.

Norway Maple
Acer platanoides

Although similar in appearance to sugar maple, Norway maple leaves are larger and leaf stems exude white sap when broken. Some cultivars are more likely to be problematic due to their high seed production.


Rod Krick

Yellow Floating Heart
Nymphoides peltata

This floating-leaved aquatic plant has similar leaves to the water lily. It spreads primarily by roots and plant fragments, but also by seed.


Greg Bales

Yellow Iris
Iris pseudacorus

The showy flowers of this iris can range in colour from cream to yellow. It spreads by roots and seed.


MNR

Miscanthus
Miscanthus sinensis, M. sacchariflorus

These tall clumping grasses have flower heads that change from reddish to pinkish, then maturing to a silvery colour. They spread primarily by seed.


Rod Krick

English Ivy
Hedera helix

This groundcover has shiny leaves. It spreads by creeping roots and branches, and therefore is less likely to be problematic if kept away from natural areas.


Rod Krick

Lily-of-the-Valley
Convallaria majalis

This groundcover has white flowers. It spreads primarily by roots, and therefore, is less likely to be problematic if kept away from natural areas. (Featured on the front cover.)


Hayley Anderson

Nonnative Shrub Honeysuckles
Includes ***Lonicera tatarica, L. japonica, L. maackii, L. morrowii, L. xylosteum, L. x bella***

There are many native honeysuckles that can be confused with these species. They spread primarily by seed, but also by roots.


Dawn Renfrew

Autumn and Russian Olive
Elaeagnus umbellata and E. angustifolia

Autumn olive has silvery-coloured spots on the underside of its leaves, and Russian olive has downy silver-coloured hairs on its leaves. Both species spread primarily by seed.


Catherine Poltz

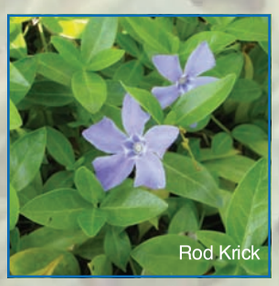
Goutweed
Aegopodium podagraria

This groundcover often loses the white and green variegation in the leaves when naturalized. It spreads by roots and seed.


Rod Krick

Periwinkle
Vinca minor

This groundcover has purple flowers and shiny leaves. It spreads by creeping roots, and is less likely to be problematic if kept away from natural areas.


Rod Krick

Flowering Rush
Butomus umbellatus

This emergent aquatic plant has pink flowers and grass-like leaves. It spreads by root fragments, bulbils and seed.


Jon Clayton

Giant Hogweed
Heracleum mantegazzianum

This exotic looking plant spreads primarily through seed. If it comes in contact with bare skin, it can cause severe burns.


Scott Sampson

Invasive species can be reported to the O.F.A.H. / MNR Invading Species Hotline or website.

1-800-563-7711 or **www.invadingspecies.com**