

Why are Invasives so bad?

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. The presence of invasive plants alters the way plants, animals, soil, and water interact within native ecosystems, often causing harm to other species in addition to the plants that have been crowded out.

In Connecticut, the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council has developed a list of non-native plants that cause (or have the potential to cause) environmental harm in minimally-managed areas. ([See list](#)) The CT State Invasive Plant Laws are available [here](#).

Source: [Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group](#)

What do they look like?

Here are just a few of the most common invasive plants in CT. Now that you know what they look like you will see them everywhere! Be sure to checkout the full list ([See list](#)).

[Japanese Knotweed](#) - found in abundance along roadsides and backyards. Incredibly difficult to eradicate. (Click on the red link to learn more.)



Photo of Japanese knotweed from Cornell University Cooperative Extension.

Oriental Bittersweet - Grows everywhere, choking trees with its vines.
(Click on the red link to learn more.)



Japanese Barberry - These shrubs are frequently planted in home and municipal landscapes because they are easily pruned, look nice and are deer resistant. Unfortunately it forms prickly thickets that crowd out plants and disrupt native ecosystems. It is also **thought to harbor black-legged ticks that spread Lyme disease**. Five states so far have banned it. CT has not. (Click on the red link to learn more.)



Learn More!

Online Resources

- Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, ["Invasive Plants in Your Backyard". A Guide to Their Identification and Control](#)
- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station ["Alternatives to Ornamental Invasive Species"](#)
- CT Invasive Plant Working Group [Invasive Plant Management Calendar](#)
- CT Audubon, ["Remove Invasive Plants"](#)
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, ["Invasive Species"](#)
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, ["Invasive Aquatic Plant Program"](#)
- [US Department of Agriculture, "CT State Resources"](#)
- US Department of Agriculture, ["Plants"](#)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service, ["Frequently Asked Questions About Invasive Species"](#)

Databases and Apps

- Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) [Invasive Plant List](#)
- [Invasive Plant Atlas of New England \(IPANE\)](#)
- Identify and report on the go: [Invasive Mobile Apps](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [CT Invasive Plant Work Group](#)
- [National Invasive Species Information Center](#) (NISIC)
- [The Nature Conservancy CT](#)
- [US Fish & Wildlife Services](#)

Books

Weeds of the Northeast by Richard H. Uva, Joseph C. Neal and Joseph M. DiTomaso