

Gardening for the Future

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This spring when selecting your plantings, or when wandering through your gardens and fields, we ask that you keep a look out for some of our area's greatest threats. They may be lurking in your garden. These authors know first-hand that anyone can have mistakenly planted an invasive plant.

Invasive plants are important to recognize and control because they quickly work to claim the environment around them. Invasive plants are non-native plant material that chokes out some of our most natural and beautiful plant life, and thus the habitat for other plants and animals. Some invasive plants are so common that they are even sold at some plant stores as shrubs and perennials. Contractors have been known to plant invasive shrubs for filler.

No need to panic! There are no invasive police! It is just good measure to take a look at what you have, and to create a plan for one day having an invasive-free space. Make a pledge to buy non-invasive plants this year, and plant only locally cultivated native plant materials. By doing so, Hampton Falls will have a lot less invasive species to deal with years down the line.

Consult the chart below for common invasive plants. What should you avoid this spring? Do you have any invasive plants you want to eradicate now? What are good alternatives?

	Description	Reason	Removal	Alternatives	Available for Sale?
Burning Bush (Euonymus Alatus)	Shrub with elliptical, pointed, and finely toothed leaves that turn bright red in the fall.	Spreads readily into old fields, open woods and floodplain forests through birds carrying seeds.	Dig it up.	No similar native species, though from a distance can be mistaken for blueberry.	Yes
Dwarf Honeysuckle (Lonicera xylosteum)	Shrub, oval to egg-shaped leaves. Tan to gray bark, white yellow, or pink five-lobed flowers. Fruit July – Sept.	Grows in poor, well drained soil. Spreads through birds carrying seeds.	Dig it up.	Native Honeysuckle, Bush Honeysuckle or Snowberry.	Yes
Multiflora Rose (Rosa multiflora)	Shrubby plant with masses of white five-petal flowers. Fringed stipule at base of	Will grow in a variety of soils, moisture and light	Pull up by roots. Requires multiple attempts.	Native Rose species. Natives do not have the fringed	No

	leaf stem (this is not on native roses).	conditions and spreads quickly. Host for a virus which affects cultivated roses.		stipule at leaf base, nor do they produce masses of white flowers.	
Yellow Flag Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	The only yellow-flowering iris growing in New England.	Wetland plant which colonizes into large numbers, forming very dense monotypic stands, out competing other plants. Spreads underground via rhizomes.	Remove rhizomes completely. Partial rhizomes re-grow. Do not burn. Burnt seeds can grow.	Blue flag iris (<i>Iris versicolor</i> , <i>Iris prismatica</i> , <i>Iris virginica</i>)	Yes
Purple Loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)	Hardy perennial, 20-60" tall with showy magenta flowers from July through September.	Very hardy perennial which rapidly degrades wetlands and diminishes their value for wildlife habitat. Now encroaching on pastureland too.	Pulling, cutting, or digging is useful for small infestations. June, July, or Aug, while flowering, but not to seed is best time. Do not compost. Dispose all parts in plastic bags and seal. Will re-grow from partial roots.	Tall fireweed.	No
Japanese Barberry	Dense, deciduous, spiny	Forms dense stands	Root system is	Weigela, Slender	Not in NH

(barberis thunbergi)	shrub. Grows 2 to 8 ft. high. Small (1/2 to 1 1/2 in long) oval to spatula shaped, green, bluish green or dark reddish purple leaves.	displacing native plants and reducing wildlife habitat and forage.	shallow. Remove all roots. Plants can re-sprout from root fragments. Early spring is best for removal. Plant can be mowed or cut repeatedly to prevent seed production.	deutzia	
Oriental Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus Thumb)	Fruit has a yellow exterior and a re/orange center.	Grows in a vine that smothers plants and uproots trees due to its weight.	Remove entire plant if possible. Otherwise, cut as close to the ground as possible. Repeat cuttings will be required. Bag in plastic and dispose. Do not compost. Any portion of root system can re-sprout.		As a dried ornamental in the fall

The Conservation Commission has left additional materials and photos of invasive plants at the Library for your reference. The above chart and article references invasive plants commonly used in gardening. Additional invasive tree species, weeds and even bugs also pose a threat to our scenic town. Keep your eyes peeled for further information about these other invasive

species! Thank you for helping to keep our town beautiful! Want to help? Please call Julie at (603)580-2183.