

Invasive Plant List

Several non-native species are considered invasive because they aggressively out-compete native species in natural areas. Avoid planting these species in your garden, especially if you live by a natural area. These prolific plants may inadvertently show up in your garden when seeds arrive via wind or wildlife, or through human activities. Save time and aggravation by removing these invaders as soon as they appear. Make sure you remove the entire plant with all the roots before it sets seed. You may need to do this for several years before the seed bank in the soil is depleted. Here is a list of some non-native invasive plants found in the Greater Toronto Area:

black alder	glossy buckthorn	purple loosestrife
common buckthorn	goutweed*	Russian olive
common privet	Japanese knotweed	Siberian elm
creeping bellflower	leafy spurge	silver birch
crown vetch	lily of the valley*	sweet woodruff*
dame's rocket	Manitoba maple	tartarian honeysuckle
dog-strangling vine	multiflora rose	tree of heaven
English ivy*	Norway maple	white mulberry
field sow thistle	Oriental bittersweet	white willow
forget-me-not*	periwinkle*	
garlic mustard		

* common groundcover

More Information and Images

For more information and images of these and other invasive species, visit the following Web sites:

Canadian Wildlife Federation's Invasive Species in Canada

www.cwf-fcf.org/invasive/chooseSC.asp

Hinterland's Who's Who Invasive Alien Species in Canada

www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=220

Invasivespeciesinfo.com (U.S.A.)

www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/profiles/main.shtml

Aggressive Native Plants

If planted in ideal conditions and left unattended, some native plants may also takeover your garden. Here is a partial list: Canada anemone, Canada goldenrod, cup plant, evening primrose, fireweed, grass-leaved goldenrod, staghorn sumac, raspberry spp., Virginia creeper, Virginia mountain mint, virgin's bower, white wood aster and wild bergamot. You do not need to avoid these plants but be aware of their tendency to spread.